



Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Freeman Area Committee

RECORD OF MEETING

Held on Monday, 11 December 2006 at Eyres Monsell and Gilmorton Childrens Centre (formerly Rolleston Infants School), Hillsborough Road, Eyres Monsell

Present

Councillor Dean Ramsdale (Chair)

Councillor Mark Farmer, Eyres Monsell
Councillor Nigel Porter, Aylestone

Inspector Paul Mansfield – Police
Sergeant Alistair Orencas – Police

13 Members of the public

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34. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations by Councillors.

35. Apologies for Absence

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Mrs Chambers, Councillor Sandringham and Councillor Keeling.

36. Record of the last meeting

(It was pointed out prior to the meeting, that the Welford Road Police and Community Support Group took the lead on developing the 'Cold Calling Project' detailed at the previous meeting.)

RESOLVED:

that the record of the meeting held on Thursday 12 October 2006 was agreed as a correct record.

A resident raised a concern over the postponement of the traffic calming measures on Milligan Road. She felt that she needed to readdress the issues raised at the previous meeting as residents had been promised that traffic calming for the Milligan Road area would be taking place in 2006/7 and would cost £250,000. She had been disappointed to learn that this would now be taking place in 2010/11 at a cost of £440,000. Councillor Ramsdale undertook to obtain a more detailed explanation.

37. Responses to questions from the last meeting

A resident stated that in respect of Question 79 – regarding pedestrian crossings to Ayleston Road. A patch walk had been arranged for Thursday 11 January at 2.30pm.

Jerry Connolly updated the Committee on Question 98, as a meeting had been arranged for 2.30pm on Friday 5 January with the cricket club.

38. Eyres Monsell and Gilmorton Childrens Centre

Chris Lang, Children's Centre Leader, addressed the Committee to outline the role undertaken by the two children centres in the area. The centres would be funded by a central government grant, and were for the benefit of families and children under five. A full day service could be provided along with massage sessions, pregnancy testing, benefits advice and occupational therapy. A further eight centres were in the development stage and by 2010 each community in the city should have a centre working alongside local schools.

39. Samworth Enterprise Academy

Pat Dubas, the Head of the Samworth Academy, addressed the Committee to inform them of the progress at the Academy.

Ms Dubas welcomed the opportunity to explain the progress made, the priority for school places and aims for the future. She informed the meeting that the school was for the 3-16 age range to ensure continuity for the young people. The Academy would initially take children from the Southfields and Neway Infant Schools. The overall admissions policy was that the school was aimed at local people with no restrictions based on religion or skills. There would also be a priority for children with special medical or social needs as well as special educational needs.

Members of the Committee and residents were invited to visit the academy before it opened in June/July 2007, to meet the Assistant Principal and teachers, as it was hoped that the school could be central to the local community. The School was

looking to operate on the 'Extended School' model that meant it would have a range of activities for young people and other community services.

A resident expressed concern over who would be on the governing body. It was stated that in the first term a governing body would be appointed which would involve the local authority, teachers and parents and community members. This was a detailed process to ensure that all activities within the academy were represented.

Residents raised concerns about the safety of school runs and road safety for children around the school area. It was stated that the school were working on a green travel plan and that there were plans for alterations to Trent Road in January 2007. A questionnaire would be produced for parents who intended to travel to the academy to ask them where the key points off points were likely to be.

Councillor Farmer recommended that residents put their name forward to become either the Local Authority Governor representative or a Community Governor. He said he would also welcome a discussion with Pat about the role that local councillors could play at the school. MS Dubas was happy to do this.

For matters relating to visiting the school and school governor enquiries, Ms Pat Dubas could be contacted on 0116 278 8253.

40. Pork Pie Island Traffic Scheme

John Skinner, Major Schemes Officer gave the meeting a brief presentation outlining the key points of the Pork Pie Island traffic scheme. The scheme was originally conceived to improve bus times. The scheme had been amended a number of times since it was originally planned. The latest scheme included plans to stop rat running on Southfields Drive and Glenhills Boulevard, additional tree planting, noise mounds and fencing to stop light pollution. There were to be better facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. There would be full control of the traffic lights on the approaches to the island so that times could be adjusted to enable traffic to flow better. The crossings at Pasley Road and Aylestone Drive would also be upgraded. He noted that the recent consultation had noted concerns about a crossing on Wigston Lane, this part of the scheme was being reviewed.

Residents raised queries about the safety of pedestrian crossings being close to the roundabout. Mr Skinner stated that these would now be signalised and could be controlled by the Area Traffic Control who could adjust timings to enable traffic to flow freely.

Residents expressed concerns that changes to the scheme had led to delays and to cost increases.

Residents requested that as part of the scheme, Aylestone Drive, Sturdee Road and Pasley road be signalised, to enable traffic to enter the main carriageways. Particular concerns were raised about exiting Pasley Road to get onto Glenhills Way. It was felt that some form of intermittently timed traffic light was required at the crossing over Glenhills Way to enable cars and buses to leave Pasley Road. Mr Skinner explained

that this wouldn't be possible because Glenhills Way wasn't being widened and traffic would back up too far up Glenhills Way for this to be safe. Councillor Ramsdale commented that the current scheme wasn't necessarily the scheme favoured by the road engineers but it was a scheme that would be deliverable.

Councillor Porter asked if the toucan crossing across Glenhills Way would be linked into the Star Trak bus system. Mr Skinner said it would link into the crossing if the bus was running late.

Councillor Porter also asked when work would start on the scheme. Mr Skinner confirmed that it was due to start in April 2007.

A concern was raised that Glenhills Way was not being resurfaced as the current surface was noisy and prevented residents from sleeping at night. Mr. Skinner commented that as Glenhills Way was not being widened it would not be resurfaced because the current surface had an 18 more years of its expected life. If it were to be resurfaced it would need to be paid for out of a traffic maintenance budget, which was different to this scheme. Councillor Ramsdale agreed to speak separately with the resident on this matter.

RESOLVED:

that the concerns of residents regarding signalling of Aylestone Road, Sturdee Road and Pasley Road and the location of the pedestrian crossing in relation to the Island be considered as part of the final Pork Pie Island Traffic Scheme.

41. Area Committee Budget

Jerry Connolly of the Chief Executive's Office, Leicester City Council was in attendance to discuss four bids that had already been made.

1. Funding for Community Christmas Event on the Gilmorton Estate

It was agreed to award funding of £100.00.

2. Public Notice Board for Residents by Aylestone Park Residents Association

It was agreed to award funding of £277.00, which would be split between the Aylestone and Freeman wards.

3. Aylestone Baptist Church

It was agreed to award funding of up to £10,000 subject to the balance of £45,000 being achieved through other sources.

4. Two Acre Spinney

This was a request to fell dead trees and raise the vegetation canopy for security reasons. Jerry Connolly provided the Committee with photos of the area.

Residents requested that consideration be given to annual maintenance of this area.

It was agreed to award funding of £1,500.

Councillor Porter agreed to move the previously approved funding for St Andrews Football Club from the general budget to the sports budget.

Councillor Farmer addressed the Committee to inform them of the success of the Big Heart Event which was held in August, where over 2,000 local residents attended. He stated that many residents thought that it had been positive for the local community as there were few occasions when they could all meet together. He also noted that there would be a Christmas event at the exchange on the night following the meeting.

42. Joint Action Group Update

Inspector Paul Mansfield addressed the Committee to give them an update on the discussions at the recent meeting of the Joint Action Group. The group were looking at a profile for anti-social behaviour at leisure centres and neighbouring parks. This has included some test purchasing of liquor sales to under 18's.

A resident raised concern as to whether the police would be based in the Ayres Monsell area in the near future. Inspector Mansfield stated that in view of the financial savings that needed to be met by the Police Authority this would not now be possible, unless free accommodation could be provided.

The Chair commented as to whether the Area Committee could possibly fund a proposal to help the local police find suitable accommodation. Unfortunately Inspector Mansfield stated that although the police would be grateful for the offer but it would not be possible to go ahead with the application process due to the project not being sustainable.

Councillor Farmer advised the residents that they should write to Central Government to explain that they were concerned about the reduction in the police force budget and that this could lead to the loss of front line staff that would be heavily involved with local community work.

Inspector Mansfield reported that a local task group was to be set up to look at initiatives to support local people who could be affected by domestic violence. The aim of the group would be to highlight healthy relationships and to target domestic violence. It was noted that there had been an increased awareness and early identification across the city as a whole and that chances of detection had been increased by head cameras worn by officers that filmed a situation. This provides the magistrates with first hand evidence of a situation and so ensuring that victims are confident to follow their case through the courts procedure. The Leicestershire Police Unit were keen to work with their partners to raise awareness along with the Health Care Services so that information could be shared at an earlier stage.

Councillor Farmer commented that this information showed that scale of the problem but the Leicestershire Police were doing a good job. It was suggested that a crime and disorder representative came along to a future meeting. The Minister from St Andrews Baptist Church commented that if any awareness training was available this could be valuable to members of the community.

43. Public questions

The following questions were either asked at the meeting or submitted on question forms during the meeting. Discussions that took place about these questions are outlined alongside the questions below. It was explained that any questions that could not be answered in full at the meeting would be submitted to the relevant departments for response at the next meeting of the Committee.

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| 100) A member of the public asked for clarification with regard to the legal status of public rights of way. It was queried whether an alleyway, such as the one between Richmond Road and Richmond Avenue, if it had been used as a public right of way for 20 years, automatically turned into a public right of way? | Corporate
Director of
Regeneration
and Culture /
Corporate
Director of
Resources |
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44. Petitions

There were no petitions.

45. Information sharing

The Committee were informed of a community event to be held on Wednesday 13 December at the Gilmorton Community Rooms, all local residents were invited to go along.

46. Items of Business for Future Meetings

The Committee noted the following items as issues for future meetings:

- Health Issues in the Area
- Domestic Violence
- Neighbourhood Manager Progress Report
- Headteachers to Inform of Activities within their School

47. Dates of Future Meetings

The next meeting would be on 15 February 2007 at Lansdowne Neighbourhood Centre.

The Committee agreed that the scheduled date of April 11 2007 would be postponed until after the local elections in May 2007.

48. Any other urgent business

The Chair thanked Carol Blackburn for her hard work in the community on behalf of the Area Committee and wished all in attendance a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

