

Fosse Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 19 September 2012

Held at: Fosse Library, Mantle Road, Leicester

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.

Ward Councillors and General Information Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	City Warden Service Jethro Swift, the City Warden for the Fosse Ward was present.
Energy Saving Information Officers from the Council's Energy Team were present to provide energy saving advice.	Rally Park Development Project Members of the public were given the opportunity to find out more about the Rally Park Development Project.

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 Cassidy was elected as Chair and welcomed everyone to the Fosse Community Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Murray, Area Manager, Housing and the Police.

Members of the community were advised that any queries for the Police would be noted and passed on to them.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Fosse Community Meeting held on 5 July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute item 8: City Warden Update

Councillor Waddington explained that at the previous meeting held on 5 July 2012, there had been a complaint from a member of the community relating to litter in an alleyway. She had been concerned that she would have to pay for the removal of litter which had been left there by somebody else. There had also been complaints relating to fly tipping. Both the problems had been satisfactorily resolved with the help of Jethro Swift, the City Warden and Street Cleansing and the member of the community who had been concerned about being charged had not had to pay. Councillor Waddington thanked everyone who had worked to resolve the issues.

Minute item 5: Police Update

At the previous meeting there had been a discussion relating to the use of mosquito alarms as a deterrent against anti-social behaviour. It had been agreed to invite the relevant officer from the Council to provide an update at a future meeting but it had not been possible for an officer to attend this time. It was hoped that there would be an update at the next Fosse Community Meeting.

6. POLICE ACTIVITY - UPDATE

Members of the community were invited to raise any queries and issues for the Police, which would be forwarded to them as none of the officers were able to be present. No queries or issues were raised.

7. CITY WARDENS - UPDATE

Jethro Swift, the City Warden provided an update on street scene enforcement issues in the Fosse Ward. Jethro made the following points:

- The entire Fosse Ward was being monitored for rubbish bins being left on streets. Fixed penalty notices had been issued.
- 6 Fixed penalty notices had also been issued for littering.
- Abandoned buildings in the Ward had been monitored.
- The manager of a business on Beatrice Road had been spoken to because of the amount of cash dispenser receipts that had been littering the pavement. A receptacle for collecting the receipts had now been put in place.
- Jethro had also been involved in a number of projects outside of the Fosse Ward.
- In respect of dog fouling, Jethro explained that he did carry out patrols but catching the culprits who allowed their dog to foul was very difficult. Members of the public were advised that if they reported any dog mess to the Cleansing department, they had a special machine to clean up the mess.

8. LIBRARIES - UPDATE

The Chair explained that there had been no further developments in relation to Fosse Library since Adrian Wills, Head of Libraries had provided his update at the July meeting. The changes to the library had been agreed in principle and Councillors were seeking confirmation that funding was available to finance the work.

9. RALLY PARK - UPDATE

Rob Hincks, Senior Officer, Development Team was at the meeting and gave a presentation on the development of Rally Park. A copy of this presentation is attached at the back of the minutes.

Councillors congratulated Rob and the team for the improvements that had been made to the park. The meeting heard that Rally Park was considerably improved and more people were using the facility. Members of the community also expressed their

thanks and appreciation for the work that had been carried out. The following comments were made:

- *The park is much improved, though the railway needed clearing. There was originally going to be a train in the park but that never materialised. I am now able to access the park using my mobility scooter, which I was not able to do before the development.*
- *Would it be possible to have the children's play area fenced in as this would keep the dogs out.*

Councillor Waddington responded that she had spoken to local people in the park and the general consensus had been that they felt that a fence around the play area was important to improve the vitality of the park. There were numerous dogs there which resulted in dog mess and in addition they were frightening to the children. Councillor Waddington explained that it was not the Council's general policy to fence off play areas, but she felt that there was a safety issue at Rally Park because of the number of dogs. The meeting heard that the fencing could cost approximately £10,000.

Councillor Waddington also suggested that adult gym equipment at the park would be a welcome addition; there was adult gym equipment at Evington Park which was very well used.

Rob responded that adult gym equipment had been considered along with the cycle track and children's play equipment but there had only been sufficient funding for two of the three items, and a decision had been made to install the cycle track and the play equipment. However he thought that there might be some S106 money remaining and it might be possible to put that money towards either a fence or the gym equipment. Rob confirmed that the fencing was contrary to Council policy but he felt that if it could be demonstrated, perhaps with a petition, that the community really did want a fence there, this might work in their favour.

- *The children would like an area to play football or basketball. If money becomes available, I think that should be more of a priority than adult gym equipment.*

Rob responded that this was subject to funding but was something that could be considered in the future.

The Chair concluded the discussion and stated that it was clear from a recent community fun day that Rally Park was now very popular; that the fence was something that members of the community wanted and also that the adult gym equipment would be an asset. He suggested that it would be helpful for an officer from Parks and Green Spaces to be invited to the next meeting so that this could be considered further.

Action to be taken	Officer identified	Deadline
For an officer from Parks and Green Spaces to be invited to the next meeting	Surinder Singh, Member Support Officer	In time for the next meeting

10. SQUARE MILE UPDATE

David Hollis, Operations Manager for the Square Mile Project gave an update on the project. A copy of the presentation is attached to the back of these minutes.

The presentation was well received and the Chair reiterated the importance of engaging and encouraging the involvement of people in local communities.

Deepak, a member of the community expressed his gratitude to David that the Square Mile project had sponsored him to become a gym instructor (level 2). David responded that Deepak had been of significant help at the local fun day on Rally Park.

The Chair asked whether the Square Mile Project was a long term initiative and David responded that a great deal of investment had been put into the project and it was hoped that it would not just be a short term plan. He added that the project had targets to meet, such as the number of residents who were involved and he hoped that this would be a successful year for the initiative and that the Fosse Ward would be part of its success.

11. DERELICT BUILDINGS - UPDATE

The Chair explained that at the previous meeting it had been requested for a written update on derelict buildings to be brought to future meetings. The update had been attached to the agenda for the meeting.

There was some discussion surrounding the derelict church adjacent to the Empire Public House, and comments were made that the church or land may have been sold at auction, although a resident reported that a 'for sale' was displayed there.

A member of the community reported that an application had been submitted to the Square Mile Project to have the planters by Premier Screw painted. There were 10 businesses which had expressed an interest in providing funding for plants there. He added that consideration was also being given to erecting a hoarding on the wall of the Premier Screw building, possibly using a history montage. This had been done on Sanvey Gate and had been very well received.

Councillors expressed concerns that the written update which had been provided included information that was not up to date. It was agreed that the Planning Service would be contacted for more comprehensive information. It was also suggested that it would be useful to contact the Leicester Regeneration Board.

Action to be taken	Officer identified	Deadline
For more comprehensive information on derelict buildings in Fosse Ward be sought from the Planning Service and the Leicester Regeneration Board.	Surinder Singh, Member Support Officer	In time for the next meeting.

12. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET

The meeting heard that the following funding application had been fast tracked and approved for payment:

Woodgate Halloween Party
Submitted by: Sharon Bromley (Organiser)
Amount Supported: £300.

Councillor Waddington explained that it was aimed to use the community meeting funding towards good projects within Fosse Ward, and not purely on parties. Members of the community were reminded to submit funding applications where any good community projects were being planned.

The meeting heard that there was approximately £16000 remaining in the Community Meeting Budget.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

WOODGATE ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

Members of the community heard that to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of the Woodgate Adventure Playground, there would be an open day on Saturday 2 September on the Rally Park.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fosse Community Meeting would be held on Wednesday 12 December at a venue to be confirmed.

Action to be taken	Officer Identified	Deadline
To confirm a venue for the next Fosse Community Meeting; <i>The venue was later confirmed to be: The Woodgate Resources Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester.</i>	Julie Harget, Democratic Support Officer	As soon as possible.

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm.



Development 2011-12

Rob Hincks – Planning, Transportation & Economic Development



Funding & Conditions

- **£475,000** Strategic Green Infrastructure (GI) Fund
 - Improve the green corridor
 - Help regeneration
- **£93,000** Department of Transport/SUSTANS
 - 'Safer routes to schools' fund.
- **£80,000** S106 development contributions
 - Play equipment

TOTAL: £648,000



Public Consultation

Phases:

- Feasibility study
- Concept design
- Detailed design

Methods:

- Community meetings in schools
- Ward committee meetings
- Interviews
- Web site consultation page

Headline Findings:

Through extensive community engagement it was clear that unwelcoming entrances, unsafe overgrown areas, crime and anti-social behaviour, a lack of facilities were of key concern to the public – Not well used or well loved!



Design Guidance

Considerations

- Public Consultation
- Stakeholder engagement
- Technical appraisals
- Funding conditions

Objectives:

- Give the park a strong identity as a 'waterpark'
- Removal of vegetation that causes the park to feel dark and unsafe
- Improve and upgrade 3 entrances to help invite people into the park
- Planting of trees, hedges and bulbs to make the park more attractive and compensate for the clearance of unwanted habitat
- Better signage
- New toddlers play area
- Enhanced freecycle facility
- High quality new path work, lighting
- High quality CCTV cameras



Embankment



Main Entrance



Main Entrance



Free-ride track



New path & lighting



St Augustine's Entrance



Tudor Road Entrance



Children's play area



River Clearance



Furniture



Planting



Kirby & West Graffiti



CCTV



Crime Statistics

	2010				2011				2012	
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	1st	2nd
Assaults	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	0	0	0
Robberies	5	1	4	1	4	3	0	0	0	0
Sexual Offences	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Thefts	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	1
Disorder	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0
Drugs	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
	8	4	7	6	6	10	1	3	3	1



And also....

- Over 200 hours of volunteers community work to help clear the water
- Horticulture students used for wild flower planting project
- Over 300 hours painting and work opportunities for adults with learning difficulties
- 50 young people involved in the design of freeride track
- Leicester Freeriders provide bikes and skills training to 100 family members at the freeride cycle facility launch





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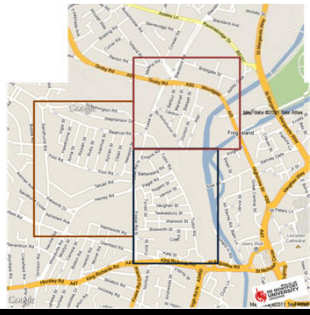
Introducing Mile²

Mark Charlton – Square Mile Manager
David Hollis – Operations Manager Square Mile

An initiative by the Vice-Chancellor:

- Demonstrating the positive impact that a university can have on a local community
- Strengthening the principle of universities as a public good
- Forging opportunities for partnership working with Leicester City Council

Context



Covers much of this map but with focus on three distinct neighbourhoods:

1. Newfoundpool
2. Fosse/Tudor Road area
3. Woodgate

Location

- Consists of three neighbourhoods within Leicester
- 7200 people around 4000 households
- Spans three wards (Fosse, Abbey and Western Park)
- Crime ranks high in deprivation indexes with high ratings also in access of health services, income, education and living environment
- Significant under-investment and lack of service provision
- Close proximity to DMU campus.
- Area of flux – population changes, mix of groups

What do we know about the area?



20 Projects divided into four areas:

Arts & Community: Community cafe, Movin'2 gether, Community gardening, Bright spaces, Threadworks, Free English lessons

Health: Free hearing screenings, Mile² run, Health Walks, Street youth workers, Diabetes: Complimentary medicines

Business: Business Works, Employability, Inspire, Play dough, School governors

Technology: Robotics club, Homework club, I.T. Training, Square Mile media, Healthy homes: healthy Square Mile

The projects

Project Aims

To provide life-changing opportunities to all ages of the community through pioneering research, skills development and greater community cohesion

- Cross faculty initiative, all departments involved in one or more projects
- Support from City-Mayor, Deputy Mayor and LCC
- Designed in consultation with residents and schools
- Opportunities to bring residents onto DMU campus

Project Aims

• After just one 12-week course of the Free English project, three residents successfully entered full time employment as result of their improved language skills




• The Play Dough project brought year 6 students onto DMU's campus, offering the chance to win cash prizes for their school, whilst learning the value and importance of the stock market. The winners of the competition had their trophy presented to them by the Duke of Edinburgh on the 8th March 2012



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Reception



• Threadworks and Movin'2Bronze well received by residents with all sessions fully booked

• Partnership with Hewlett Packard allowed Square Mile to create an I.T. Training suite at Fosse Neighbourhood Centre. Facilitated by De Montfort staff, the sessions are fully booked by residents looking to enhance their computer skills

• A renewed Free English Lessons project adds an intermediate level to its curriculum. Sessions are oversubscribed, with more tutors having to be drafted in to translate sessions into different languages

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Reception

Current partners of Square Mile project:

- **In Training:** Investing billions to tackle youth unemployment through apprenticeships, training and links with local employers
- **Hewlett Packard:** Whilst responsible for the IT infrastructure at DMU, Hewlett Packard have made numerous donations to the project, allowing Square Mile to equip primary schools in the area with new computers
- **Leicester City Council:** Vital partnership allowing us to run projects out of council facilities for free

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Partnerships

Opportunities for residents:

- **I.T. Training:** Enhanced programme, residents will receive a recognised qualification upon completion.
- **Employability:** Residents have a wealth of training and work opportunities on their doorstep through, In Training.
- **Threadworks:** Extension of the Fosse Top stitches project, will operate fortnightly out of Newfoundpool, promoting a "make do and mend" culture.

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Involvement

50 New Radicals – The Observer
Professor Shellard awarded for his commitment to the community through Square Mile

Leicestershire Diamond Jubilee award
Square Mile received the award for outstanding contribution to the local community

Green Gown awards
Higher Education award: nominated for outstanding contribution to the local community

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Awards

**Regular Leicester Mercury engagement
And BBC Radio Leicester interviews**



RADIO LEICESTER
104.9FM | DAB
Be part of it.

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Media reaction

Personal briefing to the Queen

Professor Shellard gave a personal briefing to Her Majesty the Queen on the 3rd March 2012

UK Political interest

Attendance at conferences of three main political parties. Particular interest from the Prime Minister's office

International interest

Presented to Prime Minister of Japan and the Japanese Ministry of Education (MEXT)



Interest and reaction to Mile²

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Get in touch

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