

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 4 December 2013

Held at: Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way, Leicester, LE4 1DS

Who was there:

Councillor Vi Dempster

Councillor Sundip Meghani

Councillor Paul Westley



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.
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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.

23. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Dempster was elected as Chair for the meeting.

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Carolyn Pawsley and Ela Krychowska-Hall (Housing, Leicester City Council).

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the last meeting of the Beaumont Leys Community Meeting held on 4th December 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

27. CITY WARDEN SERVICE

Barbara Whitcombe, Team Manager (City Wardens), was present at the meeting to discuss the Council's current consultation on providing city wardens with powers to distribute Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to people spitting on land open to air and would be enforced like littering. She informed the meeting there were byelaws that could be used to prosecute people caught spitting, but these went against the Council's enforcement policy. She added that people prosecuted under byelaws would gain a criminal record, which the Council did not want.

Barbara said the Council had worked with Waltham Forest Council who were successful at a Magistrates Court when defending a decision to distribute FPNs to people spitting, as they had used evidence from a public consultation in their defence. Barbara said thousands of responses for the consultation were needed as evidence, and consultation would end on 6th December 2013. She said that over 1,000 comments had been received to date.

Barbara said that money obtained through FPNs was put back into enforcement action, education and prevention. She added that work had taken place with some schools, there had been community litter-pick days and there were litter pick kits available for anyone to obtain from the City Warden service.

The Chair thanked Barbara for the update.

28. POLICE

The Police apologised as they were unable to attend the meeting. They provided the following information which was read by the Democratic Support Officer:

- There were no planned Problem Solving Plans (PSPs) for the area, although there was an active plan on Ornsay Road shops to deal with people drinking and public nuisance. The number of incidents were decreasing, though were still sporadic, and the police continued to patrol the area.
- It was reported there was a substantial haul of what police believed to be 'Mcat' or mephedrone from a house in Beaumont Leys. The case was reported in the Leicester Mercury. The house was a council property and the police were in talks with LASBU to see if the tenant would retain their tenancy.
- There had been a significant rise in the number of thefts of motor bikes which were then burnt out. The police crime prevention advice was to notify anyone with a bike to ensure they were brought in when not in use and secured.
- The police also advised that over Christmas people should keep presents out of sight, and not to keep anything in cars or on show.
- The police had visited the Heathley Park area to check reported parking problems. They had not identified anyone parking illegally that could be prosecuted.

Residents said the police drugs raid was a job well done.

29. YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

Babita Kumar, Youth Participation Worker, was present at the meeting as an advocate to promote the Young People's Council (YPC).

The meeting was informed that people of 14-19 years of age (secondary school to college age) were elected to the Young People's Council on a two-yearly cycle. Babita said the next round of elections would take place in January 2014. She said that if anyone wanted to get involved with the elections, then they should contact the YPC at the Town Hall.

Babita said taking part on the YPC was a good way for people to develop their social and communication skills, and was an empowering experience. Roles on the YPC could include organising events to bridge communication gaps, for example, between young and old.

Babita was thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

30. BUDGET

The Members Support Officer introduced the budget applications that had been submitted since the last meeting. Members were informed that there was £6,868.80 remaining in the budget following the last meeting. Following the introduction a discussion took place on each application and, following the completion of the discussion there was a short recess to enable Ward Councillors to reach their decision on each application.

The following applications were considered by the Community Meeting

- i) **Belgrave Football Club Ltd (Joint Bid with Abbey and Belgrave & Latimer Wards)** **£500.00**
Application received for funding for better facilities at Belgrave Football Club. The application was presented by Mr Goddard.

Members agreed to support the application in full.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - £500.

- ii) **All Nations Church Leicester – Joe Shrigley (Joint Bid with Abbey and Fosse Wards)** **£1,918.00**
Application received for funding for a new Debt Coach to provide debt counselling in Leicester. The application was presented by Mr Shrigley.

Members were concerned that the issues the application would address were already in place, and would be duplicated.

RESOLVED:

that the application be deferred and officers work with the applicant to find out what services were in existence in the ward and the city.

iii) **2013 Xmas Gala Night/Get Together – NDI IGBO Leicestershire (Nigerian Community Association (Joint bid with Coleman and Fosse Wards)**
£400.00

Application received for funding towards the organisation of an event. The funding was requested for assorted food and drinks towards the occasion.

Members had no comments to make and agreed to part fund the application.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to the amount of £300

iv) **Community cohesion – End of Year Get Together – Leicester Malawi Association (LEMA) (Joint bid with Abbey and Stoneygate Wards)**
£200.00

Application received for funding towards the organisation of an event. The application was presented by Mr Guga. The funding was requested towards the cost of a venue, food, entertainment and publicity.

Members asked how many Malawi was resident in Beaumont Leys, as the funding application appeared to be citywide.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported to the amount of £150

Applications received since the last meeting and approved under the Fast-Track process:

- (i) Christ the King Church Tuesday Club – Christmas meal and trip for the elderly - **£350**
- (ii) Ur Choice Young Peoples Project – Half term activities October 2013 - **£500**
- (iii) The Phoenix Agenda – Awards Event 23rd November 2013 - **£500**

31. PARKING ISSUES AT HEATHLEY PARK

Residents of Heathley Park Estate were invited to the meeting to discuss ongoing parking problems on the estate.

The Chair said it was recognised that there were ongoing issues and Councillors had met with Sunlight Laundry on several occasions. She said that the new owners might be open to suggestions from residents regarding issues.

Chris Middleton, Transport Development Officer, was present at the meeting and displayed a plan of the area with proposed changes outlined, as proposed by residents at the previous Beaumont Leys Community Meeting in September 2013, a copy of which is attached to the minutes for information. The following comments were made:

- The majority of residents were in favour of the proposed changes to the double yellow lines.
- The majority of residents wanted to remove the trees and shrubs on Heathley Park Road, to remove blind spots.
- There were requests for extending the double yellow lines into Bramham Close.

Chris said a scheme would be prepared and would be presented to Councillors. New parking restrictions requested would follow a legal process that would take around four to five months to complete. Chris added an order had been made for the re-marking of yellow lines, and white lines at traffic calming islands which would improve safety.

Residents viewed and discussed the presented plan, and made the following comments:

- Waiting restrictions. There were two-hour parking bays across from County Hall which were monitored once a month.
- The Police had said people were not parking illegally, but it was not safe, particularly for children. With the parked cars driver could not see what was coming, or children who waited to cross the road.
- Sunlight Laundry owners had said cars could not park on the car park as lorries required space to manoeuvre.
- Residents should also park sensibly and not park across driveways.
- The original planning application needed to be revisited to see what parking arrangements were planned on estate for Sunlight staff and Loros staff and visitors. Loros had improved their parking, though it had been reported visitors still parked on pavements in the area.
- Some residents asked for parking restrictions to be removed. Any restrictions removed near to the Groby Road would result in traffic in the filter lane to turn into the estate getting stuck. It would also make it difficult for lorries and emergency vehicles to drive around the estate.
- The Council introduced double yellow lines because there was an issue with parking and residents had asked for them.
- Introducing restrictions would push the parking issue further into the estate, and would make it difficult for residents' visitors to park.
- The park and ride should be used and companies should provide a minibus for their staff.
- A third party owned the Heathley Park pub car park. Restrictions were brought in because customers to the pub could not park in the car park.
- Parking by Sunlight employees was also an issue for Stoke Close across the A50, and there had been several near misses.
- Restrictions should be placed around the whole estate to force cars back into the car park.
- Unless there was proper enforcement, restrictions on the estate would not work, and could be an incentive for Leicester City Council to gain revenue.
- There were some people who lived on the estate that drove too quickly over traffic calming speed humps.
- All residents on the estate should be consulted.
- Empty land could be made into parking bays.

- A blockade of the laundry entrance should be undertaken over a couple of days to show the strength of feeling of the residents.
- A resident suggested an exit from the laundry be developed at the garage a short distance down from the laundry. The Chair said it would not be possible to have an exit onto the road which was a 40mph zone.
- A request was made that Heathley Park Drive be gritted in view of expected severe weather.

The Chair then summed up the points raised. She said she had contacted the Council's legal and planning sections for information on the original planning application with regards to parking arrangements, and was awaiting information.

Members said new parking powers had been given to City Wardens to ticket cars, and it had been suggested to the City Mayor that both the Police and City Wardens have powers to ticket parking issues.

The Chair said there were a number of options to put forward in the development of the plan, as follows:

1. Contact the holding company for Sunlight. Ask officers to look into who they are, draft a letter which showed strength of feeling.
2. Officers to draft up a couple of realistic ideas to consult on by January end:
 - a. Whole estate double yellow lines
 - b. Restricted parking
3. Consultation letter to be sent to all residents with the two options.

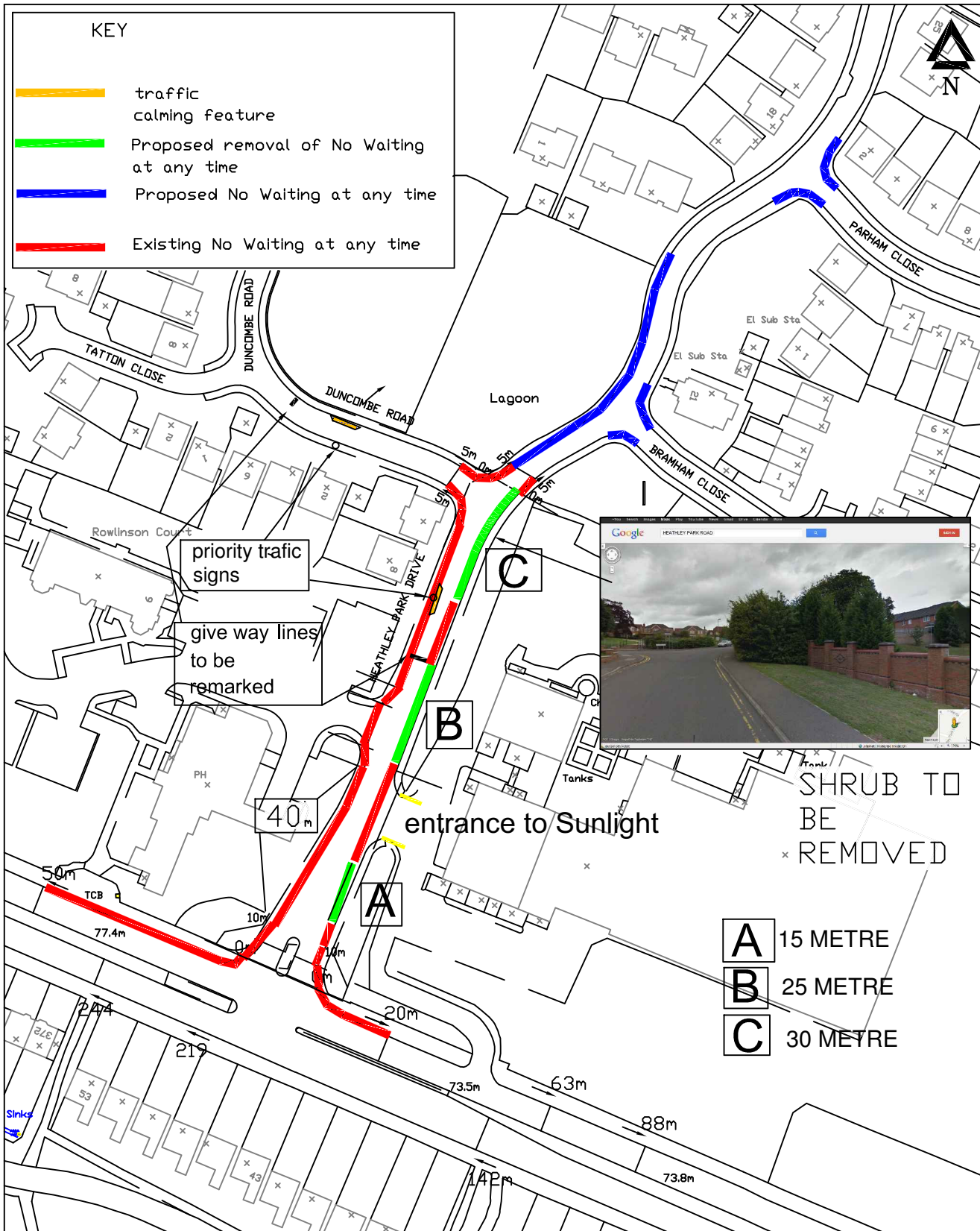
The Chair said it would not be possible for officers to send out plans to all residents, but residents would be informed as to where they could view the plans at Council offices.

The Chair thanked officers and residents for attending the meeting.

32. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Minute Item 31



Proposed Changes to Restrictions on Heathley Park Drive

DATE	July 2013
DRG. No.	revision 2
ACAD	tro
CHECKED	
SCALE	1:250
LETTER FILE	H/Data
ACAD FILE	

Leicester City Council
ANDREW L. SMITH
 Director
 Planning, Transportation &
 Economic Development

