

Humberstone & Hamilton Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:15 pm, Wednesday, 26 March 2014

Held at: Hamilton Library, Maidenwell Avenue, Leicester LE5 1BL

Who was there:

Councillor Rita Patel
Councillor Barbara Potter
Councillor Gurinder Singh Sandhu

61. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Rita Patel was elected as Chair for the meeting.

62. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Andrew Gill of Tesco.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Barbara Potter declared an interest in the business to be discussed on the agenda as she was a council tenant. Councillor Potter also declared an item in the budget items to be discussed, as she had advised an applicant who had submitted a budget application for June Blooms at Gateway, and would abstain from decision making for the budget item.

64. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting held on 23 October 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the minutes included the following:

Minute Item 53, Proposed New Local Authority Housing Developments

Manor Farm, Phase 2 – Councillor Patel said she had received a letter and would speak with residents affect separately

Minute Item 54, Traffic and Highway Issues

Residents reported that the junction at the top of Netherhall Road by McDonalds was still dangerous.

Councillor Patel said a number of issues raised in Councillor's Surgeries would be brought to the community meeting as and when they arose. She asked that if residents had any issues they could telephone or write to Councillors with details.

65. TESCO IN HAMILTON - PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Potter reported she and Hamilton Residents Association representatives had met with Tesco representatives, and invited them to attend the community meeting to discuss the proposed development site plans, but Tesco representatives had sent their apologies for the meeting.

It was reported that the development would include one KFC, one public house and one restaurant. An outline application and map of the development was circulated at the meeting. Councillor Potter said that of immediate concern was the moving of community recycling facilities and the safety of the public walking across the car park to and from the development.

A discussion followed and residents voiced the following concerns:

- The development did not take into account the new housing development which would place greater pressure on the store, and increase local traffic which would require the use of all current car parking space.
- There were no fitness, community or youth facilities in the area.
- The buildings already in the perimeter that were boarded up should be maintained, and the businesses occupying other buildings in the perimeter be protected.
- Tesco did provide local services such as an opticians and pharmacy.
- The outline planning application was to test the waters prior to a detailed planning application being submitted.
- Through the planning process, residents, councillors and other interested parties would have the opportunity to put their case forward.
- Tesco had not honoured previous promises.
- Residents asked if the original planning application had a 'subject to' clause to provide community facilities, and was Tesco expected to include community facilities for the site.
- Residents believed that Spen Hill Developments Limited had not consulted widely enough with residents in the area on the proposed development, but were legally covered as the plan for development had been inside Tesco store for 28 days.
- A resident said only a small amount of questionnaires had been submitted.
- The food and alcohol on offer from all venues would mean they were competing against each other.
- A public house would be good for the community.
- Residents requested a gym be provided, to inspire generations to become sports people. They added that with proposed venues would inspire them to become fat and slovenly with the alcohol and food offer.
- It was noted that when Tesco originally opened, no one in the units could sell anything that was available in Tesco store, but now appeared to have changed their policies.
- Some residents were happy that a family public house was proposed, to enable them to socialise within walking distance from their homes.
- The meeting was informed the library was open for several hours in a Sunday. Library workers were concerned that people under the influence of alcohol would go into the library or that people would leave their children in the library while they visited the public house.
- A resident informed the meeting there was a doctor's surgery in east Hamilton, but none in the west of the estate.
- A resident said the Sainsbury's development on Troon Way and subsequent removal of the flyover on Belgrave Road had set a precedent for requests as part of a planning agreement.

- Residents believed that the new development, in particular KFC, would be a problem for Gateway College students.

The Chair said there was a planning procedure that would have to be followed by the developers, and was an opportunity for residents to push for a community facility from Tesco, for example a gym, or a community centre. She said the three additional venues would increase footfall, and would be driven by profit for Tesco. The meeting was informed Tesco owned the land inside the solid black line as outlined on the map circulated, and that an original application for a public house on green land was withdrawn.

An attendee suggested that Tesco did not own the car park land, but was owned by British Land who leased it back to the store. The Chair asked that the Planning Team look into the ownership of the land, and check if Tesco had honoured conditions, if any, on the previous planning application, and provide the information to the Ward Councillors.

Angie Patterson, Senior Planning Officer from Leicester City Council then outlined the planning procedure, and the process that would be followed when a planning application was submitted. She informed the meeting that once a planning application was received, residents in the immediate vicinity of the development would receive individual letters, and all residents and groups would have 21 days to submit their comments in writing to the planning team. She added that details would be included on site notices that would be placed in the area, on letters and an advert would be placed in the Leicester Mercury. The Officer informed the meeting that concerns raised and questions would then be submitted to Tesco agents for a response, and any amendments to the planning application would be made within two weeks, following which a report would be written with officer recommendations. The Officer said residents would have the opportunity to write to object to the application, and could speak at the Planning Committee, or nominate a spokesperson or councillor to speak on their behalf.

The Officer said she would attend a future meeting when Tesco representatives were present. She said there has been limited pre-application contact with Tesco and their agents, and there were stringent rules under planning legislation. Residents asked if information could be brought to the meeting on what Section 106 monies were spent in the ward following development of the Tesco store.

The Officer said the outline planning application would be the planning permission, and reserved matters would be included in the planning application, including details such as landscape and the size of buildings. She urged that Tesco representatives be invited to a meeting as soon as possible, and a consultation process be undertaken as many people had been omitted initially.

Councillors believed the development was too condensed for one area, and that safety for pedestrians, or potential congestion at the petrol station had not been addressed. It was also noted that a proposed application for a KFC at Thurmaston had been suspended pending an agreement for the proposed development on Hamilton. Residents were urged to write letters of objection against the development to the Planning Team, and include ward councillors in their correspondence.

The Chair summed up all that had been said. She suggested that Keith Vaz MP be informed of residents' concerns with the proposed development. She asked for a special meeting to be arranged with Tesco, community groups and residents. She added it was important for planning officers to maintain contact, and that feedback of meetings would be fed back to planning. Angie Patterson informed residents of her contact details if they should wish to contact her after the meeting:

angie.patterson@leicester.gov.uk.

The Chair thanked the officer for her attendance.

RESOLVED:

1. That the planning team look into ownership of the land.
2. The planning team to check of Tesco had had 'subject to' clauses on the previous planning application, and if they had honoured conditions, the information to be supplied to ward councillors.
3. That residents and groups write, telephone or email the planning team with their objections to the proposed development.
4. That Tesco representatives be invited to a special meeting with ward councillors, residents and community groups, as soon as was practicable to arrange.
5. That further, wider consultation by Tesco agents be undertaken with residents and businesses in the area.
6. That Keith Vaz, MP be informed of the communities strength of feeling against the new development.
7. That a request be made to Tesco for a community facility as part of the planning agreement.
8. That information be brought to the next meeting on whether Section 106 money had been spent in the ward.

66. CITY WARDEN SERVICE - UPDATE

Charlotte Williams-Glover, City Warden was present at the meeting and reported the following:

- City Wardens not had powers to issues fixed penalty notices of £80 for spitting in the street.
- Residents were reminded of the free bulky waste collection service.
- A new garden waste service was available which cost £20 for the first year if residents signed up before 30th April 2014 (normally £30 per year).
- Dog fouling continued to be a problem across the ward.
- There was a big drop in fly tipping across the ward.
- A licence at £30 per week has to be applied for to keep building materials on the highway.

Residents wished to thank Charlotte for all her hard work in the ward.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

67. POLICE ISSUES - UPDATE

Sergeant Wayne Nimblette attended the meeting to provide an update on local policing and community safety issues.

Since the last meeting there had been 376 crimes in the ward, a 25% decrease when compared to the figure for the same period in 2013, at 428 reported crimes. Locally there had been five less burglary dwellings, less burglaries in other dwellings, and less damage to motor vehicles.

Sgt. Nimblette reported there had been a problem with youths behind the Sainsbury's on Main Street, Humberstone. He said the LPU had targeted the area, and a PC and PCSO had gone to the location at stipulated times and moved the youths on. He also reported that there were problems with youths in the shed areas on Grosvenor Gate, and the police were working with the management company to try and get the road adopted to get lighting in.

Sgt. Nimblette said the problems with anti-social behaviour in the area of the shops on Netherhall Road had been targeted. He added the problems were mainly school children and the police had liaised with the schools, and had arrested a juvenile.

Sgt. Nimblette said that there continued to be parking issues around schools, and the LPU covered 20 schools. He added that the police would continue to patrol random schools each morning and afternoon.

Residents were informed that they should call the police immediately if they witnessed crime or were suspicious about any activity. If the issue was not an emergency, they could call 101, or resident could use the Police App or call Crimestoppers if they wished to remain anonymous.

A resident raised an issue with a staff member at Hamilton Community college, who escorted children to safety over roads. She did not agree that the staff member did not identify himself when asked, and asked what authority the staff members had at the school to restrain pupils to stop a fight. Sgt. Nimblette said that just having a visible staff member present stopped a large majority of people being hurt, and that the teachers were trained and qualified for physical restraint.

In response to a raised issue, Inspector McBryde-Wilding said McDonalds would be asked to reduce their free wi-fi range to prevent youths from congregating at the back of the building.

Councillors raised the issue of drug use and selling on Netherhall Estate, and asked that regular meetings between the police and housing take place to discuss the issues.

Inspector McBryde-Wilding introduced Inspector Lucy Batchelor to the meeting as his replacement at the LPU when he moved on to another role.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

68. TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAY ISSUES - UPDATE

Rupert Bedder, Highways Officer, provided an update on traffic and highways issues in the Humberstone and Hamilton Ward.

Rupert informed the meeting that the crossing at the Emerald Centre had approved monies carried over into the new financial year. The Chair responded that special needs groups needed to use the crossing and asked why after over a year the crossing was not complete. A response would be provided to the Chair within a week of the meeting.

Residents brought to the attention of the meeting the proposed new road through Hamilton Park to a proposed new development in the County. Members also said they were worried about the implications of traffic in the infrastructure of Hamilton as a ward, and noted the developers of the new houses in the county's area had not invested in the city's infrastructure. The Highways Officer was not aware of the development and agreed to contact Charnwood Borough Council, and bring specific details back to a future meeting.

Residents asked if traffic calming measures would be provided, and where on Herongate Road would they be installed. The Highways Officer said he would find out if a scheme was planned and bring information back to a future meeting.

The Chair asked the Highways Officer to find out how much Section 106 money had been generated from developments within the ward boundary over the past few years, and bring the information back to a future meeting. The Chair wanted to try and get a commitment to spend the money in Humberstone and Hamilton area.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the update.

RESOLVED:

1. that the Highways Officer would provide details on the Emerald Centre crossing to ward members within one week following the meeting.
2. that details on the proposed new road through Hamilton Park be brought to a future meeting.
3. that the Highways Officer find out if a scheme for traffic calming on Herongate Road was planned.
4. that details on how much Section 106 money had been generated and spent in the Humberstone and Hamilton ward be brought to a future meeting.

Post meeting note: Since the meeting the following information was provided to Ward Councillors following questions at the Community Meeting:

As part of the outline application (20122008) for the "Redrow" site a contribution of £60k towards traffic calming on Herongate Road and part of Gipsy Lane was secured through a Section 106 agreement. In addition junction tables are proposed on Herongate Road as part of the Highways Act Section 38 agreement for the roads on the new development. I have checked and we have not yet received the s106 contribution.

In addition as part of the adoption of Grosvenor Gate - William Davies are going to fund two sets of speed cushions on Herongate Road.

The intention is once all the funding has been confirmed consultations on traffic calming on Herongate Road will take place including with ward councillors, the emergency services and local residents. At the same time as the traffic calming features are formally advertised a TRO to introduce a 20mph speed limit will be advertised which will mean the whole of the Towers Estate will become a 20mph Zone.

69. HOUSING ISSUES - UPDATE

Tracy McAllister, Humberstone Housing Office, gave an update on the housing development on Laburnum Road, initially for 74 affordable homes, but had since been reduced to 62 homes, either two or three-bedroomed. The development would be built by Persimmon Builders, and completed in 2015.

The Chair asked the Housing Officer to identify long-term projects for the area, for example, landscaping at St. Mary's Court, or external painting at Manor House gardens. The Housing Officer said spare money had been used to paint Netherhall shops, and be used on future tarmacking and bollards in the area, and enhance green areas in the ward.

The Housing Officer informed the meeting there were budget cuts in the Housing budget and the Director of Housing had asked that all anti-social behaviour unit and STAR support decisions go through the Directorate for approval, to ensure the budget was only spent on Council tenants. Chrissie Field, Area Manager, Housing said that previously LASBU and STAR had been supported by Housing Revenue Account money, and that private tenants and housing association tenants must now pay for the anti-social behaviour service themselves.

The Chair said houses on Netherhall Estate urgently needed insulation as the houses were damp, and did not help people with asthma issues, and resulted in high energy bills for tenants. The Chair asked that a project be put in place over a period of time to upgrade the insulation. The Area Manager said the project would be looked at city-wide by the Assistant Mayor for Housing.

A resident requested that Humberstone Gardens receive some attention as it was looking untidy.

The Chair thanked officers for the update.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

70. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET

The following budget applications were reported as having been received: -

- i) **Day out or theatre – Seabrook Group, Ocean Road** £500
Application received to organise an event for 35-45 people over 60.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **supported - £200**

- ii) **Humberstone RBC Senior Citizens to organise an organ recital trip** £425

Application received to organise a trip to an organ recital at Sharnford and a meal for all members of the group. The Members were keen to support the application, but requested further information on whether Humberstone and Hamilton residents were beneficiaries.

RESOLVED:

that the funds be **committed - £425 pending further information**

- iii) **Hamilton in Bloom** £480
Application received for hanging baskets to be placed around the shopping area in Sandhills Avenue.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **supported - £480**

- iv) **Summer Holiday Club** £900
Application received for a summer holiday club at Hope Hamilton School, aimed at 5-11 year olds.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **supported - £900**

- v) **June Blooms at Gateway – summer fete event** £510
Application received for funding for an event to say thank you to parents that have supported their students with studies, and showcase the garden area in the Hamilton in Bloom competition.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **supported - £510**

- vi) **Easter Golf Taster Sessions for Young People** **£500**
Application received for funding an Easter playscheme at Humberstone Heights golf course, with various coaching and driving range sessions for young people in the Humberstone and Hamilton area.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **supported - £500**

- vii) **Leicester Ladies Sports Club** **£1,000**
(joint bid Evington, Coleman, Humberstone & Hamilton – total bid, £3,000)

Application received for funding for ladies badminton sessions. Members were keen to support the application subject to the appropriate documents and information being submitted to the council for viewing.

RESOLVED:

that the funds be **committed - £1,000 pending further information**

- viii) **Leicester Parks Tennis Programme** **£600**
(joint bid Castle, Abbey, Humberstone & Hamilton – total bid, £3,000)

Application received for funding to fund a comprehensive tennis coaching programme at all three venues, catering for under 11s. Members were informed that other wards had refused the application. Members committed the money but deferred payment pending further details from the applicant.

RESOLVED:

that the funds be **committed - £600 pending further information**

The Chair informed the meeting that £1,800 of Ward Community Budget would be carried forward to the financial year for 2014/15 following payment of the above applications. She added there remained a balance of £2,602 which would be committed to the Highways and Traffic project for a disabled facility on Gypsy Lane. Should the money not be required for the project, then £1,000 would be committed to the Neighbourhood Centre at Netherhall for a soup kitchen.

71. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Humberstone Heights Golf Course

Mark Wallis from the venue was present at the meeting to inform residents of the Council's six-week consultation on whether the Council should continue to financially support the two council-owned golf courses in the city, Humberstone Heights and Western Park following cuts in government funding.

Mark said the council would be lobbied and petitioned to prevent closure, and believed the figure the council had given at £3.70 subsidy per person was wrong. He added that more recently money had been lost due to the poor weather, and a lack on investment in the course, for example irrigation, and that Humberstone Heights had, in the past, made a profit for the Council. Mark said the course was prime building land, and once developed would be gone for good.

As Assistant Mayor and a member of the Executive, Councillor Patel at this point relinquished the chair to Councillor Potter.

Residents said new generations would use the course, and it was the only driving range in the area, and the biggest community facility on the east of the city. They said it provided a healthy lifestyle and had many long-term members, and if no investment was made in the course then it would lose money.

Mark said the land was green wedge and the council had a duty of care to residents. He added the consultation had been kept quiet, and a hastily convened public meeting would be held on Friday 28th March at 7.00pm to discuss the issue, and the meeting had been advertised in the Leicester Mercury and on local radio. He added the Assistant Mayor for Culture Heritage, Leisure and Sport, Councillor Clair would be at the meeting, but no officers would be attending. He said Keith Vaz, MP would be asked to take the petition to Parliament.

Mark informed the meeting he had offered to take the lease, but had received no contact by the council. He added there were two limited companies based on the course. A resident added that under the Localism Act the community could tell the council they would take over the course if it was not making a profit, and it would have to be considered by the Council.

The Chair said there were safeguarding children issues with the course, in particular the toilet facilities. Mark said £40 in funding had been approved by Council in 2013 to change the facilities to children's facilities, but had since been withdrawn.

Chair said letter marked 'complaint' should be sent to the City Mayor, and asked resident to copy Assistant Mayor Clair and Ward Councillors into the letters. She added the petition should also target schools and parents in the area.

72. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.