

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Tuesday, 26 June 2012

Held at: Main Hall, East West Community Project, 10 Wilberforce Road, Leicester LE3 0BG

Who was there:

Councillor Andy Connelly

Councillor Sarah Russell

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ SESSION

Information on the following topics was available in the room:-

- City Warden Service
- Police Issues
- Ward Councillors and general enquiries

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 Connelly was elected as Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Russell.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2012 were received.

It was noted that the proposed meeting to discuss Section 106 funding and green space in the Ward had not been held yet, but would be arranged as soon as possible.

Further to minute 45, “General Planning and Development Matters”, it was reported by residents that the City Council had offered double glazing to the tenants of some properties near the development by Jamie Lewis Residential in Upperton Road. It was thought that this was to reduce noise during the development, but not all tenants had received the offer. The Chair undertook to look in to whether this was the case.

The Chair then gave updates on the issues raised under minute 45 as follows:-

- Planning permission had been given for student accommodation above the Co-op on Briton Street, despite representations against this by the Ward Members;
- The doctor proposing to establish a surgery on the CPH Thurmaston site was continuing with these plans. The planning application from Jamie Lewis Residential to use part of the site for student accommodation had been refused;
- The Planning Inspector had visited the hostel at 20 Westcotes Drive in relation to the appeal made by the applicants against the decision not to allow the property to be used as a hostel;
- The Ward Members had asked Planning officers to check that the development on Western Road was in line with the plans approved. Officers had confirmed that it was, but the plans were not necessarily reflected to scale in the drawings submitted by Jamie Lewis Residential; and
- Consideration would be given to providing vinyl window coverings through European Gateway funding after consultation with local businesses.

The number of bins on the corner of Narborough Road and Westcotes Drive was increasing, (minute 46, "City Warden Service", referred). These were all full and had been there for nearly three months. In reply, Jamie Stubbs, (City Warden for Westcotes Ward), advised that there had been problems in identifying the owners of some bins around the Ward, but an order had now been placed for various bins to be emptied.

Marie Murray, Area Manager, advised that the key for the noticeboard outside the Catholic Church had been found, (minute 49, "Any Other Business – a) Noticeboards", referred). It was suggested that investigations could be made to see if it was possible to move the board forward, as in its current location it was not possible to see what was on it.

Marie Murray also reported that it had transpired that the Handyperson Service had two more boards, which could be put up where required in the Ward. Suggestions for where the additional boards could be located were invited.

AGREED:

- 1) That the minute of the meeting held on 20 March 2012 be approved as a correct record;
- 2) That a Special Westcotes Community Meeting be held before the next ordinary meeting to discuss:-
 - a) how green space in the ward can be developed, including whether Section 106 funding can be used; and
 - b) the amount of Section 106 funding outstanding and its possible uses;

- 3) That the Ward Members look in to whether the City Council has offered double glazing to some tenants living in the Upperton Road area in order to reduce noise during the development being undertaken by Jamie Lewis Residential and, if it has, why this offer had not been made to all tenants in that area;
- 4) That the Ward Members:-
 - a) keep one key for the noticeboard at the Catholic church, to keep it accessible in the Ward; and
 - b) approach the Catholic Church to see if it would be willing to move the notice board there to a position nearer the pavement and if it would like to keep a key for the board; and
- 5) That the management committee at the Manor House be asked if it would like one of the remaining noticeboards and that residents be invited to pass suggestions for where the other one could be located to either the Ward Members or the Members Support Officer.

5. HEALTH WATCH

John Gater, of Leicester Local Involvement Network, gave a presentation on the development of Healthwatch, a copy of which is attached at the end of these minutes for information.

During this presentation, he drew particular attention to the following points:-

- Healthwatch was being formed under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and would function from April 2013;
- Primary Care Trusts were being replaced by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). CCGs would be run by GPs, who would buy services from local hospitals;
- Health and Wellbeing Boards would be run by local councils;
- Healthwatch wanted to know what issues were important to residents, as Healthwatch had statutory powers to raise issues on the public's behalf;
- There was a recognised shortage of GPs in some areas, as it could be difficult to recruit them;
- Those present at the meeting were invited to complete an evaluation form to assess whether the vision proposed for Healthwatch was suitable; and
- There were various ways in which people could get involved. These were set out on slide 5 of the presentation.

6. RIVERSIDE FESTIVAL REVIEW

Mike Candler, (Cultural Quarter Project Director with Leicester City Council), explained that a City-wide review of the festivals and events programme was in progress.

This followed an undertaking given in 2011 that a review would be made of all festivals and events part or full funded by the Council. However, as a wide range of festivals and events would be included, it was decided that only those receiving £5,000 or more from the Council would be included in the review.

Mike Candler explained that he was at this meeting to explain how the review affected the Riverside Festival. He thanked the Community Meeting for the grant that had been awarded to that 2012 Festival to help with the clean up after it had closed and expressed the hope that this had helped leave a good environment for residents.

He then drew attention to the following points:-

- The consultation would end at 6.00 pm on Friday 27 July 2012;
- The Festival was managed and delivered in conjunction with Riverside Housing and British Waterways;
- The Council contributed £18,000 to this Festival. This represented approximately 51% of the overall cost of the Festival of just under £35,000;
- It was estimated that approximately 16,000 people had attended over the whole weekend of the event in both 2011 and 2012. This made the cost to the Council approximately £1.12 for each attendee;
- In 2011 a new partnership was established with the organisation “Dusk to Dawn”, with the aim of extending the Festival on to Braunstone Gate in the evening. It was felt that this was well attended; and
- The recommendation made in the review was to maintain current funding for the Riverside Festival and to explore the opportunity to hold a satellite event in Castle Gardens. This would be linked to the main Riverside Festival by events staged along Western Boulevard.

The Meeting agreed that this was an excellent event, which was very well advertised. The craft stalls on Braunstone Gate and the cycle tours were particularly mentioned. The high standard of cleaning after the event also had been appreciated.

However, some reservations were expressed about extending the area of the Festival, as the Council had already proposed cancelling the Castle Gardens Festival. It was suggested that it could be better to operate two separate events.

In reply, Mike Candler explained that a festival previously had been held in Castle Park during the week before the August bank holiday, but many people identified with Castle Gardens, rather than the Park. It therefore was proposed to introduce a heritage and arts weekend festival, which would focus on the heritage of the City.

It was recognised that the Riverside Festival attracted many visitors from outside of the area and probably was at capacity in its current location. As Western Boulevard was closed for the Festival, using it as part of the Festival area could encourage people to walk along the towpath and use the Castle Gardens. Mike Candler emphasised that this was only a proposal and care was being taken not to destabilise the Festival by expanding it too quickly.

One concern was that some young people had been disappointed not to be able to find the stalls they usually visited at the 2012 event. Due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Festival had been held a week earlier than usual, but this had meant that some of the usual stall holders had not been able to attend, due to other commitments.

A further concern was that, due to difficulty in parking in the area, many people received parking tickets over the Festival weekend. Mike Candler undertook to consider how this situation could be improved for future Festivals. One possibility could be to develop a relationship with local organisations, such as De Montfort University, to see if it would be possible to use their facilities.

Anyone interested in participating in this review, could do so via the following link: www.Leicester.gov.uk/FestivalandEventsConsultation Paper copies of the consultation documents could be made available if preferred.

It was noted that the Festivals Team could advertise events not directly funded by the Council. If details were sent to the team, they would include them in their regular events listings.

7. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

The Chair advised that an application to convert an old print shop in Harrow Road in to accommodation for single people had been rejected and the site was still vacant. The current position regarding the Kenning site was not known.

It was asked if children could be given access to the field owned by Shaftesbury Community Junior School, as there was a shortage of places in which they could play in that area. It was noted that, although the school allowed King Richard III Infant and Nursery School to use the field, opening it up to use by others often led to problems with travellers moving in and it was difficult to require travellers to leave a site if it could be shown that the public were accessing it. (This did not include organised events.) To require travellers to leave such a site, the Council would have to go through a legal process, which could be lengthy.

AGREED:

That the Ward Members would seek advice from officers on whether there is any way in which the playing field at Shaftesbury Community Junior School can be made available for use by children in the area without any legal risk to the Council.

8. CITY WARDEN SERVICE

Jamie Stubbs, (City Warden for Westcotes Ward), advised that:-

- Bins had been fitted in Bede Park and along Great Central Way, but some people were still leaving dog waste in bags in these areas;
- She was working with Leicester College to counteract graffiti and get litter cleared;
- A new officer had been recruited to work in Bede Park, but a start date was awaited. When in post, they would carry out duties similar to some of those done of City Wardens and Enforcement Officers. It was anticipated that they would mostly be in the Park in the evenings during the summer, from approximately 2.00 pm to 10.00 pm; and
- Consideration was being given to how the new officer for Bede Park referred to above could deal with problems caused by barbecues in the Park. In the meantime, as there were no signs up in the Park explaining that barbecues were not allowed there, a temporary one could be placed on the Park noticeboard.

The Chair reminded the Meeting that consideration had been given to using the open area by Tesco as a barbecue area. Discussions on this had stopped when Tesco introduced a requirement that only barbecues purchased in their store could be used there. The Council was not averse to having a proper site for barbecues and these already existed in some other parks. However, Bede Park was small and putting such an area there would reduce further the area available to other park users.

It was noted that Leicester City Challenge had bought the Everards site, but it remained unused. It therefore could be useful to enquire whether the site returned to its original owner if it was not used within a certain time and, if this was the case, whether it could be used for barbecues.

9. POLICE ISSUES UPDATE

Sergeant Simon Barnes of Leicestershire Constabulary reported that no crime had been recorded at this year's Riverside Festival. Issues with alcohol arising at last year's Festival had been addressed, making this year's event more family focussed.

The following crime statistics were reported:-

Crime	Number over the last 7 months	Number of the same period last year	Notes
Burglaries from dwellings	75	83	
Burglaries – other than dwellings	36	28	The increase was due to a spate of store thefts, (eg, staff phones from under the counter)
Robberies	16	25	Due to decreases in the Bede Park area
Theft from persons	27	19	This increase was partly due to the spate of store thefts referred to above
Thefts from motor vehicles	121	125	This was constantly high. It had no particular pattern, although a lot of the thefts happened in the side streets off Narborough Road. The main problem was people leaving items such as satellite navigation and phone equipment on view
Anti-social behaviour	26	37	

Sergeant Barnes then drew attention to the following points:-

- Westcotes Ward had seen the largest decrease in all crime of the four Wards covered from the Hinckley Road Local Policing Unit;
- There had been 9 reported incidents at Bede Park;
- The installation of 27 alley gates had started on 25 June and it was hoped that more could be installed later;
- A meeting had been held with various agencies on 28 May about Bede Park. This meeting looked at the issues for each agency present in relation to the new building developments in the Ward that were due to start in September; and

- The cameras in Bede Park owned by De Montfort University were due to be upgraded in the new year.

It was noted that some consideration had been given to establishing an Alcohol Control Zone for Bede Park. Introducing this would mean that the police would be able to enforce the removal of alcohol from people who it was felt were abusing alcohol, (for example, street drinkers, or larger groups of people drinking in the Park). A meeting would be arranged to consider how this could be dealt with, following which residents living in the area around the Park and Park users would be consulted.

The Chair reported that, following previous concerns that the cameras in the Park were blocked by trees, he had met the Trees and Woodlands Officer. However, to provide a clear view would mean either removing a whole row of trees, which had a visual value, or cutting them back on a regular basis. The officer therefore had agreed to speak to De Montfort University to see if they would consider funding the installation of an arm on the camera pole, to extend the range of the camera. (This arm would be fixed, but the camera head would be able to move round.)

In response to a question, the Meeting was reminded that film from De Montfort University's cameras could only be viewed for specific reasons. For example, the police could only view it in connection with crimes.

In conclusion, Sergeant Barnes advised the meeting that the role of the Neighbourhood Sergeant was changing to response policing. It therefore was unlikely that he would be able to attend future Community Meetings himself on a regular basis, although there would be a police presence at the Meetings.

The Meeting thanked Sergeant Barnes for this work in the Ward.

AGREED:

That the introduction of an Alcohol Control Zone for Bede Park be supported.

10. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET 2012/13

a) Kaleidoscope Arts Project – Contemporary Cultural Fusion Carnival & Workshops

The Meeting noted that this was the second year in which this event had been held. Substantial Arts Council funding had been received towards the costs involved.

NOTED:

That a grant of £500 to Kaleidoscope Arts for the Contemporary Cultural Fusion Carnival and Workshops at the Manor House Community Centre had been approved under the Council's fast track procedure.

b) Cycle Racks and Bollard on Fosse Road

Councillor Connelly submitted a verbal application for funding for two cycle racks and one bollard on Fosse Road.

He explained that problems were being encountered with cars parking on pavements in the area of Fosse Road between Barclay Street and Harrow Road. As well as inconveniencing shoppers and other pedestrians, this created safety issues for the children of local schools who used this stretch of road.

There currently were no cycle racks available at this location, so installing some, along with a bollard, outside the newsagent's premises could resolve the problem of vehicles parking on the pavement as well as providing facilities for cyclists.

AGREED:

That a grant of £647 be approved for the installation of two cycle racks and one bollard in Fosse Road.

c) Break in at Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church

It was noted that there recently had been a break-in at Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church, with various items being stolen. Items owned by the Street Pastors had been insured, but those owned by the youth group had not been. However, the Police had found some items and donations had been received, so it appeared that replacement items had been found.

AGREED:

That groups who had lost items as a result of the break-in at the Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church be encouraged to apply to the Ward Community Fund if replacement items, or other emergency funding, were needed.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) West End Community Centre

A resident advised that they had tried to access the West End Community Centre at 4.30 pm, but had been unable to do so. No information on opening hours was displayed at the Centre and the letterbox in the wall was blocked by mail from several months previously.

It was noted that the Centre did not currently have a management committee, although there previously had been one.

The Meeting agreed that the Centre's opening times should be displayed and the Chair undertook to pass this on, as people could not use the Centre if its hours and/or activities were not advertised.

AGREED:

That Councillor Connelly advise the Assistant City Mayor for Neighbourhood Services of the access problems that had been encountered at the West End Community Centre.

b) Polish Restaurant, Hinckley Road

It was noted that a Polish Restaurant in Hinckley Road had just received an alcohol licence, but there were serious concerns about the way in which it was trading.

It previously had been opening and trading without a licence, so one had been applied for to regularise the situation, but some members of the committee that had granted the licence felt they had been misled over the nature of the business, as the premises had no kitchen.

The hours of the licence were not known.

12. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm

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Healthwatch

The Collective Voice for Health and Social Care

Leicester



Changes in Health and Social Care

- Health and Social Care Act 2012
 - Biggest reform of the NHS since it began
- Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) changing to Healthwatch
- Primary Care Trusts changing to Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Setting up of Health and Wellbeing Boards

What is Healthwatch

- From April 2013 there will be 158 local Healthwatch across England,
- Their objective is to gather your view on your experience of health and social care services locally
- The information will inform the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), who decide where money is spent on your health and social care services
- Healthwatch has statutory powers to scrutinise – Enter and View, and to make Referral to Healthwatch England and the Care Quality Commission
- Additionally Healthwatch will provide information, Advice and Signposting for health and social care services.

Vision and Values of Healthwatch

Our local Vision

HealthWatch Leicester will be the voice of the community, making the citizens of Leicester empowered, involved and informed on local Health and Social care issues.

Values of Healthwatch

If Healthwatch is to do everything mentioned on the previous slide, what should be the driving values of the organisation ?

Values which will set out it's aspirational goals or how the organisation wants to be seen.

i.e. Be transparent, Strong engagement with local support groups
Ensure equality Involve local people

This only works with your help

How can you be involved?

- Play a part in the design of Healthwatch
 - Attend the workshops that aim to capture your views
- Let us know your experience of health and social care
- Be on the healthwatch board
- Become involved with Local Involvement Network now!

How to contact us



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Healthwatch

The Collective Voice for Health and Social Care

Leicester



Thank you!

