

Rushey Mead Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Thursday, 6 March 2014

**Held at: Soar Valley Community College, Gleneagles Avenue,
Leicester**

Who was there:

Councillor Culdipp Singh Bhatti MBE
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Councillor Piara Singh Clair MBE

Councillor Ross Willmott

119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

120. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

121. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2014 be agreed as a correct record.

A member of the public queried whether any progress had been made in investigating the parking problems at Mellor Primary School and Soar Valley College.

The Chair responded that Sue Cutler, the Contract Manager from the Environmental and Enforcement Team had said at the meeting that she would need to add the work into the current work programme but this would take some time. PCSO Claire Tohill explained that Sue Cutler had been out with them to Mellor Primary School; there were no double yellow lines or parking restrictions there and she suggested that the issues at Mellor Primary really needed to be addressed by the council.

It was noted that at the previous meeting there had been a suggestion from a resident to close the pedestrian access to the school from Clarke Street and an offer was made to approach Mellor Primary School to pass on this suggestion. The Chair asked the Democratic Support Officer to check to see if this had been actioned.

Action to be taken	By whom
To check whether the Headteacher at Mellor Primary School has been contacted with the suggestion to close the pedestrian access to the school from Clarke Street.	For the Democratic Support Officer to raise with the relevant officer.

122. BUS " PINCH POINTS"

Mark Korczak from Leicester City Council Transport Strategy delivered a presentation on bus 'pinch points'; these were anything that held up buses on route, such as congestion, busy junctions or inconsiderately parked vehicles. Mark's presentation included the following points:

- On 1 April 2014, the Department of Transport gave Leicester City £100,000 to try to address problems created by bus 'pinch points'.

- The views of bus drivers had already been sought and now members of the public were also invited to submit ideas and suggestions.
- Once officers had a list of sites across the city, they would try to prioritise in order to get the best value from the funding granted.

Members of the public suggested that Marfitt Street and Humberstone Lane might be areas for consideration for this scheme. The Chair asked members of the public to let them know if they had any further suggestions, which they would pass on to the relevant officers in Transport Strategy.

A member of the public asked if any action could be taken to extend the bus route to the end of Barkby Thorpe Road which currently was not serviced by any of the bus companies. A number of new houses had been built by the roundabout but there was no bus service there. The Chair explained that the council had no influence over the bus companies but a letter could be sent to one of the bus companies to pass on this suggestion. It subsequently transpired that the member of the public who had raised the issue had previously spoken to Councillor Clair about the matter.

123. LEICESTER: READY TO SWITCH?

Hemali Thakar from the Leicester City Council Home Energy Office delivered a presentation on the Leicester 'Ready to Switch' scheme. Hemali made the following points:

- 'Ready to Switch' was a collective scheme designed to help people save money on their gas and electricity bills.
- Collective switching used consumer buying power to force down prices for fuel. It depended on usage but the scheme was designed to save bill payers up to £200 per year.
- The latest report from the Department of Energy Climate Change showed that the collective fuel switching programme had helped people save an average of £131.
- With this scheme, energy suppliers went into auction and competed against each other to bid for the lowest unit price / tariff they could offer.
- The offer was fixed for 12 months as suppliers were bound by contract and had to offer this price regardless of how many people switched.
- Once a successful bidder had been established, the offer was communicated to everyone who had registered for the scheme; the individual could then decide whether or not to proceed. There was no obligation to switch.
- The previous auction had been held on 17 February 2014 and the next registration process would be held between 10 April and 9 June 2014. It was

anticipated that letters with details of the offer would be sent out around the 20 June 2014 to all who had registered for the scheme. People would then have a month to decide.

Further details were available on line at:

www.readytoswitch.co.uk

or by phone to the Home Energy Office on 0116 221 117

Hemali was thanked for attending the meeting.

124. CITY WARDEN UPDATE

Jethro Swift, the local City Warden provided an update on the issues he had been dealing with in the Rushey Mead Ward. Jethro circulated a newsletter which is attached to the back of these minutes.

Members of the public made then raised a number of queries:

- A concern was raised by a resident regarding rubbish, including bottles and cans, which had been dumped by a factory at the bottom of Woodbridge Road. The resident explained that she had raised this issue at the previous meeting in January, but the rubbish was still there. Jethro responded that he had visited the area the day after the previous meeting but couldn't locate the problem area. The location of the factory in question was clarified and Jethro confirmed that he would revisit the area.
- A resident reported that there was a problem with cars being parked on a footpath and on the pavement on Nicklaus Road. The resident was advised that the Police could take action if the vehicle was causing an obstruction and it was suggested that she call the Police with the precise location if there was a future problem.
- A concern was raised relating to rubbish and litter by the fencing on Lockerbie Walk (close to the library and clinic). The meeting heard that people were frightened to walk around that area, and Councillors suggested that problems may be alleviated if there was more lighting there.
- The Chair informed attendees that there was a new garden waste collection scheme, which cost £30 per year but there was a reduced price of £20 if people signed up before the end of April 2014.

Jethro was thanked for the City Warden update.

Action to be taken	By whom
For action to be taken to deal with the problem of rubbish at the factory at the bottom of Woodbridge Road	By the City Warden
For action to be taken to clear the rubbish and litter on Lockerbie Walk.	By the City Warden
To investigate the request for additional lighting by the shops near to Lockerbie Walk	By the Member Support Officer to the community meeting.

125. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Police Inspector McBryde-Wilding provided an update on policing issues in the Rushey Mead Ward. The following points were raised:

- A Problem Solving Plan was still in place on Lockerbie Walk; there was an issue with drugs and youths gathering together there. To tackle this there had been regular patrols by the police and problems had reduced dramatically; however the situation was still be monitored.
- There had been a slight increase in burglaries. Volunteers had been out and about in the area, delivering leaflets giving advice on crime prevention. Burglaries tended to be by gaining access through the rear of the properties and residents were reminded that even where a property might be secure at the front, it might be relatively straightforward to gain access to the back garden.
- There had been incidences of cars being broken into; it was possibly the work of one person and the affected vehicles tended to be those where valuables were visible.
- The Chair reported that there was a vehicle off the road, near to the roundabout close to the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre. the vehicle had been there for some time and A comment was made that the Police were aware as the vehicle had police tape round it. Jethro Swift, the City Warden suggested that the council liaise with the Police to try to get the vehicle moved.

Inspector McBryde-Wilding was thanked for attending the meeting.

Action to be taken	By whom
That in relation to the vehicle reported to be off road close to the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre, for an officer to liaise with the Police to have it removed.	The City Warden for the Rushey Mead ward.

126. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

The Chair presented the community meeting budget and explained that the following applications had been fast tracked for payment.

The following applications met the fast track criteria and have been approved for payment:

Application 2897: to pay for rent for 2 day Soul to Soul Meditation events at the Rushey Mead Recreation Centre.

Amount paid: £255

Application 2898: rental at the Rushey Mead Recreation Centre for Soul to Soul Meditation sessions.

Amount paid: £124

Application 2900: Provision and planting of tree in Jacklin Drive

Amount agreed: £430

Application 2988: Dance Workout – Lucy Bailey

Amount agreed: £500

The Chair explained that after these funding applications had been agreed, a balance of 58p remained in the budget.

Attendees then received a presentation from Mary Pringle, Senior Community Librarian on the following application. A request was made for funding to be granted from the 2014/15 community meeting budget.

Application 2901: Rushey Mead Library – Leicester Young Readers’ Programme

Submitted by: Mary Pringle, Senior Community Librarian
Amount requested: £1,000

Mary explained that this project enabled children from Herrick Primary School to choose and keep good quality books. The children would visit the library on three occasions, one class at a time. The library usually opened up especially for them. In the past. Children from Wyvern Primary School had previously been involved in the project and very good feedback had been received both from the children and the teachers.

it was agreed to support the funding application in principle subject to the appropriate funding being available in the 2014/15 community meeting budget.

127. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

CITY WARDEN SERVICE



MOHAMMED PATEL



JETHRO SWIFT

Email: city.warden@leicester.gov.uk
Website: www.leicester.gov.uk
Telephone: 0116 2527001

Facebook: Leicester city wardens
Twitter: City wardens

City Wardens,
Block A4,
New Walk Centre,
Welford Place,
Leicester,
LE1 6ZG

These are the main issues that the City Wardens can help with:

- Educating the public and raising awareness of environmental crimes
- Work within schools

Enforcement work on the following issues:

- Littering
- Dog Control – Dog fouling, dogs on leads, dog exclusion zones
 - Bins on the Street (Domestic and Commercial)
- Free Distribution of Printed Material
 - Fly-Posting
 - Small Scale Fly-Tipping
 - Graffiti
- Vehicles for Sale on the road
- Repairing Vehicles on the road
- Failure to produce Waste Transfer Documents
 - Street Litter Control Notices
 - Skips & Scaffolding
 - Untidy Alleys and Gardens

RUSHHEY MEAD WARD



UPDATE

There has been an increase in reports of untidy gardens and alleyways received by our office and we have been responding to these complaints throughout Rushey Mead – some alleys and gardens have now been cleared while many others are still in the first stages of communication. Despite our best efforts, we expect the number to rise as we enter into spring and summer.

Duty of Care checks have taken place on Gipsy Lane in response to complaints of overfilled bins and rubbish flying into neighbouring properties during the high winds. We have spoken with the businesses to build relations with the neighbours and keep the land clean and tidy.

A patch walk on Barkbythorpe Road, raised by a concerned resident, has led to plans being put in place to have the grass verges, trees and shrubbery, cleared and tidied by Community Payback. We are still waiting for confirmation of a date when this work will take place.

We have met with Sandfield Close Primary School and the new managers of the Three Kilns Pub to discuss how to clear, improve and maintain the car park which belongs to the pub. There was positive discussion of future activities and projects to brighten up the site, including restarting the project with the planters outside the shops.

A serious complaint of dog fouling in a children's play area in the Barkbythorpe Road area has led to joint working with Parks' officers – information packs and letters have been delivered and we will be doing early morning patrols as well as door-knocking on neighbouring houses.

Standard litter patrols and general patrols continue throughout the ward.

If you have any issues that you would like to report then please speak to the City Wardens or contact the service on 0116 2527001