

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 20 March 2012

Held at: Mayfield Children's Centre, Mayfield Road, Leicester.

Who was there:

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| Councillor Lucy Chaplin |
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| Councillor Iqbal Desai |
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| Councillor Mustafa Kamal |
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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.

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| 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. |
| Near Neighbours Project Participate in this local history project. | City Warden Obtain information on the services available including the ‘One Clean Leicester’ and ‘Anti-graffiti’ programmes |

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.

39. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Chaplin was elected as Chair for the meeting.

40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sgt. Danny Graham (Spinney Hills Police) and Doug Holly (Evington Road Residents Association).

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Desai disclosed a public and prejudicial interest as a member of both the Planning Committee and the Licensing Sub-Committee in respect of the potential discussion around takeaways on Evington Road and left the meeting whilst this discussion took place.

Councillor Desai disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the budget application received from the Highfields Community Association as he was a Ward Councillor representative and attended meetings of the Highfields Area Forum.

Councillor Chaplin disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in the budget application received from the Highfields Community Association as she was a Ward Councillor representative and attended meetings of the Highfields Area Forum.

42. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Stoneygate Community Meeting held on 6th December 2011, as previously circulated, be approved as a correct record.

43. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minutes 32 – Evington Lane/Kimberley Road area - Residents Parking

A member of the public stated that some ticket machines in the area were broken and parking enforcement officers were not seen very often.

It was stated that the City Council were currently reviewing its contract with Vinci parking, the parking enforcement contractors, and were looking at various methods of ticketing. From a budgetary point of view the City Council were also looking to roll out further Residents Parking Schemes in several areas of the City. From a local perspective it was stated that a full-time Park and Ride from the Oadby area would be of great help and reduce the commuter parking locally.

44. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

P.C. Dave Barber attended the meeting and gave an update on local policing in the area.

Target hardening packs were currently available from Spinney Hills Police Station, containing window locks and timer switches, and these were intended for recent victims of crime or for properties deemed to be potential targets for crime. The Police would be visiting properties targeted as within potential crime hotspots.

Dave made reference to the on-going problems in Upper Tichborne Street and the fact that Police patrols had been increased since late 2011. Funding had been obtained to provide and locate a CCTV camera at the junction of Hamilton Street/Upper Tichborne Street.

It was reported that the previous week a Week of Action had taken place with 18 police officers patrolling the area in pairs. It had been hoped to engage with local residents during the week but due to the cold weather at the time this had not proved possible.

A 'crack' house had recently been closed on Abingdon Road and this was still being watched by the Police.

Jon Ashworth M.P. had recently participated in a 'patch walk' that covered Evington Road and the side streets leading off it, the Police had also participated. It was stated that the Police crime figures did not match up with the issues quoted on the 'patch walk', in particular regarding a request for a CCTV on the junction of Devana Road/Lyme Road as Sgt. Graham did not feel that the level of crime justified a camera at this location.

The Community Meeting requested that feedback be given at the next meeting on the level of incidents/Police time required to justify the installation of a CCTV camera. It was further requested that information on the prioritisation of 999 calls received by the Police would also be useful.

A member of the public stated that there had been occasions when the Police had not responded when called. Dave stated that the response time was dependant on the priority allocated to the incident at the time it was reported. The Police aimed to respond to incidents as soon as possible.

Dave was questioned whether the cuts in funding imposed by the Government would have an adverse effect on Police response times in Leicester. Dave stated that Leicestershire Constabulary had not recruited for 2 years and that as officers had retired they had not been replaced so that it was really a case of who was available at the time of a 999 call. However, recruiting had recently re-started and Luke, the current Stoneygate City Warden, had been successful in being taken on, with a start in April 2012.

Regarding car parking outside Medway and Mayflower schools these areas had been blitzed recently over a week, with cars being ticketed, repeat visits would be made.

It was stated that the Olympics in London would affect local policing due to a number of officers being drafted from Leicestershire.

A speeding operation had recently been carried out on Kingsway Road/Highway Road and 10 motorists had received warnings for traveling too fast.

Police officers would be liaising more closely with the 3 Hostels in the area to keep a watch on drink and drugs problems.

A further issue arising from the recent 'patch walk' was that of the number of takeaways on Evington Road and their hours of opening. One of the takeaways 'Oodles' had recently applied for an extension to remain open until 4.00am.

Councillor Desai disclosed a personal and prejudicial interest regarding this application as a member of both the Licensing Sub-Committee and the Planning Committee, left the meeting and took no further part in the discussion.

The Chair stated that she had lodged an objection to the application for additional hours and stated that she had also received a petition objecting to the additional hours. Members of the public present were asked to forward objections to either Councillor Chaplin or Councillor Kamal on the extension to the hours of opening, although the proposal to utilise the door onto Kingston Road could not be challenged as a licensing issue. A member of the public stated that whilst the door leading out onto Kingston Road might not be a planning issue it would be a licensing issue and that a condition could be imposed requiring that the door in question be not used while the premises were open. Councillors and the Police had powers to call in particular licences if there was a suspicion that conditions were not being met.

A member of the public stated that a lot of cars already parked on pavements in the vicinity of this takeaway as well as parking on double yellow lines on Evington Road, with buses sometimes unable to pass parked vehicles. A further issue was that of access to Emergency Service vehicle.

Several members of the public living in the vicinity of 'Oodles' had not been notified of the application for an extension of hours and **the Chair agreed to check this out.**

Members of the public questioned the sheer number of takeaway premises on Evington Road and sought clarification as to what national guidelines were. **The Chair agreed to raise this matter with relevant officers.**

A member of the public suggested that it would be possible to provide some lay-bys along Evington Road, where existing pavements were quite wide, and make additional car parking available. **The Chair stated that she would raise this with the Deputy City Mayor.**

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

Councillor Desai returned to the meeting.

45. CITY WARDENS

Luke Wilsher, City Warden attended the meeting and gave an update on issues in the area.

Luke stated that much work had recently been carried out to tackle wheelie bins left on streets on Upper Tichborne Street, as part of a citywide measure to cover the whole City. The results in Upper Tichborne Street had ensured that virtually all bins were now stored off the street after collection day. The next block of streets identified for similar action was Cedar Road area between Mere Road and St. Stephens Road. A member of the public expressed their satisfaction at the success of the wheelie bin issues in his street, as a result 1 bin was now left on the street during the week, instead of the previous 48.

Luke reported that as part of an on-going Duty of Care Project he had undertaken 110 visits to businesses in the area to assess whether they had adequate arrangements in place to dispose of waste. As a result of these visits several fines were issued to businesses that were not complying with the duty of care for the disposal of rubbish.

Luke stated that another Warden would be taking over his role full time after he left to join the Police.

Those present thanked Luke for all of the work he had undertaken in the area and wished him well for the future. The Chair and Ward Councillors stated that they had fought hard to ensure that City Warden funding was retained in the 2012/13 City Council Budget and the position was that funding for 16, instead of 22 Wardens, had been provided for in the Budget.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

46. BUDGET

Nichola Pell, Members Support introduced the funding applications that had been received since the last meeting.

It was reported that from the initial allocation of £17,700 the Community Meeting had allocated to date £7,145, leaving a balance of £10,555 remaining. The applications received and the decisions taken are summarised below: -

Amount applied for

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| i) Evington Road Residents Association (ERNA) Community Clean-up Scheme | £1,250 |
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An application to fund a three month experimental scheme to cover the cost of hiring a refuse collection vehicle for the collection of bulky waste on one day each month for the three month period. It was also intended to leaflet the several streets identified each month to ensure that residents were aware of the service.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£1,250**.

- ii) **The Square Residents Group** £3441
Greening the Square
An application to enable a gardening project to be undertaken to improve "The Square" – Stoughton Drive North, St. Philip's Road, Roundhill Road and Evington Road.

Concerns were expressed that the area of land referred to was in private ownership but assurances were given that local residents would be welcomed.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to a maximum of **£1500**, subject to the applicants demonstrating that The Square Residents Group had been actively seeking funding from other sources.

- iii) **Leicester City Council** £700
Community Safety Scheme
Alleygates for Bartholomew Street
An application to replace existing wooden alley gate with a metal gate, to control access to the alleyway and reduce anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£700**.

- iv) **Highfields Community Association** £2000
Highfields Festival
An application to stage a one day event on 30th June at the Highfields Centre/Uplands School. The festival to include activities, stalls and workshops.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to a maximum of **£1000**.

- v) **Provision of Litter Bins** £2,000
An application submitted on behalf of the Ward Councillors and Cleansing Services to provide larger capacity litter bins for the area near the shops on St. Stephen's Road. The existing litter bins on St. Stephen's Road to be re-sited in Upper Tichborne Street.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to a maximum of **£1600**.

- vi) **Reusable Banners** £500
An application submitted on behalf of the Ward Councillors to purchase 3 x reusable roller banners for use by Ward Councillors at local events, festivals and Ward meetings. The banners would display pictures of the Ward

Councillors and their respective contact details and would reduce the amount of printed material used by the Ward Councillors.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£500**.

- vii) **Stoneygate Youth Community Project** £475
An application submitted to fund 12 months insurance cover to enable the project to be able to operate independently from the Evington Road United Reform Church.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to a maximum of **£475**.

- viii) **AK Fitness Dance and Drama** £675
Easter Dance and Drama Project
An application to fund a 2 week Easter workshop for children aged 8-18, to comprise dance and drama classes that would lead to a production at the end of the two weeks.

It was reported that, following the above allocation of funds that a balance of **£2830** remained in the Community Meeting Budget for 2011/12.

RESOLVED:

that the balance of the funding be allocated as follows:

- i) **£2000** be allocated to Medway Community Primary School to part fund an all-weather pitch at the school. This funding bid was initially raised at the 24th January 2011 meeting of the Community Meeting.
- ii) **£830** be 'ring fenced' to fund the provision of safety lights and environmental works within the Ward.

47. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.27pm.

