

Westcotes Community Meeting

DATE: Tuesday, 15 January 2019

TIME: 7:00 pm

**PLACE: East West Community Project,
Wilberforce Road**

Ward Councillors

Councillor Andy Connelly
Councillor Sarah Russell

YOUR community. YOUR voice.

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 LOG

Appendix A

The Action Log of the meeting held on 18 September 2018 is attached for information and discussion.

3. WARD COUNCILLORS FEEDBACK

The ward Councillors will provide an update on recent activities.

4. FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT

There will be an update on the flood risk management of the Braunstone Brook and the River Soar.

5. BEDE PARK UPDATE

An update will be given on issues concerning Bede Park.

6. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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

7. CITY WARDEN

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

8. POLICE ISSUES UPDATE

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

9. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET

There will be an update on the 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.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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, (Tel: 0116 454 6576) (Email: Anita.Clarke@leicester.gov.uk)

Jason Tyler, Democratic Support Officer, (Tel: 0116 454 6359) (Email: Jason.Tyler@leicester.gov.uk)

www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings

Contact address: West Rear Wing, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

WESTCOTES COMMUNITY MEETING

TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER 2018

Held at: East West Community Project, Wilberforce Road

ACTION LOG

<u>NO.</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u>
1.	INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	<p>Councillor Russell, Chair for the meeting led introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest or apologies for absence.</p>
2.	ACTION LOG	<p>The action log of the meeting held on Tuesday 1 May 2018 was agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>As an update concerning the item on Bede Park the following issues were reported and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The repaired slide was in use.• Some S.106 planning monies had been made available and it has been suggested that distance markers be installed to aid runners and walkers. It was also recognised that the S106 monies could be used elsewhere in the ward, such as the Upton Road grassed bank area, which was regularly used as a play area by children.• Ongoing problems of littering continued despite extra bins being installed in the summer months.• Meetings had been arranged with the DMU students' union and their clubs and societies, together with partner agencies including the Police and the Events Team at the City Council concerning organised events on Bede Park. An application form had been established and social media was being monitored in respect of event promotions.
3.	WARD COUNCILLORS FEEDBACK	<p>Councillors Russell and Connelly reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirmation had been received from Government to introduce Article 4 Regulations on to-let boards from 1 October 2018. This meant that boards must be installed 'flush' on any to-let property, reducing the problems of cluttered

		<p>boards and reducing the risk of burglary. It was also noted that as most letting enquiries were now made on-line the need for to-let boards was considered less necessary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HiMOs would also need to be licensed from 1 October 2018, whereby 3-bed property conversions would require assessment. It was noted that landlords would need to pay a fee for the licence and demonstrate adequate room sizes. It was recognised that enforcement would remain an issue, but there would be a positive effect in the Ward as more control on converted properties would now be allowed. <p>It was also noted that conversions to self-contained flats were not included in the HiMO regulations.</p> <p>The issue of protecting family housing in the ward had been raised in the new Local Plan. Problems with contacting absentee landlords remained a significant issue.</p> <p>In response to a question it was reported that each licence fee was approximately £900 for a 5-year period.</p>
4.	HEALTHWATCH	<p>Attendees were asked to note an update from Gillian Jillett, Healthwatch Leicester and Leicestershire.</p> <p>Points made during Gillian's update included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthwatch arose out of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and whilst there had been some changes to the format, the Healthwatch team aimed to attend meetings such as this to capture people's views and experiences of the health care system. • Healthwatch also attended meetings including scrutiny commissions and could help to influence decision making. • As an example, as to what they could achieve, Healthwatch had helped to introduce two new dental emergency services in Leicester which were open 365 days per year.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees were asked not to be offended if they were unable to see their doctor, as General Practitioners needed to prioritise their workload. Patients might be offered an appointment with a different health professional rather than a doctor. <p>Anyone interested in volunteering was asked to speak to Gillian or to contact Healthwatch. Leaflets promoting the organisation's activities were circulated for information.</p> <p>In discussing the information, reference was made to the improved A&E department and reduced waiting times. The use of the 111-phone number was also advocated.</p> <p>In terms of individual experiences and feedback, attendees commented that enhanced training of reception staff was considered necessary as some patients felt uncomfortable with customer service issues, particularly in busy waiting rooms.</p>
5.	CITY WARDEN	<p>Richard Sutton (City Warden) reported on his environmental and enforcement activities.</p> <p>The following key points were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised landlord licensing regulations had been welcomed as it was expected that this would have a positive effect for the City Warden service Bins on streets continued to be a problem due to the high rate of tenant 'turnaround'. Notices and warnings had been issued. It was recognised that in some streets blocked alleyways led to problems for residents. Issues concerning bin sizes and the need to promote recycling were raised. It was noted that obtaining recycling bags was not always easy. It was reported that the City Council had indicated a preference to continue with a weekly collection, it being noted that many other comparable authorities had moved to two-weekly collection services to reduce costs. The Duty of Care on businesses in terms of their waste management had also been promoted. Issues of untidy land and front gardens had been dealt with and photos of cases were circulated to show results. Fly-tips had also increased, and photos were also circulated to show the extent of the problem.

		<p>Mobile cameras had been introduced to identify offenders.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding cleansing services and waste management in the city, concern was expressed at the negative publicity and photos on social media on the day of the England football fixture at the King Power Stadium. It was accepted that reports on the LoveLeicester app and other methods of reporting required a lead-in time before being dealt with, although prompt attention was always the intention.</p> <p>It was also noted that the cleaning and bin-emptying of Bede park had reduced in frequency recently.</p> <p>The report and update was noted.</p>
6.	POLICE ISSUES UPDATE	<p>Police Sgt Spencer Dyer reported on recent activities in the Ward.</p> <p>The following key points were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revised landlord licensing regulations had been welcomed by the Police. • Increased patrols had been made by PCs and PCSOs during the summer at Bede Park and work with the university and partners continued, as reported earlier by Councillors. • An initiative to reduce knife crime nationally had been supported and was being actively promoted in the city, involving liaison with youth groups. • Recent 'test purchases' in the Ward had shown that shops that failed previously had passed, indicating that the educational work had been successful. • Reductions in burglaries continued to be one of the priority areas, with the revised 'to-let' board Article 4 regulations being welcomed. • Statistics showed that on the electoral register for the ward. Approximately 50% of residents had changed within the 4 years between elections. This demonstrated the need for continued and repeated educational and awareness work. • Residents were reminded to keep all valuables secure in outside areas and sheds, as an increase in thefts of cycles, garden tools and machinery had been noted recently. Police liaison and links to shops and stores such as Cash Converters and Cex were reported and noted.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drug prevention work continued, with houses being raided where ‘cannabis factories’ were operating. The fire risk of heat lamps used to grow cannabis was also reported and noted. • Street begging and rough sleeping continued to be a concern and an action plan had been established to increase liaison with the Council, outreach teams and other partners. <p>The update was noted.</p>
7.	WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET	<p>The Community Engagement Officer provided an update on the Ward Community Budget.</p> <p>It was noted that 6 applications had been received for consideration.</p> <p>Approximately £11,000 remained to fund projects. Information on how to apply could be found at the following link:</p> <p>www.leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings</p>
8.	OTHER BUSINESS	<p><u>Braunstone Gate Archway</u></p> <p>It was reported that on 29 September 2018 a community temporary residence would be undertaken in a disused Archway to help to decide on its future use. Attendance was encouraged, and the event had been promoted on social media.</p> <p><u>Shopping Trolleys.</u></p> <p>It was noted that students had been using shopping trolleys to transport luggage as the £1 fee for use was not a deterrent.</p> <p>The abandoned trolleys were causing a problem and links to ‘Trolley Watch’ and supermarkets were being enhanced.</p> <p><u>East West Community Centre</u></p> <p>Reference was made to a recent noise complaint from a party held at the community centre.</p> <p>A trustee provided further information on the problems caused and apologised to residents. It was confirmed that the issue was being considered by the Management Committee.</p>

		<p><u>Briton Street - Cycling.</u></p> <p>A concern was raised by a cyclist regarding lorries and other vehicles misunderstanding of the one-way at Briton Street.</p> <p><u>Westcotes Drive</u></p> <p>A resident raised concerns at alleged unauthorised development and the associated problems of poor respect for planning and health and safety legislation in the Ward. He suggested that enforcement action should be enhanced.</p>
9.	CLOSE OF MEETING	The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.