

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Wednesday, 18 January 2012**

**Held at: Woodgate Resource Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester**

Who was there:

Councillor Ted Cassidy MBE
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Councillor Susan Waddington
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## 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.

<b>Ward Councillors and General Information</b>  Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	<b>Police Issues</b>  Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
<b>Care and Repair</b>  Representatives available to outline work of the project	<b>City Warden Service</b>  The City Warden for the Fosse Ward was present.

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.

## **112. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Waddington was elected Chair for the meeting.

## **113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Geoff Forse (Woodgate Residents Association).

## **114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

## **115. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Fosse Community Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011, as previously circulated, be agreed as a correct record.

## **116. GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2011/12 AND FOSSE LIBRARY**

Councillor Russell attended the meeting and gave a brief presentation on the City Council General Fund Budget 2011/12 that covered the following areas: -

- What are we now facing
- The Approach
- Expenditure Projections
- Budget Summary
- Budget – Savings
- Where do the Savings Fall
- Key Proposals
- Resource Forecasts
- Taxation
- Libraries
- Self Service Model

Detailed discussion took place around the future of the library service, centred on the 3 libraries (Aylestone, St. Matthews and Fosse) that had been identified as requiring attention. The actions proposed at these venues centred on reducing book stocks and reduction in staff and, in the case of St. Matthews and Aylestone a move to share other premises. Part of the proposals also include a move to a self-service operation at these 3 locations, although it was intended to retain computer availability for public use. It was stated that the reason the 3 locations referred to had

been identified was because the cost per visitor to each of these libraries was far in excess of other libraries across the city.

### Fosse Library

A member of the public stated that she had fought long and hard for Fosse Library and was a regular user. It was stated that there now seemed to be more services for younger people being provided across the city and services for older people, such as the libraries were being reduced. In the case of Fosse Library, due to its location off the main road, not many people knew it existed but the hours of opening could be extended. Newfoundpool across the other side of Fosse Road had very few facilities in comparison.

Officers stated that regarding the opening hours of Fosse library, it was intended to open the library whenever the Centre was open to provide access to books and computers. The technology for the self-service facility was based on that in supermarkets. The Library Service wanted to work with other organisations to encourage local interest groups to meet in library premises. A core group of staff would remain based in Fosse Centre to cover most areas of work, including the library. Trained library staff would visit periodically to deal with library specific issues. Several options remained available at Fosse Centre.

The Chair referred to a letter received from a local resident who made reference to the proposed cut to the minibus service that operated to bring the elderly to libraries to select books. The resident urged that the service be not cut as it provided a valuable lifeline to a number of elderly people and enabled them to meet other people.

It was stated that cuts in funding were inevitable but that a number of options were still being considered, in the case of the mini bus service a 'befriending service' operated in Braunstone whereby people were able to be taken out to where they wanted to go in the locality, this scheme could potentially be rolled out to other areas of the City.

As a suggestion it was stated that maybe a way forward would be to get more people to use Fosse Library over the coming weeks and months and encourage more community use. However it was stated that savings would have to be taken forward to Council to balance the books, although final decisions on where the savings were to be made had yet to be finalised.

Councillor Russell stated that she would be happy to work with Ward Councillors to identify where savings could be made and also to look at options put forward.

Further discussion took place around the location of Fosse Library and of the possible need to publicise its location in the local community. It was felt that by making changes identified would, in effect, be taking a facility out of the local community, but rather the space in the current library could be better utilised for community activities.

In summing up local residents were urged to contact Councillors Waddington and Cassidy with questions and comments regarding Fosse Library and should a further

public meeting be required around the Fosse Library proposals then this could be arranged. It was stressed that there were no plans to actually shut Fosse library, but rather to run the service differently to meet budget restrictions.

#### **117. PRINCE'S TRUST**

#### **118. CARE AND REPAIR**

A representative from Care and Repair attended the meeting and stated that the project did not get involved in Social Services adaptations to properties but rather gave advice to people who were able to pay for their own adaptations. The advice given was free and unbiased. The project was small and funded by the City Council, 2 staff dealt with some 900 enquiries each year.

Care and repair worked with a list of recommended contractors and their work was monitored on a regular basis. Should a recommended contractor be selected to undertake work then Care and Repair inspected and assessed the standard of work carried out and to ensure that the necessary certificates could be issued. Persons interested in contacting Care and Repair were urged to do so by telephone, via the website or write.

#### **119. SQUARE MILE UPDATE**

Jason Wood, representing the Square Mile Project attended the meeting and gave an update on the work of the project that had started in September 2011, that included a Christmas Fayre and an event at the University involving some 250 young people showing them how the Stock Market worked.

Jason stated that there had in fact been 2 separate Christmas events, one at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre and the other at Tudor Gardens. The project had worked closely with the City Council, the Police and Fire and Rescue and the outcomes had resulted in a lot of community spirit and the creation of new networks.

It was stated that on the previous Monday five student Youth Workers had been based at Fosse and Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centres to enhance youth participation in the area.

A further initiative by the project was to introduce IT equipment at Newfoundpool Neighbourhood Centre for local people to use, this was likely to commence in February/March.

From the work undertaken to date the project had received feedback that local people were seeking activities that would bring the community together. Members of the public were urged to contact the Square Mile Project with any ideas they might have.

In concluding it was reported that Liz Kendall M.P. would be attending a Health Consultation Event at the Woodgate Resource Centre on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

## **120. POLICE UPDATE**

Sgt Rod Smart attended the meeting and gave an update on local policing activities since the last meeting.

The following crime statistics for the 3 month period November to January were reported, comparing 2011/12 to 2010/11.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Burglaries	29	32
Robberies	5	7
Vehicle Crime	8	4

Anti-Social Behaviour – no figures but incidents reported as being down on the previous year.

The meeting was informed that there were currently two Problem Solving Plans operational in the area as follows: -

- i) Battenberg Road – problem family that lived on street. After much work the family had been evicted and the problem resolved.
- ii) Central Road – been operational for some 2 years in effort to solve ASB issues and create youth provision. Have been working with Street Vibe and Groundwork to provide activities, particularly for the ring leaders to take part in during evenings and it was anticipated that problems on the street will then reduce.

It was stated that the police were using an office on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor of Fosse Neighbourhood Centre two days per week and local people were encouraged to drop in.

The Square Mile Project stated that they were due to meet with Groundwork with the aim of establishing a Community Garden involving local youth.

## **121. CITY WARDEN UPDATE**

Jethro, the local City Warden reported that he was still in the process of tackling the problem of bins on streets, although it was taking between 6-8 weeks per street to take the actions necessary. To date a couple of Court cases had been held and had resulted in £200 fines being awarded to two householders.

Increased patrols were taking place in the area to try and identify the owners of dogs responsible for fouling the area.

Fines were also being issued to persons responsible for littering in the area, particularly when they could be identified.

## 122. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

James Schadla-Hall, Members Support Officer presented the Community Meeting Budget and stated that the current balance remaining was **£8,862**.

The following applications were submitted for consideration: -

- 1) **Woodgate Residents Association** **£3,000**  
Application received for funding to continue and expand the current Music Development Programme at Woodgate Resource Centre, involving some 80 children. It was reported that the previous funding ran out on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.

Members were minded to support the project but stated that, due to the funding remaining in the 2011/12 Budget **£1,500** could be funded from the **2011/12 Budget** and **£1,500** from the **2012/13 Budget**, this was **Agreed**.

- 2) **Groby Road Allotment Society** **£1,400**  
Application received to create an environmentally friendly pond on the communal area of the embankment of Groby Road Allotments, facing the allotment plots.

Members were minded to support the application in full. It was **Agreed** that the application for **£1,400** be supported.

- 3) **King Richard III Infant and Nursery School** **£500**  
Application received to part fund, with Westcotes Community Meeting, the difference in the cost per head and the parental contribution to enable Year 2 children to go on a residential trip to Beaumanor Hall, Woodhouse, Leicestershire. A number of adventurous activities would be available to the children that were not possible at the school.

Members were minded to support the application in full. It was **Agreed** that the application for **£500** be supported.

It was reported that the balance of the Budget remaining after funding the above new applications was **£5,462**.

## 123. YOUTH SERVICE

It was reported that Ward Councillors had met with the providers of youth services in the area.

Brian Quinn, Street Vibe reported that his project, although based in Braunstone actually covered the whole City and outlined the work that his project was undertaking. It was reported that there were four main providers of youth services in the Fosse ward area, although these were mainly concentrated in one part of the ward.

The Chair stated that Ward Councillors now had a picture of what youth services were provided and where they were taking place. The Square Mile Project were looking to put in a bid for funding for youth activities.

#### **124. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### Former St. Augustine's Church, Fosse Road

A member of the public questioned whether there was anything planned for this site containing the remains of the former St. Augustine's Church.

The Chair stated that, following a recent walk around parts of the Ward with the City Mayor, this site had been highlighted as requiring further attention. It was **Agreed** that this would be brought back to the next meeting.

#### **125. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting would be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at a venue to be confirmed.

#### **126. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.06pm.



