

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 20 September 2011

Held at: St. Phillips Church Hall, Evington Road, Leicester.

Who was there:

Councillor Lucy Chaplin
Councillor Iqbal Desai
Councillor Mustafa Kamal

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 Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Police Issues Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
Orange Bag Recycling Scheme To receive information on the new Orange Bag Recycling Scheme.	City Warden Obtain information on the services available including the ‘One Clean Leicester’ and ‘Anti-graffiti’ programmes
Library Service To receive information about the range of 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.

14. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Kamal was elected as Chair for the meeting.

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Desai and Revd. Alison Fuller.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this time.

17. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Stoneygate Community Meeting held on 23rd June 2011, as previously circulated, be approved as a correct record.

18. LIBRARY SERVICES

Michael Lewis, Senior Manager (Central Libraries) attended the meeting and gave a brief outline of library facilities across the City and of the services available, including, books, CD's and 'e' books.

It was reported that Libraries and Children's Centres were at the head of local communities and Stoneygate was served by 3 Libraries and 3 Children's Centres as follows: -

Highfields Library	Highfields Children's Centre
Evington Library	North Evington Children's Centre
Knighton Library	Mayfield Children's Centre.

It was pointed out by a member of the public that none of the facilities referred to, apart from Mayfield Centre, were actually located in Stoneygate Ward and it was questioned whether Mayfield could be expanded to take on a limited library facility. Michael stated that the Library Service were looking to expand facilities available and that this suggestion would be considered.

Officers were then asked whether the routes operated by the City Council Book Bus service had been reviewed recently, with a view to it visiting the Stoneygate area. Michael stated that the Book Bus service was mainly targeted at the outlying areas of the City and offered services to children to encourage them to learn to read. It was stated that, should the Book Bus be offered in the Stoneygate area there was a potential demand for the facilities offered.

Members of the public present were reminded that, by being the holder of a City Council Library Card, gave certain discounts at a limited range of facilities, although the range of discounts available was in the process of being expanded.

A member of the public questioned why charges were imposed for the late return of books, and was this a money generating scheme. Michael stated that the charges were intended purely as a deterrent to prevent the late return of materials borrowed and was not intended as a generator of money.

Michael concluded by stating that he would be feeding back the issues raised at the meeting to his managers at his next feedback meeting on Friday 23rd September. Feedback from the Library Service would be provided.

19. NEW ORANGE BAG RECYCLING SCHEME

Officers, representing the Waste Management service attended the meeting to outline the implementation of the new Orange Bag recycling scheme that was to be rolled out across the City during October 2011.

It was stated that the scheme would be replacing the current Green Box scheme and would enable householders to recycle a much wider range of materials than at present, to include the following items: -

Plastic Bottles	Wrapping Paper
Plastic food containers	Greetings Cards
Plastic film	Telephone Directories
Carrier bags	Cereal boxes
Newspapers	Cardboard
Magazines	Food tins
Paper	Drinks cans
Catalogues	Foil trays
Junk Mail	Empty aerosols
Envelopes	Glass Bottles.

Each household would receive a roll of 30 Orange bags and as many filled bags could be left out each collection day, the collection days to remain the same as for the current Green Box scheme. Towards the end of each roll a yellow sticker was inserted for the purpose of requesting more bags that would be left that same day.

Householders would be given the opportunity to retain the existing Green Boxes or use the sticker that would be delivered as part of a welcome pack prior to the scheme starting, to ensure that the box was removed.

It was stated that any split bags would be cleared away by the collection teams and that the separation of materials would be undertaken mechanically at the recycling Centre, a procedure that could not be achieved with the Green Box scheme and where the sorting was carried out manually at the kerbside. Under the new scheme

the vehicle used would be similar to the current refuse collection vehicles and the orange bags would be loaded at the rear and then compacted within the vehicle itself.

Officers were asked to outline other areas of recycling available and also to explain the Bulk Waste Collection Scheme. Officers reported that under the Bulk Waste Scheme, each household was entitled to a free collection of up to 5 items of bulky waste, every 3 months.

A member of the public questioned whether consideration had been given to assist elderly people who did not drive, for example, and encourage them to dispose of items, and whether the community skips could be re-introduced. Officers stated that the previous community skip scheme had been withdrawn partly on cost grounds and partly because the skips were being abused with paint and oil being deposited in them, and also it had been found that people were continuing to dump rubbish even when the skip was not in position.

A member of the public stated that the City Council did not allow vans to drop rubbish at their recycling centres without a permit, but were still prepared to send vehicles out to collect rubbish. Officers reported that the permit scheme was to prevent the abuse of the system as it had previously been found that businesses were abusing the system and making multiple drops of rubbish at no cost. Officers further stated that vans were allowed into Bridge Street recycling centre on a 'one-off' basis to drop off rubbish. This allowance was not made at Spence Street due to space limitations. It was agreed that this allowance was not widely known as it could help to discourage 'fly tipping'.

It was generally agreed that fly tipping in the area was a major concern and several suggestions, including that of timetabled collections at certain times of the year as a form of amnesty, might be considered. City Wardens had also been asked to look at arranging a 'Community Clean-Up' in the area, as this approach had been tried successfully in other areas of the City, but this was still at an early stage of planning. The City Mayor would however be kept informed of the issues around fly-tipping in the area with a view to looking at measures to address the problem.

In conclusion it was reported that those residents with access to Smart phones could download a 'One Clean Leicester' app that would enable a site where rubbish was dumped to be located and photographed and sent to the City Council where it could be investigated and cleared up.

20. CITY WARDENS

Luke Willsher, City Warden stated that he had been targeting the clearance of litter and rubbish locally. He had undertaken a letter drop in 2 separate areas of the Ward regarding the dumping of litter and rubbish, this exercise had been partially successful. One area, Mere Road was particularly targeted as an area where food waste was prevalent.

Luke stated that he had several graffiti removal kits available that were free of charge and were suitable for small smooth surface areas.

In concluding, members of the public were urged to report environmental problems in the area to Luke, the City Warden.

21. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Sgt. Danny Graham attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on local policing issues.

Crime figures for the period June – September 2011 were reported, compared to the corresponding period in 2010, as follows: -

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Burglary	21	29
Burglary – other	12	10
Assault/Harassment	95	106
Street Robberies	14	8
Theft of Cycles	8	13
Theft of Motor Vehicles	8	13
Theft from Motor Vehicles	15	36
Drugs Offences	12	12
Thefts from Stores	32	12

It was stated that there had been an increase in Robberies, compared to 2010 and the Constabulary had identified this increase, on the east side of the City, and an operation would be planned. Areas of crime around motor vehicles had already been carried out.

Items of Note

Sgt. Graham reported that Operation Horizon had dealt with the disorder that had taken place across the country in early August, with small pockets of disturbance locally. Locally the effects were that officers were drafted to the areas of the City where the disturbances were taking place. A specific incident had taken place at this time at a local restaurant, but this had proved to be an isolated incident and not connected.

An assault had taken place on an Eastern European female and whilst it had been established that the incident was not a 'hate' crime the victim would not give a statement. Police however were able to prove who the offender was and gave them a verbal warning.

A burglary had taken place at a local off-licence. Soon after an officer on patrol saw an individual known to the police with blood on his face, the officer was suspicious and apprehended the person and referred the person to CID.

A particular public house on London Road was the subject of increasing incidences of violence and ASB behaviour. The police would be speaking with the landlord.

Sgt. Graham stated that two local policing Priority Problem Solving Plans (PPSP) were currently in place, expected to run between three and six months, one of which covered the ASB/Drugs issues in Upper Tichborne Street.

A multi-agency Patch Walk was held on 1st September, covering the Upper Tichborne Street area and where a number of issues had been identified. The police were in the process of preparing a report for Ward Councillors on options to alleviate some of the issues identified.

Police were currently working in liaison with the ASB Team and the City Council regarding certain problem families in the area, with a view to getting the families evicted.

It was reported that on the previous Sunday two officers patrolling the Upper Tichborne Street area received intelligence from a member of the public regarding a drug dealer. The dealer was apprehended and subsequently arrested for dealing in Class A drugs.

Following a review of local policing teams the local team would soon comprise 5 PC's and 3 PCSO's, up from 3 PC's and 2 PCSO's.

Future Plans

Sgt. Graham stated that a speeding operation was being planned for the City ring road area.

Three PPSP's were in the process of being implemented.

ASB issues to be addressed.

Looking to increase police visibility in the area over the next few months.

2012 would be a challenging year with the events and activities connected with the Olympic Games putting pressure on local policing teams. Members of the public were urged to feedback their demands for local policing to remain as at present.

Sgt. Graham reported that there had been significant reductions to the police budget. Neighbourhood policing had not yet been affected but this could change as further inevitable cuts were made.

A member of the public stated that there was high anxiety in the South Highfields area around drugs issues. Residents wanted a visible police presence but it was appreciated that this would cause the runners and scouts to disperse. Sgt. Graham stated that the police were well aware of the problems identified and that this represented a significant problem that required immediate, medium and long term planning to address. The police were initially looking to hit the main offenders hard, although such an operation could not be sustained in the medium or longer term. Progress would be reported back to the Community Meeting.

A member of the public stated that some of the problems were likely to be caused by the inability of police to access certain streets quickly, particularly around the Upper Tichborne Street area. Sgt. Graham stated that this was a problem but had been looked at during the previously referred to Patch Walk. It was to be recommended to the City Council that certain streets be opened up again, aiding quick access. It was further stated that the Assistant City Mayor, responsible for local services, had also received a number of requests to cut back street trees in locations where CCTV camera views were restricted, this was also identified as an issue in Upper Tichborne Street. Such works would be prioritised and would be subject to funding availability.

22. TRAFFIC ISSUES - HIGHWAY ROAD/EVINGTON ROAD/STOUGHTON DRIVE NORTH/STAVELEY ROAD

Satish Shah, Head of Design and Project Management and David Poxon, Team Leader – Road Safety attended the meeting to respond to issues raised around road safety on certain local streets.

It was stated that at present there was an unsightly temporary traffic calming measure outside No. 9 Staveley Road that had brought a reduction in traffic speeds but was felt to be in need of reviewing.

Officers reported that formal options for Staveley Road/Hazelwood Roads had been drawn up and presented to the City Mayoral team. The options were identified as follows: -

- i) Leave existing traffic calming in place and make permanent
- ii) Block off entry and make road one way – Staveley Road one-way into Evington Road. Kedleston Road one-way into Evington Road.
- iii) 20 mph zone in the area.

The view of local residents were being sought as to the best way to proceed.

A member of the public stated that issues on Evington Valley Road should also have been included on the list for discussion as traffic had increased on this road as a result of the closure of Staveley Road. Officers stated that there had been no significant increases of traffic on the side streets in the area.

It was stated that where there were current 30mph traffic calmed streets the City Council were looking to make these streets 20mph zones, followed by those streets where traffic speeds were already low. It was stated that the Deputy City mayor, Councillor Palmer was currently looking at the viability of 20mph zones across the City but it had been made clear that insufficient funding was available to undertake a major scheme locally.

A member of the public stated that the real problem was traffic coming out of Kedleston Road onto Evington Road. Officers stated that they would look at this and put forward as option iv) to the deputy City Mayor.

Sgt. Graham stated that the police were aware of the problems of speeding traffic on Evington Lane and something was required in the medium term to reduce traffic speeds. In the short term the police would implement speeding operations. Regarding Evington Valley Road the police would look to implement a 'week of action' to assess what measures were required to alleviate the problems identified.

It was reported that the junction of Evington Lane/Baden Road was quite dangerous, and this partly attributable to some of the road signs and road markings being less than clear. Officers stated that they would look at this area.

In concluding the Ward Councillors stated that they would provide feedback of the discussions at this meeting to the Deputy City Mayor and report back on the outcomes to the Community Meeting.

23. BUDGET

Anita Patel, members Support Officer introduced the funding applications that had been received since the last meeting.

It was reported that £11,825 remained in the Community Meeting budget and that of the three applications submitted, two had now been withdrawn. The applications were reported as follows: -

- i) **Upper Tichborne Homeless Hostel -** **£1,200**
Residents Group
Application to fund an education and confidence building trip to the Black Country Museum, Dudley, West Midlands.

RESOLVED:

that this application be not supported.

- ii) **Highfields Community Association** **£250**
Joint funding application, with Spinney Hills, to fund an Arts Award Pilot Scheme.

This application was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

- iii) **Stoneygate police/Neighbourhood Team** **£500**
Application to part fund an Evington Road area anti-social behaviour operation.

This application was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

The applicant in respect of the following application, Rejected at the last meeting was in attendance.

iv) Highfields Area Forum

£6,000

The applicant was informed that this application, to part fund the final stages of the completion of the Highfields Area Plan, had been Rejected at the last meeting and therefore could not be reconsidered at this meeting. The Area Plan had already been part funded by the Castle and Spinney Hills Community Meetings.

The applicant was advised to re-submit the application.

24. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Square Residents Group

With the sanction of the Chair the following letter was read out at the meeting: -

“On behalf of The Square Residents Group I would like to take the opportunity to thank our Ward Councillors Lucy Chaplin, Kamal and Desai in taking their valuable time out to attend a meeting on 13th September 2011 on the private lane at Evington Lane to discuss various issues relating to the Lane and the surrounding area. I would like to thank Councillor Sue Waddington and PC. Lully for their participation and attendance.

Dr. Chowdhury, although not our Ward Councillor, has also visited the Lane on a previous occasion in matters relating to planning, and we would also like to thank him for his time.

Kind Regards

Mr. Farouk F. Haider (Chairman).”

25. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.28 pm.

