

Westcotes Community Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, 9 February 2016
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: East West Community Project,
Wilberforce Road

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

Your Ward Councillors are:

**Councillor Andy Connelly
Councillor Sarah Russell**

Conduct Guidance

The behaviour of people at ward community meetings is important to the success of the meeting. Everyone attending today's meeting is kindly asked to comply with the following arrangements:

- Respect the views of others
- Keep to the Agenda
- One person speaks at a time
- Keep disruption to the minimum (mobile phones on silent) and no side discussions

If anyone does not comply with the guidance, they may be warned that they may be asked to leave the meeting.

Making Meetings Accessible to All

Access – Meetings are held in a variety of community venues. We will only hold meetings in venues where there is suitable access for wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about accessing a venue by wheelchair, please contact the Democratic Support Officer on the number given below. If you feel you may not be able to hear what's being discussed at a meeting please contact the Democratic Support Officer on the number below.

Braille / Audio tape / Translation

If you require this please contact the Democratic Support Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Social Media - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. If you wish to film proceedings at a meeting please let us know as far in advance as you can so that it can be considered by the Chair of the meeting who has the responsibility to ensure that the key principles set out below are adhered to at the meeting.

Key Principles. In recording or reporting on proceedings you are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted ;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

1. INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chair will introduce those present and make any necessary announcements.

The Chair and any other Councillors who are present will make any declarations as required by the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. ACTION LOGS

Appendix 1

The Action Logs of the meetings held on:

- a) 17 March 2015 (not previously submitted); and
- b) 12 October 2015

are attached for information and discussion.

3. CITY WARDEN

The City Warden will give an update on issues in the Westcotes Ward.

4. POLICE ISSUES UPDATE

Officers from Leicestershire Police will be at the meeting to provide an update on police issues in Westcotes Ward.

5. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

An update on planning and development issues in the Westcotes Ward not covered elsewhere on the agenda will be given at the meeting.

6. BRAUNSTONE GATE PLACES FOR PEOPLE PROJECT

Charlotte Jones will provide an update on the Braunstone Gate Places for People Project.

7. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET

Councillors are reminded that under the Council's Code of Conduct they should declare any interest they may have in budget applications.

- a) An update will be given on the Ward Community budget; and
- b) A list of grant applications will be submitted for consideration.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Next meeting: 10 May 2016

Help us to make improvements!

Please help us to improve Community Meetings by filling in an **Evaluation sheet** to let us know what you thought of the meeting.

Thank you.

For further information, please contact

Anita Clarke (Community Engagement Officer)
Phone Number: 0116 454 3253
Email: anita.clarke@leicester.gov.uk

or

Jason Tyler (Democratic Support Officer)
Phone Number: 0116 454 6359
Email Address: Jason.tyler@leicester.gov.uk

www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

Appendix 1 (a)

WESTCOTES COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 17 MARCH 2015

Held at: East West Community Project, Wilberforce Road

ACTION LOG

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ITEM</u> | <u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u> |
|------------|--|---|
| 33. | INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | <p>Councillors Russell and Connelly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the new Ward Police Inspector Chris Brown.</p> <p>It was noted that Insp Brown would be taking on the responsibilities previously undertaken by Insp Rod Smart.</p> |
| 34. | ACTION LOG | <p>The Action log of the previous meeting held on 16 December 2014 was agreed as a correct record.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising:</u></p> <p>a) Bede Park Development Plan</p> <p>The consultation was ongoing and engagement in the project and options was encouraged.</p> <p>b) Get Growing Grant</p> <p>It was reported that one community group had applied for a grant under the scheme.</p> <p>c) Parking Enforcement</p> <p>It was noted that the Council were to employ a number of additional Enforcement Officers to deal with the problems of illegal parking. In response to a question it was clarified that income used for the appointments and for the financing of the service generally was gained from the fees received from parking permits and not from fines.</p> <p>d) Westcotes Library and the Watershed</p> <p>In response to a question the issues concerning the future continued use of the library and community facilities in the ward were discussed.</p> |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------|---|
| | | <p>It was noted that investment would be made through the transforming neighbourhoods review.</p> <p>In respect of the Watershed it was reported that negotiations were continuing with De Montfort University with a view to them assuming responsibility for the centre. It was noted that shared community use would be maintained.</p> <p>e) Great Central Way - Litter</p> <p>It was reported that recent flood risk works to Great Central Way had been undertaken and that litter had become exposed as trees and shrubs were cut back. It was suggested that through partnership working, the Environment Agency could be contacted to ensure that they inform the City Cleansing Teams when such works were due.</p> <p>f) Graffiti</p> <p>Details of a graffiti 'tag' that had appeared at a number of sites in the Ward were noted by the Councillors and Police.</p> |
| 35. | CYCLING UPDATE | <p>Andy Salkeld, Cycling Coordinator, updated the meeting in respect of ongoing cycling initiatives in the Ward.</p> <p>He referred in particular to the partnership with Sustrans to improve the Braunstone Lane shopping area, which would be a significant project over the next two years and would change the street scene in the area. The funding of the project through the people's health trust was clarified and the public engagement initiatives were noted.</p> <p>Andy was thanked for his update.</p> <p>In reply to a question concerning the design of the scheme and the public consultation, it was confirmed that the plans would be part of a wider discussion involving many interested parties to ensure that the design of the scheme met the needs of all concerned.</p> <p>Concerns were expressed regarding the safety of a junction at Narborough Road and Andy agreed to take away the details with a view to a cycling improvement scheme being put forward in the next tranche of design schemes.</p> |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 36. | PATCHWALK UPDATE | <p>Items of concern noted on the recent patchwalks were reported in the form of a pie-chart showing the principal areas of concern. It was noted that a full list of items was available but it was not considered appropriate to report specific addresses or sites where problems had been recorded.</p> <p>It was noted that complaints concerning commercial waste collection were regularly received. Although work to tidy bin areas was undertaken, concerns that litter problems soon returned were expressed.</p> |
| 37. | PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT/LICENSING MATTERS | <p>a) To-Let Boards</p> <p>It was reported that the code of conduct which letting agents had agreed to around two years ago, which intended to ensure that to-let boards would be removed, had been generally unsuccessful. It was considered that some boards were displayed permanently as advertisement fixtures.</p> <p>A consultation on a revised initiative was ongoing with a view to boards being removed once properties were let and participation was encouraged.</p> <p>b) 10 Westcotes Drive</p> <p>Objections had been submitted to the proposal to convert the above house to eight student flats.</p> <p>c) The Huntsman</p> <p>It was reported that an application for residential use had been approved and works had commenced.</p> <p>d) The Black Horse</p> <p>An external terraced area had been approved and was now installed.</p> <p>e) 48 Westcotes Drive</p> <p>Concerns had been raised concerning the works to extend the above property, as neighbours were affected by building materials being delivered on-street and pavements had been obstructed. Councillors were dealing with the reported complaints with the appropriate departments.</p> |

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|--|
| 38. | CITY WARDEN | <p>Alexander Kazimierz, The City Warden reported on his recent environmental and enforcement activities in the Ward.</p> <p>He made particular comment on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison was ongoing with G4S securities concerning short term accommodation offered to offenders in rehabilitation programmes. • Bins on streets were being dealt with by negotiation and information packs were distributed. If problems persisted, it was reported that FPNs would be issued to individual properties. • Duty of care issues and problems in contacting private landlords were continuing. It was reported that problems with absent landlords or landlords that were living away from the city and country had led to safety concerns at properties. <p>The report was received and thanks were expressed to Alex for the improvements in the Ward that had been noted due to his efforts.</p> |
| 39. | POLICE ISSUES UPDATE | <p>Inspector Chris Brown reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the neighbourhood policing teams had led to increased capacity, which had assisted improvements in dealing with anti-social behaviour reports. • Crime statistics for the Ward since the previous meeting were reported. • Liaison with the universities and student organisations to promote the 'immobilise' initiative were ongoing. Many students followed the Police on twitter. It was reported that immobiliser.com could be accessed by anyone who wished to register belongings. • Stop-checks of cyclists using the pavement were reported and the meeting noted the need to ensure appropriate levels of consistent enforcement. |

| | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was considered that a further report on the issues concerning cycling in the Ward should form part of a future report. • The use of the 101 phone number to report incidents was encouraged. • The boxing club continued to be well attended and it was considered that this had led to a reduction in reports anti-social behaviour. • Two groups were being assisted with the establishment of Neighbourhood Watch areas in the Ward. • An operation to remove illegally ridden motorbikes and mini-bikes was ongoing. It was noted that areas of Great Central Way were popular for this illegal activity and that motorbikes used were often stolen. • A Street Begging Action Group was being established to tackle concerns raised at numbers of on-street beggars. • The Canal and River Trust Volunteers were working in partnership to ensure the success of the forthcoming Riverside Festival. • A cannabis factory had been discovered in a house in the ward and it was clarified that officers attending the crime had been called from Loughborough as they were the nearest suitable resource. • A request for funding had been submitted and would be considered as part of the following Ward Community Budget item. <p>Inspector Brown was thanked for his update.</p> |
| 40. | WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET | <p>a) Applications</p> <p>The following applications were received and determined as indicated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy Language Performance Mr David Parkin £250 SUPPORTED |

| | | |
|------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Inclusion Group – Friday Coffee Mornings PCSO Maggie Hill £300 SUPPORTED • Floodlit Street Briefings P. Insp. Chris Brown £500 DEFERRED (pending further information on cost and benefit to the Ward) <p>b) Community Newsletter</p> <p>It was reported that the Community Newsletter funded by the Ward Community Budget had not been produced to date and an update was requested. It was suggested that if the newsletter was not in production the applicant should be requested to return the grant</p> |
| 41. | ANY OTHER BUSINESS | <p>a) Wheels for All</p> <p>The success of the above cycling event, which provided cycles for the elderly and less abled, was reported and noted. Organisers were congratulated and thanked for their efforts.</p> |
| 42. | CLOSE OF MEETING | The meeting closed at 9.00 pm. |

WESTCOTES COMMUNITY MEETING

MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2015

Held at: East West Community Project, Wilberforce Road

ACTION LOG

Present: Councillor Russell (Chair)
Councillor Connelly

| <u>NO.</u> | <u>ITEM</u> | <u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u> |
|------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| 5. | INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES | Councillor Russell as Chair, welcomed everyone to the Westcotes Ward Community Meeting. |
| 6. | ACTION LOG | <p>Action Log for the meeting 17 March 2015</p> <p>This was not attached to the agenda, and it was agreed that it would be taken to the next Westcotes Community Meeting for consideration.</p> <p>Action Log for the meeting 21 July 2015 (Special)</p> <p>Proposed new student development on Western Road and to the rear of the Western Public House</p> <p>Attendees were asked to note that the developer had submitted amended plans since the previous Westcotes Community Meeting. Because of the City Council's Supplementary Planning Document on Cumulative Impact, the developers had said that the original plans were likely to be refused and had therefore submitted new plans.</p> <p>CODE Student Accommodation would be holding a public consultation where people were invited to look at the new plans. A leaflet from CODE was available for all attendees to take away.</p> <p>The Chair asked members of the public to submit any representations to the Planning Service. In response to queries from attendees, Steve Brown, Group Manager, Planning explained that the original objections were still valid.</p> <p>Copies of the amended plans were available for attendees and it was agreed that these would be placed afterwards in the Western Public House and the Tin Drum for residents to see.</p> |

| | | |
|----|---|--|
| 7. | UPDATE ON BEDE PARK DEVELOPMENTS | <p>Attendees received an update on the proposed developments on Bede Park, and were asked to note that the officer responsible for the project was on leave and unable to be present. The Chair expressed some frustration that there would be a delay in the installation of the gym as there needed to be a procurement exercise.</p> <p>The Chair stated that she had been informed that a consultation was needed in order that residents could vote on what items of equipment they would like to see on the park. Views expressed from attendees were that they would like the equipment to be installed as soon as possible.</p> <p>The play area on Andrewes Street/ Dane Street was now completed and was being well used.</p> <p>A resident asked whether the information could go out on Facebook. The Chair agreed to this and offered to email the information to various people within the community.</p> |
| 8. | PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MATTERS | <p>The Chair asked attendees to note that a further planning application for a development on Western Road had been submitted. This was for about 100, one or two bed flats and developers were focussing on attracting the graduate market. The application did not provide for any parking spaces.</p> <p>In response to a question from a resident, Steve Brown, Group Manager, Planning explained that as regards notifications to residents about local planning applications, the council went beyond the statutory requirements regards such notifications. A resident suggested the Twitter could be used. The Chair offered to look into that, but cautioned that many people were only interested in applications in a particular area; she suggested however, that the Streetlife Community Website might be a useful resource.</p> <p>Attendees were also asked to note that the City Council was consulting on their Licensing Policy and as part of this were considering conditions that could be applied to new or existing licences, in areas where street drinking was a concern. Concerns were expressed about anti-social behaviour outside an off-licence on Wilberforce Road; the Police Officers offered to look into this.</p> |

| | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| | | <p>Attendees were asked to report anti-social behaviour by phoning the 101 number.</p> <p>An attendee expressed a concern relating to a problem with accessing the City Council's licensing pages, on the website, from library computers. He stated that this had been an ongoing problem for over a year. The Chair reported that she had not experienced any problems but asked Mike Broad, the Neighbourhood Development Manager to look into this.</p> <p>A resident referred to the Leicestershire Centre for Integrated Living (LCIL). She said that they did a very good job, but had only been granted a 25 year lease on the premises. The Chair responded that the 25 years lease was usually the maximum that the City Council gave. The LCIL had been asked to give specific reasons as to why they needed a longer lease. The Chair stated that as far as she was aware, these reasons had not been submitted, but she would find out what was happening.</p> <p>Charlotte Jones from Sustrans, the project co-ordinator for the improvements to Braunstone Gate addressed the meeting. The project aimed to involve the community and Charlotte had a list for improvements that people had already requested; including more seating, greenery and better parking. There would be a meeting on Wednesday at Natterjacks. The meetings were held monthly and were open to anyone who used Braunstone Gate.</p> <p>A concern was raised that the agenda showed that the West End Traders' Association had received £1000 in relation to a funding bid for Westival; however she knew that the West End Traders had not submitted this bid or received the money. Councillor Connelly responded that they would identify which organisation had received the money.</p> |
| 9. | CITY WARDEN | <p>Alexander Kazmierz, the City Warden updated the meeting on the issues he had been dealing with in Westcotes.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the number of cardboard boxes that were left outside shops on Narborough Road/ Briton Street. Alex responded that he had been trying to resolve the issue, but he could not issue a</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| | | <p>fine unless he knew where the boxes were coming from.</p> <p>There appeared to be a problem with sub-letting in the area and subsequent overcrowding in some of the houses. Alex asked attendees to let him know if they were aware of any overcrowding or sub-letting of properties.</p> <p>Attendees raised the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very large red bin left on the pavement outside a café on Roman Street. • Card board boxes being left on the steps at the back of the Sultan public house. There were concerns that this might be blocking a fire escape route. • Complaints were made in relation to a local Co-operative store where bins were regularly left out. <p>The Chair suggested that it might be helpful to have a task force to go round part of the ward with the Alex.</p> <p>Alex asked residents to contact him if they had complaints or concerns, because sometimes evidence was needed before action could be taken.</p> |
| <p>10.</p> | <p>POLICE ISSUES UPDATE</p> | <p>The meeting was asked to note an update on policing issues in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been a serious incident in Compton Road, and an arrest had been made. The person had subsequently been released back to that address and residents were asked to notify the Police if this was an issue for them. • The Police were looking to set up a neighbourhood watch scheme in the Watkin Road area. • The Police were taking additional steps to tackle anti-social behaviour in Mountcastle Road. • In relation to complaints received about cycling on pathways, the Police were setting up operations to educate people and raise awareness. |

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| | | <p>The Chair commented that she had been talking to the Cycling Officer at the Council, as to ways to encourage cyclists to use Western Road / Wilberforce Road as an alternative to Narborough Road. This provided a pleasanter and safer route.</p> <p>In response to a query, attendees were advised to phone the 101 number if they wished to report incidents where people were cycling on pathways.</p> <p>An attendee raised a concern about perfume sellers in Westcotes. The Police responded that these sellers were very difficult to catch, because they disappeared as soon as they saw the Police approaching.</p> |
| <p>11.</p> | <p>WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET</p> | <p>Councillors were reminded that under the Council's Code of Conduct they were required to declare any interest they had in the budget applications discussed at the meeting.</p> <p>No such declarations were made.</p> <p>The meeting was asked to note that the following funding applications had been agreed:</p> <p>Westival – submitted by the West End Traders' Association (the name of the applicant who had submitted the funding bid had been queried earlier in the meeting and was subject to clarification)</p> <p>Approved: £1,000</p> <p>Riverside Festival – submitted by the Festival and Events Team.</p> <p>Approved: £3,000</p> <p>The following funding applications had been submitted too late for inclusion in the agenda:</p> <p>Councillors stated that they could not make a decision on the night as they needed to check the rules relating to on-going revenue costs. They asked for the view of attendees as to whether or not they thought the applications should be supported. The view of the meeting, subject to the rules, would help the Councillors make a decision.</p> |

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--|
| | | <p>Can Recycling – from The Recycling Man.</p> <p>Funding of £180 requested to extend storage space for recycling work, for a further six months.</p> <p>Upstairs at the Western – from Off the Fence Theatre Company CIC.</p> <p>Funding of £1728 requested to pay for rental costs for 26 weeks.</p> <p>Attendees indicated that they were in agreement for both funding applications to be supported.</p> <p>A concern was raised about community meeting funding being granted to the Riverside Festival. It was reported that at the last event there had been a considerable amount of alcohol being consumed and occurrences of anti-social behaviour. The Chair commented that the funding had been granted to local traders to enable them to have a stall at the festival. She agreed that there was a considerable amount of drinking on the Saturday and she had met with officers from the Festival and Events team. A request was made for there to be more advertising on Narborough Road, about the event.</p> |
| 12. | CLOSE OF MEETING | The meeting closed at 8.50 pm |