

Abbey Community Meeting

**Stocking Farm Youth and
Community Centre,
Marwood Grove
On Tuesday, 6 December 2011
Starting at 6:00 pm**

The meeting will be in two parts

6:00pm – 6:30pm

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

- St Margaret's Pastures Football Facilities
- Home Energy
- City Wardens
- Princes' Trust
- The Police

6:30pm – 8:00pm

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

- Princes' Trust
- St Margaret's Pastures Football Facilities
- Highways and Transportation
- Community Partner
- Housing Services
- Police
- City Warden
- Forum for Older People

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

Your Ward Councillors are:

**Councillor Harshad Bhavsar
Councillor Annette Byrne
Councillor Colin Marriott**



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.
St Margaret's Pastures Football Facility Find out about service developments at St Margaret's Pastures.	Home Energy Find out about ways of conserving energy in the home.
City Wardens Talk to your local City Warden about environmental issues.	Princes' Trust Find out more about the work of the Princes' Trust.

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 Abbey Community Meeting, held on 4 October 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. THE PRINCES' TRUST

Mat Jesson from Leicestershire Fire and Rescue will be in attendance to present an overview of his work with the Princes' Trust and will provide guidance on how local young people can become involved with the trust.

6. HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION ISSUES IN ABBEY WARD

Officers from Regeneration, Transport and Highways, Leicester City Council

will be present to discuss transportation issues in Abbey, looking particularly at issues around poor road surfaces and to discuss the possibility of installing bus boxes where required.

7. ST MARGARET'S PASTURES FOOTBALL FACILITY

Christopher Kilby from Sports Services will be present to provide a brief overview of football facility developments at St Margaret's Pastures.

8. COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE

Norman Rochester, Community Partner for Abbey, will provide an overview of his recent work.

9. HOUSING SERVICES UPDATE

John Thomson, District Housing Manager for Beaumont Leys and Mowmacre will be in attendance to provide an update and respond to housing related queries within the Abbey Ward.

10. POLICE UPDATE

Sergeant Michelle Zakoscielny and PC Warren Heath will be in attendance to provide an overview of current policing priorities in the Abbey Ward.

11. CITY WARDENS

An update on the work of the City Wardens in Abbey will be provided.

12. FORUM FOR OLDER PEOPLE

If anyone is interested in attending meetings of the Forum for Older People, they will be very welcome.

Members of the Forum are aged 50+, or are from organisations representing older people.

Meetings take place at the Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester LE1 9BG and will be held at 2.00 pm on the following dates:-

Tuesday, 17 January 2012
Tuesday, 28 February 2012
Tuesday, 10 April 2012.

If anyone is interested, please pass your details to any Council officer at the meeting and they will be added to the distribution list. (E-mail is the preferred method of contact.)

13. 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.

The Members Support Officer will present the latest position of the Abbey Ward Budget.

14. 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

Francis Connolly, Democratic Services Officer or Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, Leicester City Council, Town Hall, Town Hall Square, Leicester, LE1 9BG

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www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

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Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 4 October 2011

Held at: The Tudor Centre, Bewcastle Grove

Who was there:

Councillor Harshad Bhavsar
Councillor Annette Byrne
Councillor Colin Marriott

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.

<p>Ward Councillors and General Information</p> <p>Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries</p>	<p>Police Issues</p> <p>Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.</p>
<p>Mowmacre Tenants and Residents Association (TARA)</p> <p>Representatives of the Mowmacre TARA were in attendance.</p>	<p>Healthy Living Centre</p> <p>Find out about the latest work taking place at the Healthy Living Centre.</p>
<p>The New Orange Bag Recycling Scheme</p> <p>Find out more about this scheme which is to shortly be introduced.</p>	<p>School Admissions</p> <p>Find out more about the school admission s service in Leicester.</p>
<p>Housing Services</p> <p>Speak to officers in relation to local housing services.</p>	<p>Youth Activities in Abbey</p> <p>Find out more about the programme of youth activities within the Abbey Ward.</p>
<p>Wotbox</p> <p>Find out more about the Wotbox social media initiative.</p>	<p>Library Services</p> <p>Find out more about local library services.</p>

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 Byrne was elected as Chair for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2011 were agreed as a correct record.

5. THE NEW ORANGE BAG RECYCLING SCHEME

Kimberley Stones, Biffa, was present and gave a presentation on the new orange bag recycling scheme, which would be implemented across Leicester from 17 October.

Kimberley 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 the permitted contents of green boxes, whilst residents could place several types of recyclables into the new orange bag. It was however made clear that materials such as food waste, garden waste and nappies could not be placed in orange bags.

Kimberley 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 to extend the scheme to the whole of the city.

Although most properties in Leicester would receive the service by October, Kimberley 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. Kimberley confirmed that many blocks of flats would not be included in the scheme initially.

6. 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.

7. COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATE

Norman Rochester reported that there had been concerns that some areas of the ward were not being informed about community meetings. It was however made clear that the one neighbourhood newsletter was now circulated to all households in the Abbey and Beaumont Leys Ward.

Norman also reported that he had devised a form which asked residents for their views on local issues and to state any issues which they felt were required to be brought to attention. Of the 500 circulated, Norman stated that only three were returned, but he confirmed that he would attempt to gain further responses from residents.

Norman explained that in the Abbey Rise area in particular, there were significant problems with furniture that had been dumped and with hazardous gates. He agreed to write to the Housing Department to provide detail of such problems. Norman also explained that the City Mayor was to visit the Abbey Rise area in the coming week for a patch-walk.

Norman stated that residents were beginning to approach him more frequently and he felt that this was as a result of the article in the One Neighbourhood magazine in which he promoted his role as an Abbey Ward Community Partner.

A resident expressed concern with regards to the lengthy time taken to replace broken windows within council accommodation which had been vandalised. John Thomson, Area Housing manager, stated that the process for replacing broken window was simple, but that an incident number was required to be obtained from the Police before a damaged window could be replaced.

A further matter brought to the attention of the Area Housing Manger related to the deterioration of a garage on Rainsford Crescent, and concern was raised with

regards to potential exposure to asbestos. The Area Housing Manager agreed to inspect the property in question, and confirmed that enforcement action would be taken if there was any potential danger to the public.

8. POLICE UPDATE

A Police Officer was in attendance and stated that within the past 14 days, there had been 14 household burglaries, eight vehicle thefts and one robbery. It was however made clear that there had been a sudden increase in recent burglaries, and that the figures beyond the last two weeks were far less concerning. The Police Officer stated that this had now become a local policing priority and that as a result, there would be greater visibility of police officers.

The meeting was informed that an offender who had committed eleven burglaries and specifically targeted schools had been imprisoned for a minimum of three years. Furthermore, a local youth had recently been arrested for offenses relating to vehicle theft. This individual had also been remanded in custody.

A resident spoke of significant problems with parking along Parker Drive, and stated that this was primarily caused by excessive parking of those who worked at the neighbouring factories. The Police Officer stated that the responsibility for parking matters rested with the City Council but reminded the meeting that it was illegal to park vehicles on public pathways.

9. CITY WARDENS

Jessica Rayns, Senior City Warden, was in attendance and confirmed that there was no longer a single city warden designated solely to the Abbey Ward, and that the service across the whole city had generally reduced.

Jessica informed residents that several fixed penalty notices had been recently issued which related to dog fouling and littering offenses.

Norman Rochester requested that the City Wardens service should specifically target Kinley Road in terms of the significant level of litter and dog fouling present there. John Thomson, Area Housing manager, also confirmed that the level of rubbish collected on Kinley Road was concerning.

10. BUDGET

Jerry Connolly provided the meeting with an update on the latest position with the Abbey Community Meeting budget.

Jerry announced that the Councillors had agreed to consider two applications that had been received after the agenda had been despatched.

1. Leicestershire Police Abbey Beat Team– Police Shop Christmas Crime Prevention Operation

Amount requested: £1,035

It was explained that the Police would be opening a shop at Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre which will allow people to drop in and seek advice or reassurance around crime prevention.

It was stated that the application was for various items of crime prevention equipment which included UV ink marker-pens, wall spikes and anti-drink spiking bottle tops.

The Police Officer present encouraged residents to collect the various items described from the shop. It was confirmed that the Fire Service operated a similar facility last year and that this this generated significant success.

RESOLVED:

That a sum of £1,035 be supported towards this application.

2. Beaumont Leys LPU – Community Speed-watch

Amount Requested: £500

Jerry explained that this application was split between the Abbey, Beaumont Leys and New Parks wards to purchase a hand held speed camera device, which would be utilised on an on-going basis to respond to issues around speeding within the three wards.

RESOLVED:

That a sum of £500 be supported towards this application.

11. DATES OF FUTURE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It was confirmed that future Abbey Community Meetings would take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 6 December 2011

Tuesday 28 February 2012

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:50pm.

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