

Fosse Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

**6:00 pm, Wednesday, 21 March 2012
Held at: Fosse Library, Mantle Road**

Who was there:

Councillor Ted Cassidy MBE
Councillor Susan Waddington

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.

Police Issues Representatives from the local policing unit were present.	City Warden Service The City Warden for the Fosse Ward was present
Leicester in Bloom Residents were provided with the opportunity to find out about the Leicester in Bloom initiative.	Square Mile Update There was an update on the Square Mile project.
Ward Councillors and General Information Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	

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.

127. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Cassidy was elected as Chair for the meeting.

128. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apolgies for absence were received from Jean Rawson, a local resident.

129. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

130. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Fosse Community Meeting held on 18th January 2012, be agreed as a correct record.

131. FOSSE LIBRARY

Adrian Wills, Head of Libraries was present to talk about the changes to Fosse Library.

Adrian explained that the Libraries service had carried out a significant consultation and members of the community had submitted a petition with 949 signatures in response to the planned changes at Fosse Library. 110 consultation responses had also been received. The key point of concern had been introducing self service machines. Other comments had included:

- Concern over lack of staff to advise older people.
- Increasing opening hours
- Concern over reduction in library activities.

Adrian explained what the Council would do in response to the comments raised. This included:

- After the petition and representation from ward councillors, finances had been reallocated to the library. This would then allow a staff member to be present to advise customers how to use the self service machines.
- The staff member would remain as long as the current staffing hours were however the self service machines would open as long as the Fosse Centre hours.
- The range of books would be improved.

- There would still be access to public access computers and there would be new computers to replace the old ones in the next few months.
- The opening hours of the library would be longer than the current hours.
- There would still be toddler times held at the library.
- Interested groups could still meet in the library and there would be a volunteer to help support groups.

The total impact would be longer opening hours, the library service reconfigured to make the best use of the ground floor area with the library still available as a common space.

Adrian also explained what would be happening next in the process:

- The lead petitioner would be written to, explaining what had changed from the original plans and the ward Councillors would also be copied into this response.
- It was also be looked into how the library service could be reorganised and how they would benefit from this.
- A suggestion has been made by Members to form a planning group to see how the centre operated. It was aimed to work with Councillors to achieve best service and work was being done closely with community Services. It was requested that there was a representative in the Community to recommend improvements which were perhaps not seen by officers. The Chair suggested that the planning group involve Councillors, a member of the community and involvement from the Square Mile Planning Group

In response to a query concerning staff, Adrian stated that Fosse Library was one of three which was undergoing changes and the aim was reduce the impact on frontline staff. With regard to staff, there were a very small number of reductions and there would also be a strategic review of Library staff in the future which could involve asking staff to move locations however if staff wanted to stay in their current location, the option would still be there. There would also be librarian support from a twinned library so there was no need to worry about frontline staff.

In response to a query regarding timescales, Adrian stated that it was being looked to introduce the changes in early October/November however it could be later.

A query was raised regarding how could theft be prevented. Adrian stated that it was not possible to stop people stealing books if they wanted to however previous problems had been with books that had been borrowed and not returned. It was added that there was a good deal of trust between users and the Library.

In response to a query regarding savings, Adrian stated that it was hoped there would be savings of £70 - £80,000 across the three libraries at St Matthews, Aylestone and Fosse. In response to a further query regarding staff savings, Adrian stated this would result in a saving of one Full Time Employee (FTE) at the library.

It was stated that the library had encountered low usage however ways were being looked into to promote the library. With regards to providing services for the library, it

was stated that the Council had to make a decision with the finances it currently had. It was stated that the signage would also look to be improved.

132. PRINCE'S TRUST

This item was not considered as the representative was not able to attend.

133. SQUARE MILE UPDATE

Jason Wood, De Montfort University provided an update on the Square Mile project.

Jason explained that the Square Mile project was an initiative from De Montfort University together with Leicester City Council which had commenced around six months ago. The project was initially directed to last for one year however would now be continuing on for two years. Jason explained that the Square Mile Working Group met every two weeks, meeting at Fosse Library between 5:45pm – 7:30pm every other Monday. It was also explained that an event was taking place next Thursday, 29 March and information on this would be sent to residents.

134. DERELICT BUILDINGS

Sarbjit Singh, Team Leader, Planning was present to talk about derelict buildings and an action plan arising from a Member's patchwalk in the area was circulated.

The action plan was considered and the following discussion took place:

- Fiveways House – It was noted that there was scaffolding located on the site which was raising concern. Residents were informed that the owners had stated they would be starting work in March however the Council would be contacting them again. The current plan was to encourage the owners to carry out work on the site rather than carry out enforcement action which would take up resources and could be lengthy. It was also noted that the City Mayor had stated the building needed to be sorted.

It was suggested that residents who lived nearby be kept informed of developments about the building. Concern was raised that it was a struggle to keep the building secure however owners were taking a while to respond to this issue. It was agreed this would be raised with the Conservation Officer responsible for the site.

- Derelict Church – It was noted that planning applications for the site had expired and no other proposals were currently forthcoming. It was aimed to prevent fly tipping. It was also explained a fence had been installed on the site

however a panel from this had been removed. The owners of the site had been written to, so that work could be done without the need for formal action. It was explained that the Council could enforce action however the owners had been co-operative in the past. Concern was raised that there seemed to be an acceptance to leave situations as they were. Sarbjit stated that the sites mentioned were in private ownership and unless there was a scheme created, there was little that could be done. There were options such as Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPOs) however these were only used in exceptional circumstances. It was reiterated that buildings left empty and in these conditions were not good for the community.

- Empire Pub – It was explained that a planning application had been granted for the site and while one was being considered, another one could not be submitted. Residents were informed that possible reasons why developers were not going through with applications, was that banks were not lending money. A resident stated that it was important to tie the properties to the community to make the area attractive. Sarbjit explained that when there were planning applications, these were decided on their merits however enforcement plans were not as strong.
- Factories, Repton Street/Rugby Street – It was explained that officers had met with the architect asking what needed to be submitted. It was also noted that the agents had been contacted however however the land registry may need to be checked to clarify who owned the building.
- Potential beneficial use of blue cladding building on Balfour Street, adjacent to Fosse Primary School – It was explained that the building belonged to a school however was currently being used as a gym. A query was raised concern how much of the building was used and it was stated that perhaps more of the building could be used if it already was not so.
- Planters by former Premier Screw – it was stated that the current situation with this site needed to be clarified.

A query was raised with regard to whether council tax was paid for empty buildings. It was agreed that an answer to this would be sought.

Action	Action by	Deadline
Check the latest situation with the form Premier Screw site.	Sarbjit Singh, Team Leader, Planning	As soon as possible
Check whether Council Tax is paid for empty buildings.	Sarbjit Singh, Team Leader, Planning	As soon as possible

135. POLICE UPDATE

PC Andy Goadby was present to provide a policing update for the area. The following update was provided:

- There were anti social behaviour problems on Fosse Road North and on Central Road which were being dealt with.
- A school safety campaign had been completed to highlight safety issues. There had been issues with Fosse Primary School with regard to this and a meeting had been arranged.
- There was to be an internal reshuffle within the local policing team with the beat officers becoming the Safer Neighbourhood Team and there would also be shift changes as well however PC Goadby stated that he would be remaining in his current role.
- It was explained that burglary was a big priority with a lot of work being done on crime prevention with a process known as 'Super Cocooning'.
- A query was raise regarding keys for the gates on Tudor Road. PC Goadby explained that this was part of 'Super Cocooning' and all the alley gates in the area had been highlighted. It was noted that a number of people tended to use the gate and there was a chance they could be left open.

136. CITY WARDEN UPDATE

Jethro Swift, City Warden for the Fosse Ward was present to provide an update on environmental issues in the area. The following update was provided:

- It was explained that work was being done on bins on streets in the Tudor Road and Newfoundpool and around 12 section 46 notices had been issued. The issue of dog fouling was still aiming to be tackled and some tickets had been issued for this in Rally Park. Concern had also been raised regarding there being no fence outside the children's play area which allowed dogs to come in.

137. BUDGET

James Schadla-Hall, Members Support Officer presented the Community Meeting budget.

The following applications were submitted for consideration.

- **Groundwork Youth Session, PC Andy Goadby - £1,500**

It was explained that the application was to help fund a further 21 sessions for the youth club. This would include the paying for the use of the buildings at the Adventure Playground. It was also planned to run another session on Thursday evenings.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,500 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Maya Well-Being Project, Maya Group - £2,640**

It was explained that the application was for funding to support the Maya Well-Being Project based at the Aapka Centre on Pool Road. The project was aimed to sustain the health and well-being of elderly women.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,348 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Big Jubilee Lunch, Fosse Inter Agency Consortium - £1,400**

It was explained that the application was to hold a 'Big Lunch' in Rally Park on Sunday 3 June to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee weekend. It was noted that an application for £300 had also been submitted to the Western Park ward.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,400 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Diamond Jubilee Party, Mrs B Allen - £500**

It was explained that the application was to hold a street party to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on Saturday 2 June 2012.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £250 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Noticeboards for Rally Park, Square Mile Residents Group - £1,600**

It was explained that the application was for four noticeboards to be based in Rally Park. James Schalda-Hall explained that following discussions with the Council's Parks Services, it was felt the four noticeboards requested would not be appropriate for the park. It had in fact been suggested that a more appropriate noticeboard needed to be installed which was vandal proof and this would cost £1,800. It was noted that Parks Services had agreed to make up the £200 difference from the money that was agreed.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,600 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

- **Move to Bronze, Square Mile Residents Group - £1,560**

It was explained that the application was to help fund 'Movin to Bronze' which was an exciting and inspiring dance project designed and delivered by De Montfort University dance graduates and Fosse Residents.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported and £1,560 be allocated subject to final approval from the relevant Cabinet Lead.

138. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

139. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:01pm.

