

Spinney Hills Community Meeting

**St Matthew's Sports Centre, Malabar
Road**

**On Monday, 28 November 2011
Starting at 6:00 pm**

The meeting will be in two parts

6:00pm – 6:15pm

**Meet your Councillors and local
service providers dealing with:-**

- Traffic Issues
- City Warden Service
- Police Issues
- General Council matters and other issues

6:15pm – 8:00pm

**Get involved in your area and
planning for the future. There will be
presentations and discussions on:**

- General Issues in the St Matthew's Area
 - Highways and Traffic
 - State of the Roads
 - Residents Parking Scheme
 - District Heating
- City Warden Service, Policing and Community Safety Issues,
- Spinney Hills Ward Budge

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

Your Ward Councillors are:

**Councillor Hanif Aqbany
Councillor Dr Shofiqul Chowdhury
Councillor Mohammed Dawood**



Making Meetings Accessible to All

WHEELCHAIR

Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Services Officer on the details provided.

BRAILLE / AUDIO TAPE – CD / TRANSLATION

If you require this agenda or a particular part of it to be translated or provided on audio tape, the Democratic Services Officer can organise this for you (production times will depend on equipment facility availability). In certain cases, subject to the agreement of the local Councillors, translation facilities can be provided at the meeting.

INDUCTION LOOPS – HEARING AT MEETINGS

We provide a loop system at every meeting for people with hearing aids. If you have a hearing aid, please speak to the Democratic Services Officer at the meeting for further assistance if you think you won't be able to hear what's being discussed. There is also a facility which can help people hear better if you don't have a hearing aid but are hard of hearing, again please speak to the Democratic Services Officer about this.

INFORMATION FAIR

PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS OF SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES YOU CAN TALK TO AT THIS MEETING

You can raise matters of concern, give opinions and find out information which may be of use

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.
City Warden Service Talk to your local city warden about environmental issues in Spinney Hills.	Traffic Issues Talk to relevant officer from Leicester City Council in respect of local traffic issues.

The first part of the agenda covers formal items which the Councillors need to deal with to ensure that regulations on holding meetings are kept to.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillors will elect a Chair for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The first main item on the agenda is Declarations of Interest where Councillors have to say if there is anything on the agenda they have a personal interest in. For example if a meeting was due to discuss a budget application put forward by a community group and one of the Councillors was a member of that group, they would not be able to take part in the decision on that budget application.

Councillors are asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Appendix A

The minutes of the previous Spinney Hills Community Meeting, held on 19 September 2011, are attached and Members are asked to confirm them as a correct record.

This next part of the agenda covers items where input from you on issues that affect your community is welcomed.

5. GENERAL ISSUES IN THE ST MATTHEW'S AREA

The Community Meeting will consider the following key issues within the St Matthews Area of the Ward:

1. Highways and Traffic
2. State of the Roads
3. Residents Parking Scheme
4. District Heating

Relevant Council officers and representatives will be in attendance to provide an overview of each of the above, and will then answer questions relating to each issue.

6. CITY WARDEN, POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY ISSUES

Representatives from the City Wardens service will be in attendance to provide an update on their work. Updates will also be provided in relation to policing and community safety issues.

7. BUDGET

Councillors are reminded that they will need to declare any interest they may have in budget applications, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

Anita Patel, Members Support Officer, will provide an overview of the current position of the Spinney Hills Ward budget. The following applications will be considered:

Application 1

Applicant: Leicester United Sports and Culture

Amount: £500

Proposal: Workshops for young people.

Summary:

We have chosen a vague section in the work that needs to be done to enhance the young people's mind in our community. However our proposal is to bring nothing but positivity to their minds. This will then reflect on the community and make it a better place to live in.

This is to take away and remove the idea that the young people need to be in a gang to be socially secure in their neighbourhoods. This has been the case for over my time in St Matthews and this is the problem everywhere. Which is why unemployment is on the increase and have resulted in things such as the riots and other gang related activities

How we are going to tackle this?

What we are going to do is to hold various workshops, sporting activities for the young people in all different types of areas but our main focus point for now is St Matthews. So when we get them together is to get them talking and get them doing what they

do in their own time, but this time together with opposing people. Our idea is to bring other people from various other backgrounds and ethnic backgrounds.

Our proposal will be successful because it integrates all the young people together and they'll do what is beneficial for

Application 2

Applicant: Shubaan Youth Group

Amount: £1,000

Proposal: Hire Charges for Highfields Centre

Summary:

We are a youth group from Spinney Hill that has been operating since 2003, working with young people of ages 10 – 18. Through education, sport, life skills, charity and interfaith work we have empowered our young people and helped them in their development to be better citizens of this country.

We operate on a weekly basis at Highfields Centre where through the medium of sport we attract our young people. This then enables our volunteers to carry out substantial youth work for the betterment of our users. Through, support a rapport is cultivated which enables us to work on issues like extremism, drugs and substance misuse and educational underachievement. Moreover, we also look at ways of celebrating achievements made by young people.

Therefore, we would like to apply for funding that will enable us to pay for hire charges at Highfields Centre. As well as providing sporting activities we envisage to hold a seminar on the recent riots and get the thoughts of young people of Spinney Hill. Moreover, we will be inviting in successful local people to discuss their achievements in our monthly role model event.

Application 3

Applicant: St Matthew's Tenants Association

Amount: £500

Proposal: Residents Gardening Scheme

Summary: The bid is for a small amount of money to set up a small tool bank of equipment so that residents can use them to maintain their gardens or use some of the space that has been specifically cleared to grow food. This will include items such as spades, forks, rakes and a battery powered lawn mower.

Also included is money for a similar scheme which has been successful in London. This is to use the 1 ton builders' bags which cost £6 each which are used filled with compost and used to grow food. The group plans to buy five of these and fill them with compost which costs £40 a ton. These will be put in a courtyard and the results monitored. If successful the scheme will be extended.

Application 4

Applicant: Azad House Residents

Amount: £200

Proposal: Multi-Faith Cohesion Funding

Summary:

The proposal is to hold cohesion and harmony based events that will be proactive in bringing together the diverse faiths, beliefs, creeds and ethnicity within the schemes and their localities. This will allow a celebration of events that include Diwali, Eid and Christmas and allow the community to understand and appreciate the diverse cultural nature of One Leicester. The vents are to be held in the first week of December 2011. It is envisaged that the money will be match-funded by the organisation.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place at 6pm on Monday 12 March 2012.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Help us to make improvements!

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting. Thank you.

For further information contact

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www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Monday, 19 September 2011

Held at: Coleman Primary School, Gwendolen Road.

Who was there:

Councillor Aqbany

Councillor Dr Chodhury

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.
The New Orange Bag Recycling Scheme Find out more about this scheme, which is to shortly be introduced.	Traffic Issues Talk to officers from Leicester City Council about traffic issues in Spinney Hills.
Home Energy Advice Service Obtain information about schemes operated by the Home Energy Advice Centre	School Admissions Find out more about the school admissions service in Leicester.

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.

43. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Dr Chowdhury was elected to Chair the meeting.

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mohammed Dawood.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In respect of minute 39 'Police and Community Safety Update', it was confirmed that Grove Road was covered by the Spinney Hills and not the Hamilton Local Policing Unit.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment detailed above, the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

47. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Steve Letten, Service Manager, Admissions & Exclusions, Leicester City Council, was in attendance to provide a brief overview of the School Admissions service.

Steve's presentation included the following points:

- The timetable of applying for a school place for the 2012/13 school year was described. It was made clear that offers would be made to parents by the week-beginning 16 April 2012.
- In respect of starting junior school, parents would only need to apply for a junior school place if their child was in Year 2 of an infant school, but that there was no automatic right for a child attending an infant to school to transfer to any junior school.
- Parents were encouraged to apply now for children currently in year 6 who would be transferring to secondary school in Autumn 2012. The deadline for this was 31 October 2011.
- General Application Forms had to be completed if parents wished to transfer their child's school mid-term.
- A robust set of criteria was used for allocating pupils to a particular school with priority given firstly to children in care of the local authority.
- Parents were asked to indicate three preferences when applying for schools. It was stated that it was vital for applicants to rank the schools in an order of preference.
- Late applications were considered after those received on time. This often resulted in such applicants not receiving places at their preferred schools.

- An independent appeals panel was in place to consider cases of those who did not receive their preferences.

Further clarity was sought on the appeals process. In particular, it was enquired who formed the panels. In response, Steve confirmed that the panels were operated independently by the Council's Legal Services division. As they were independent to the Admissions and Exclusions teams, it was made clear that the appeals panel were permitted to overrule initial decisions. Steve agreed to provide further information in relation to the composition and powers of the independent schools appeals panels.

A question was asked in respect of the percentage of applicants who were allocated their first preference. In response, Steve confirmed that 85.5% of applicants were allocated their first preference for secondary schools last year and that 93% in total were allocated one of their first three preferences.

RESOLVED:

That further information be provided in relation to the composition and powers of the independent schools appeals panels

48. THE NEW ORANGE BAG RECYCLING SCHEME

Mark Porter, Biffa Operations Manager, was present and gave a presentation on the new orange bag recycling scheme, which was shortly to be implemented across Leicester.

Mark stated that the new orange bag scheme would replace the existing green box recycling scheme, which had generally low participation rates. There were restrictions around permitted contents of green boxes, whilst residents could place several types of recyclables into the new orange bag.

Mark explained that a pilot study for the scheme had taken place within four areas of Leicester, and following its success, a decision had been taken by Cabinet to extend the scheme to the whole of the city.

Although most properties in Leicester would receive the service by October, Mark explained that the programme could not be immediately rolled out to the whole of the City and that the programmes would be phased over the next twelve months to include all properties in Leicester.

A resident enquired how a new roll of bags could be obtained. In response, Mark explained that a sticker was included towards the end of each roll of bags which residents were asked to attach to their next bag to request an additional supply of bags. It was also confirmed that there was not a limit to the number of bags a resident could fill per week.

It was further reported that although the day of the week in which collections were taken would not alter, the time of the day for collections could potentially change.

Following a question, Mark confirmed that it was not planned to remove any existing recycling banks in Leicester.

49. TRAFFIC ISSUES UPDATE

Chris Middleton, Traffic Management, Leicester City Council, was in attendance to provide a brief update on Highways matters.

Chris reported that progress had been made in respect of the removal of double yellow lines along Gwendolen Road, between Dorothy Road and Gedding Road. He explained that a number of different lengths of parking restriction along Gwendolen Road had been removed during recent years. In terms of the new proposed removal, Chris stated that the work would be advertised on 3 October 2011, and that a three week period for objections would commence from this date. Should there be no objections put forward to the proposal, it is likely that work would commence in January 2012.

Councillor Dr Chowdhury explained that the ward councillors had received a number of enquiries from residents during recent months around parking and traffic concerns in the Gwendolen Road area, and that this proposal encompassed some of the issues raised with the councillors.

50. CITY WARDEN SERVICE

Yagnesh Antunes, City Warden for Spinney Hills, was present to provide an update on his recent activity in the ward.

Yagnesh stated that he had spent a significant amount of time tackling nuisance parking along East Park Road. Notices would now be placed on offending vehicles.

It was noted that instances of fly-tipping had remained constant over the past few months, and that he had recently issued three penalty notices. A number of fixed penalty notices had also been issued for littering offenses on Melbourne Road.

Yagnesh explained that he had posted leaflets through letterboxes to promote the Council's bulky waste collection service with the aim of deterring residents from dumping large items.

It was acknowledged that there was significant dog fouling on Cank Street, Derwent Street and within Spinney Hill Park. Residents were encouraged to report instances of dog fouling which occurred on the public highway to the Council's customer services. In order to curtail the problem, Yagnesh confirmed that he had increased his patrolling in the early morning when such offenses were more likely to occur.

A resident stated that there were problems with the amount of waste being left outside a particular shop on the corner of Dronfield Street and Mere Road. Yagnesh agreed to investigate this matter and to talk to the businesses concerned.

A resident raised concerns in respect of the level of cars parked for sale along East Park Road and stated that many had been situated there for several weeks. Yagnesh confirmed that this was illegal and agreed to investigate this matter the following day.

The meeting heard that Yagnesh was to leave his position of City Warden for the Spinney Hills Ward. The Councillors paid thanks to him for his work undertaken within the ward.

51. POLICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTI -SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

Sergeant Chohan was in attendance to provide an update on policing, community safety and anti-social behaviour issues in Spinney Hills.

Sergeant Chohan raised awareness of the website www.police.co.uk website which provided information about crime and policing within particular local areas, and provided an insight the places where crime frequently occurred.

The meeting was informed that several arrests had been made in connection with anti-social behaviour that had occurred at Spinney Hill Park, and with regards to the significant disorder which took place on the St Peters' Estate, Sergeant Chohan explained that up to seventeen people would potentially be charged as a result.

It was explained that instances of anti-social behaviour along Grove Road had declined following the installation of the alley-way gate which was partly supported by the Community Meeting.

It was acknowledged that there were sports facilities within the ward (including ball courts) which were under-utilised, and it was generally felt that more work was needed to encourage young people to participate in sporting activities, in an effort to reduce the numbers of young people who congregated on streets.

52. BUDGET

Anita Patel, Member Support Officer to the Spinney Hills Community Meeting gave an update on the Community Meeting budget.

Anita reported that the budget for the year was £15,000. To date, a sum of £3,953 had been spent leaving a remaining budget of £11,047.

Anita explained that ten funding applications had been received and had been included on the agenda. Councillors had considered the applications in detail prior to the meeting.

1) Caribbean Carnival 2011– Sequence Carnival Troop

Amount requested: £2,000

It was explained that this application had been deferred from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be rejected.

2) Highfields Festival Event – Highfields Community Association–

Amount requested: £2,000 from each of Spinney Hills, Castle and Stoneygate Wards

RESOLVED:
that the application be supported to the value of £1,000.

3) Life-skills Training – the Stoneham Project

Amount requested: £539

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be rejected.

4) Play-scheme in the Park – Build Community Development

Amount requested: £500 from each of Spinney Hills, Coleman and Stoneygate wards.

Anita explained that a new date had been set for the event since the application was submitted. In light of this, the Councillors had proposed to defer consideration of the application.

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be deferred following the re-scheduling of the event.

5) Education and Confidence Building – Upper Tichbourne Homeless Hostel Residents Group

Amount requested: £1,200

RESOLVED:
That the funding application be deferred following the re-scheduling of the event and that the application be forwarded to the Stoneygate Ward members for their consideration.

6) Boxing Club Equipment – Champion Boxing Club

Amount requested: £1,120 from each of the Spinney Hills and Stoneygate Wards.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £1,000.

7) Summer Holiday Scheme– African Caribbean Centre

Amount requested: £1,500

Anita reported that this scheme had already taken place, but that the Councillors had agreed to fast-track a sum of £500.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £500.

8) Football Club for Victoria Park – Leicester Zim Warriors Football Club

Amount requested: £360 from each of the Spinney Hills, Beaumont Leys, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Castle and Westcotes.

Anita reported that this scheme had already taken place, but that the Councillors had agreed to fast-track a sum of £360

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £360.

9) African Caribbean Achievers Awards – African Caribbean Citizens Forum

Amount requested: £2,000

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £500 on the condition that this be spent on trophies for the event.

10) Community Family Fun Day – Highfields Rangers Football Club

Amount requested: £1,000

Anita explained that bid was for compensation for an event which was unable to take place. It was stated that community grants could not be used as recompense and that the club was also based in the Rushey Mead ward.

RESOLVED:

That the funding application be rejected.

Following the pledges made by Councillors at the meeting, it was confirmed that a sum of £7,687 remained in the Spinney Hills Ward budget.

Action to be taken	Officer identified	Deadline
That the funding applications that Councillors had supported be submitted to the Cabinet Lead for approval.	Anita Patel, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible.

53. DATES OF FUTURE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It was noted that future Spinney Hills Community Meetings would take place on the following dates:

Monday 28 November 2011

Monday 12 March 2012

54. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:58pm.

