

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Friday, 1 July 2011

Held at: Hamilton Library, Maidenwell Avenue

Who was there:

Councillor Rita Patel
Councillor Barbara Potter
Councillor Gurinder Singh Sandhu

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ SESSION

The following information stands were sited in the room. Members of the public visited the stands and were given an opportunity to meet Councillors, Council staff and service representatives.

Ward Councillors and General Information	Hamilton Library
Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Obtain information on facilities available.

At the conclusion of this informal session members of the public were invited to take their seats and take part in the formal session of the meeting.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Potter was elected Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Gateway College and Charlotte Glover (City Warden).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting held on 19th January 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Traffic Calming/Future Traffic Calming

A representative from Highways section at the City Council attended the meeting and informed the meeting that the traffic calming on Ivychurch Crescent had been installed since the last Community Meeting. Traffic calming for the rest of Keyham Lane was currently being planned and that ten features were required as there were difficulties with the number of driveways on this stretch of road. There were also issues around the angle of the exiting bend in the road near to Keyham Lodge school and the Council were looking to reduce the angle of the bend by utilising some of the strip of verge at the side of the road.

A member of the public who was also a Governor at a local school expressed concerns at the potential loss of greenery at this location but it was stated that the land to be taken was likely to be minimal and little greenery would be lost.

Community Meeting Budget

The Chair reported that a small amount of Community Meeting funding had been left from 2010/2011 and it was proposed to utilise this to carry out a Community Clean-Up.

Several suggested areas were suggested as follows: -

- Footpath from Columbine Road near postbox – ditch full of bottles
- Kestrel Road and road by Gateway College – lake area full of rubbish.

It was **agreed** that the areas highlighted would be targeted as part of the planned Community Clean-Up

6. CAPITAL RECEIPTS INITIATIVE

An officer from the local Area Housing Office presented a list of priority projects identified to be funded by the City Housing Capital Receipts Initiative. The 3 projects reported were as follows: -

- Construct footpath from outside Costcutter/Post Office across the green area to the bus stop, Netherhall Road. Estimated Cost **£11,500**.
- Erect fence around green area between Selby Avenue and Keyham Lane West. Estimated Cost **£7,400**.
- Construct parking bays adjacent to Selby Avenue/Keyham Lane West. Estimated Cost **£38,000**.

AGREED:

that approval be given to submit the 3 schemes identified for funding by the Capital Receipts Initiative.

7. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Peter Cozens presented the community meeting budget. Peter stated that there was currently £15,000 in the budget, although it was possible that a sum of Community Cohesion Fund funding could be added later in the year.

Peter then introduced the following applications: -

- 1) **Laburnum Road Community Church** **£1,200**
An application to part fund the refurbishment of the disabled and the gents toilets at this venue, the cost of refurbishing the ladies toilets were to be met by the Church.

The Church holds a Community Café on Saturday mornings open to all local residents and is due to be publicised more widely. The refurbished toilets are required to enable the Community Café to function properly.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full **(£1,200)**.

- 2) **Leicester-shire County Netball** **£745**
An application from Leicester-shire County Netball to part fund a weekly back to back Netball session for women (16+) to get back into Netball in Humberstone and Hamilton. The pilot will be run at a local venue in partnership with the NGB Officer for Netball, Physical Activity Officer for Leicester City Council and the Community Development Worker at Surestart.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full **(£745)**.

3) Humberstone Junior School £2,500

An application from Humberstone Junior School to enable the newly completed Sports Hall to be provided with line-markings for Basketball/5-a-side Football/Badminton. The Hall would then be used by pupils at the school but also allow it to be opened up for wider community use after school.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full **(£2,500)**.

4) The Emerald Centre £500

An application from The Emerald Centre to part fund a Young Parents Fun Day at the Centre on 26th July 2011, targeted at young parents (15 -25yrs) in Northfields, Netherhall, Humberstone and Hamilton.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full **(£500)**.

5) Hamilton Residents Association

Peter reported that, at the last meeting held on 19th January 2011, an application for £3771.09 had been received from Hamilton Residents Association for set up costs and to hold a Family Fun Day. The Community Meeting gave approval to grant £2,274.16 towards the cost of the Family Fun Day but did not support the set up costs.

Peter stated that he had offered to speak further with the applicant after the meeting and had also suggested that the funding bid might be re-submitted, or a new funding application be submitted to the Joint Action Group.

Peter stated that following the previous meeting he had ascertained that 2 other Community Meetings had funded Tenants and Residents Associations, but not just Residents Associations. It had therefore been agreed that this part of the previously submitted application would be brought back to consider whether the remaining £1,496.93 should be granted.

Members were of the view that Hamilton Residents Association gave the impression that it was open only to residents, not tenants of housing associations, and on this basis appeared to exclude part of the Hamilton community and therefore funding could not be given. A member of the public, who was a member of the Hamilton Residents Association stated that tenants who were living in housing association properties, or those owned by private landlords, on Hamilton estate were welcome at the Residents Association meetings.

In concluding, the Chair stated that the matter would be put on hold pending the setting up of a private meeting at the Town Hall between the 3 Ward

Councillors and representatives of the Hamilton Residents Association to allow Councillors to gain assurances that the Residents Association was in fact open to all residents and tenants on Hamilton estate.

RESOLVED:

that the action outlined above be agreed.

8. ISSUES DISCUSSED WITH KEITH VAZ M.P.

Keith Vaz M.P. attended the meeting and spoke on several issues pertinent to the area.

i) Policing Issues

Mr. Vaz stated that it was fortunate that the Local Policing Unit Commander was based locally. Recently Mr. Vaz had accompanied a police patrol and had been impressed. As a result of this Mr Vaz stated that he intended calling the LPU Commander and the Chief Constable, as required, to his Government Enquiry Team on Anti-Social Behaviour.

ii) Management of Green Spaces

Mr Vaz stated that he was aware that some of the green space at Hamilton was managed by the City Council, some by Mainstay (Greenbelt) and the rest by the developer. He stated that, in his opinion the City Council should have responsibility for maintaining all of the green space, with a proportion of the funding provided by the developers.

iii) Social Centres

Mr Vaz stated that there was a need for additional facilities to be provided to make Hamilton a vibrant centre.

iv) Public Transport

Mr Vaz stated that for those residents living on Columbine Road the question was whether buses should travel along this road or not.

v) Stakeholder Meetings

Mr Vaz stated that he was of the opinion that the former stakeholder meetings that had previously been held on the estate should be continued.

Questions from Members of the Public

- i) A member of the public stated that there were a number of problems with Greenbelt, the Land Management Company responsible for maintaining a large proportion of the green space in the area. It was further stated that it was understood that the City Council were able to take over the management of green spaces from developers after a period of five years.

A further concern was that there was a shortage of primary school places on the estate and it was apparent that the number of children on the estate had been under-estimated.

The only doctors surgery on the estate had opened some 7 years previously, it was too small then, priority should be given to address this shortfall of doctor provision.

The largest land owner at Hamilton was Tesco and there was a need to extract from them the funding to provide the facilities that were desperately needed, outlined earlier.

Mr Vaz stated that regarding green spaces, the City Council could, subject to a number of conditions being met, take over the maintenance of green space but that this process could be much longer than five years. An alternative might be to form a grass cutting collective but should the view be for the City Council to take this work over then the process to achieve this should be started.

It was further stated that contact would be made with Greenbelt to arrange a meeting to discuss issues on Hamilton.

- ii) A member of the public stated that in one of the national newspapers reference was made to Government proposals to speed up the granting of planning applications. As a direct result of this it was inevitable that the consultation period would be reduced significantly.

Mr Vaz stated that if there were strong feelings against these proposals then they should be opposed.

Note:

Councillors Potter and Sandhu disclosed personal and non-prejudicial interests as members of the City Council Planning Committee.

- iii) A member of the public stated that they lived on Sandhills Avenue, opposite Hope Hamilton School, and that there were problems with cars parking in the vicinity of the bus stop.

Officers stated that colleagues in the Road Safety Team were aware of the issues and were looking to re-site the existing bus stop to the layby to ease the problems.

- iv) A member of the public stated that a couple of years ago Hamilton residents had been promised a range of facilities but these had not materialised. Also those community facilities that were available to residents were too expensive to hire.

Mr Vaz stated that Tesco had originally proposed to provide a range of facilities at Hamilton. The City Council signed an agreement but since then Tesco changed their mind and the facilities never materialised. Gateway College across the footbridge had excellent facilities but these were not accessible.

In concluding Mr Vaz stated that it might be a good idea if the City Council identified one officer to deal with all Hamilton related issues, in effect creating one point of contact.

The Chair thanked Mr Vaz for attending the meeting and stated that, as a Governor of Gateway College she would be putting pressure to make some of the facilities at the College available to residents.

Regarding Community Centres, the City Council had been promised that these would be provided and they have not been. The Ward Councillors would continue to fight for more facilities to be made available.

The Chair stated that local venues available for hire would be encouraged to advertise more widely and include their charges.

9. BUS SERVICE 58/58A - COLUMBINE ROAD

Councillor Patel informed the meeting that an informal meeting had been held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, between the Ward Councillors, the two lead petitioners, officers and a representative of Arriva (Midlands). The purpose of the meeting had been to try and reach a meeting of minds.

As a result of the petition and the exhaustive campaign opposing the routing of the 58/58A Bus Service along Columbine Road Arriva had chosen to lodge notice with the Traffic Commissioners to remove the 58/58A Service from Columbine Road with effect from 18th July and move the timing point for the service to Sandhills Avenue. A petition calling for the retention of the 58/58A Bus Service along Columbine Road had also been received.

Arriva however had stated that, should public opinion prove otherwise, be prepared to re-instate the service along Columbine Road, with the timing point remaining on Sandhills Avenue.

It was stated that the City Council had no powers to decide whether the route was retained as at present, or withdrawn, as it was a commercial service not subsidised by the City Council. The Council wanted to make sure that residents got what they wanted and feedback from this meeting would be provided to Arriva. If the service was to be re-instated then this might not be seamless.

The two lead petitioners were invited to speak.

Mr Jakhura, opposing the retention of the bus service, referred to the petition he had collected with 96 signatures and this had been presented to Council in January 2011. The petitioners had opposed the bus service on the grounds of noise, vibration, health issues and damage to residents cars. The nearest bus stop in Sandhills Avenue was close by.

Mr Vyaz, in favour of retaining the bus service, referred to his petition of 180 signatures that had been presented to the City Council.

At this point three members of the public in favour of keeping the service and three members of the public opposing the retention of the service were allowed to speak: -

For the Service to be retained: -

- Lived in area for number of years and, with friends, used the service regularly
- Changed mind since signing original petition to remove the service as have since retired and used the bus frequently
- People with disabilities would take up to 20 minutes to reach Sandhills Avenue.

Opposing the retention of the Service

- Live near the existing bus stop but have no difficulties in walking to Sandhills Avenue
- Recently one bus for 40 minutes at stop with engine running. 17 buses counted recently with no passengers on.
- Before Arriva consider re-instating bus service they should speak to people who signed the original petition to assess their views. The distance to/from Sandhills Avenue was not too far away from Columbine Road.

Officers stated that Arriva had no strong view either way. As things stood the service would cease to use Columbine Road w/e from 18th July. Should the community decide to keep the service the Arriva would apply to the Traffic Commissioners to re-instate it, with the timing point located on Sandhills Avenue.

The Chair stated that Ward Councillors would take the views expressed at this meeting and of as many tenants and residents as possible. The officers would then be informed of the outcome and Arriva informed. Feedback would be provided at the next Community Meeting.

A member of the public questioned whether Columbine Road could be re-opened again. The Chair responded by stating that should sufficient responses be received then a review could be undertaken to ascertain whether a re-opening of Columbine Road was feasible..

It was **agreed** that this issue would be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

10. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Pc. Peberdy attended the meeting to give an update on local policing in the area.

Work was in progress dealing with prosecutions in respect of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incidents on Cranesbill Road. Work was also underway to, in conjunction with the Leicester Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (LASBU) to tackle ASB issues on Bessingham Close and Netherhall Road.

Several incidents of thefts and gatherings of youths had been recorded around the Sandhills Avenue shops.

A number of prosecutions were underway for graffiti offences in the Hamilton area.

The following recorded crime statistics were reported for the period 26th March to 26th June 2011: -

<u>178 Recorded Crimes</u>	
Burglary Dwellings	- 26
Burglary Others	- 11
Damage	- 50
Damage to Motor Vehicles	- 31
Theft from Motor Vehicles	- 21
Theft of Motor Vehicles	- 2
Theft from Stores	- 37

A member of the public stated that in Maidenwell Avenue stones and bottles were often thrown. The Police stated that they had received no reports of such incidents and urged the public to report incidents as they occurred.

A member of the public stated that he had nearly been knocked over by a cyclist riding on the pavement in Main Street Humberstone. The cyclist had been stopped and gave the member of the public verbal abuse. The police stated that if they witnessed cyclists riding recklessly on pavements they would stop them and give a verbal warning. If cyclists were riding sensibly then they were left .

A member of the public stated that there had been a recent incident on Columbine Road where youths had thrown bricks at bus windows. The Police stated that they would be looking into these incidents.

A member of the public stated that there was graffiti on one property on Foxgloves Road and the owners had been told it would be £140 to remove. The Police stated that there were a lot of problems with graffiti on Hamilton. The Graffiti Team at the City Council had been contacted and had agreed to offer graffiti removal to householders at cost price.. Contact would be made with the Graffiti Team to ascertain whether a compromise could be reached. Barbara Whitcombe stated that the City Warden service had several Graffiti Removal kits available for dealing with smooth surfaces.

A disabled member of the public stated that he was experiencing difficulties with cars parked on pavements, particularly on Saxthorpe Road, and this was causing difficulties when out on his disability scooter. The Police stated that several complaints had been received and, if available, a PCSO was sent out to knock on doors top try and get the vehicles removed, although this was not deemed a priority.

AGREED:

that the information be noted.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.