



## **Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Area Committee**

### **RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday, 14 November 2007 at  
Thurnby Lodge Community Centre, Thurncourt Road.**

#### **Present**

##### **Councillors**

Councillor John Allen, Thurncourt

Councillor Barbara Potter, Humberstone and Hamilton

Councillor Caroline Scuplak, Thurncourt

##### **Partners**

**Pc Roberstson – Hamilton Local Policing Unit**

20 members of the public were present at the meeting:

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#### **203. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

Councillor Scuplak was elected Chair for the meeting.

#### **204. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Potter disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in Budget Proposal D4 (Cheeky Monkeys Parent and Toddler Group) and took no part in the discussion on the item.

#### **205. RECORD OF LAST MEETING**

The record of the previous meeting, dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 2007, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

#### **206. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The Chair drew the meeting's attention to the report that gave responses to questions asked at the previous meeting of the Area Committee.

The responses to the questions were noted.

## **207. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE - HAVE YOUR SAY**

Alison Bowen, Team Leader, Planning Policy and Design, Leicester City Council, attended the meeting with the aim of engaging people in determining the broad strategic issues for the future development of Leicester, and of the options available for development. Information relating to the presentation was available at the meeting.

It was stated by a member of the public that there were issues around the development of new housing schemes generally, whereby housing was completed first, followed by for example, library facilities and bus services. Facilities such as local shops, medical facilities, community centres, play areas and schools all had to be fought for by the residents. It was stated that there ought to be wider planning policies to ensure that the full range of facilities were in place at the time the development was occupied.

Alison stated that, as part of the consultation process, as diverse a range of people had been engaged with as possible, from older persons groups through to parent and toddlers groups. Efforts had been made to target as many varying areas of the city as possible, particularly areas where little previous consultation had taken place. In addition all schools in the area had received leaflets explaining the process, although it was suggested that maybe it would be advisable if youths could be approached and an explanation given as to what the leaflet was trying to explain.

## **208. MONKS REST - FEEDBACK FROM 101**

Suzanne Houlihan, Community Investigator, representing the inter-agency Community Safety Bureau (ICSB), the analytical arm of the 101 Project, attended the meeting to provide feedback on the issues around anti-social behaviour on Monks Rest that were raised at the last meeting. The Area Committee was informed that from records held only six phone calls had been logged, between 4<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, relating to incidents at Monks Rest.

Following the last meeting of the Area Committee an Environmental Visual Audit (EVA) had been carried out on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and the outcomes from this had seen graffiti removed from bins and windows and also a discussion around the erection of fencing that has not been carried out due to funding constraints within the relevant Council budget.

A follow up EVA was carried out on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and the following outcomes were agreed: -

- PC Le Pla to request that the City Council Parks dept. site two additional bins in the areas most affected by rubbish

- PC Le Pla to request that the City Council Parks dept. mend broken fencing.

It was stated that a further area for attention would be the trimming of some of the lower branches of trees in the area, even though this work had been carried out a couple of years ago, the branches had grown to the extent that they obscured the view.

It was further reported that the Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) had made the area a Neighbourhood Priority and this meant that community consultation was regularly carried out in the area and that high visibility patrols were also regularly carried out. PC Le Pla to visit the park every other day on his shift pattern.

It was stated that due to the low number of calls received by 101 the area was not being highlighted as a hotspot area for anti-social behaviour and was not a Joint Action Group (JAG) problem profile and therefore did not meet the requirement to access voluntary sector detached youth work. Local people were urged to contact 101 about ASB in the area.

RESOLVED:

that the report be noted.

## **209. NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING**

PC. Dave Robertson attended the meeting and updated the Area Committee on neighbourhood policing issues.

The Area Committee was informed that the main initiative locally was that of tackling issues around the use of mini motorbikes, particularly on footpaths and parks. The Police now held the keys to several lockable barriers, enabling them to pursue bikes down walkways.

There were also currently problems with youths gathering outside Tesco's and that this was being monitored. Any requests for particular work to be carried out by the Police were invited, as there was some flexibility at the present time.

Councillor Potter stated that there were a high number of unruly youths that gathered in the vicinity of the shops at Netherhall, to the extent that people were afraid to use the shops after dark. PC. Robertson stated that shops were a priority and that the Thurncourt and Netherhall shops would be targeted for action.

Councillor Allen stated that he was aware of the recent rise in car thefts in certain areas of the City and of the recent theft of lead from the roofs of bungalows in this area, due to the increase in the prices of scrap metals. PC. Robertson stated that the Neighbourhood Action Team met regularly and looked at issues around any increases in particular areas of crime. Regarding scrap metal, it was now a requirement for dealers to record the receipt of scrap received, and record the name, the date and the vehicle reg.no. relating to all receipts of scrap.

## **210. YOUTH WORK IN THE AREA**

Ali Latif, Owen Brown and Haldene Broomes representing the local City Council Youth Services attended the meeting to address issues raised at the last Area Committee meeting.

Owen Brown stated that the perception was that he was full-time at the Raven Centre, whereas the reality was he was based there for 2 ½ hours per week and was running drama and healthy living activities. Owen stated that he was looking to get the Raven Centre operating for 3 days per week. Activities at the Raven Centre were centred around an Education theme, whereas the Boyzee, based at Willowbrook, was able to offer a range of different activities. Owen stated that there had been a number of issues relating to anti-social behaviour and racism at both the Raven Centre and Armadale Centre that he had had to deal with recently. It was accepted that more work could be done with the parents of youths that use the facilities to try and address the problems. Owen stated that more time and resources were required to develop facilities at the Raven Centre and it was hoped that another member of staff could be employed enabling Owen to spend more time at the Raven Centre.

Ali Latif stated that, following earlier incidents, there were now some 40 youths regularly attending the Raven Centre but there was a need to look at why the Raven Centre was stigmatised by the local community and a need to look to address this by marketing and promotion methods.

RESOLVED:

- 1) the Area Committee congratulated those local people involved with the recent re-decoration of Willowbrook Activity Centre.
- 2) that the input from the staff of the Youth Services Team be welcomed and that progress be reported to future meetings.

## **211. GATEWAY 6TH FORM COLLEGE**

Nick Goffin, Principal, attended the meeting to update the Area Committee on progress with the re-location process. A Planning application had been submitted to the City Council and it was anticipated that workmen could be on-site by January 2008, with the opening of the facility expected in August 2009.

It was hoped that Gateway would become the greenest college in the country, incorporating a number of energy saving measures during the construction stage.

Enabling work to extend Colin Grundy Drive was expected to commence in January 2008, following consultation with the Police. Prior to and during the construction phase the site and the fields would be fenced off for security reasons. The bridge between Tesco's and the College across Hamilton Way would be started in January 2008 and would remain sealed off until the College opened.

It was reported that a number of pupils to the College would be bussed to the site and that the Tesco car park would be utilised to enter and turn round. Negotiations

were currently underway with the bus companies and the College were likely to subsidise several services that may be of benefit to the local community. Councillor Potter stated that she wished, on behalf of local residents, to express concerns at the potential dangers of additional buses using an already dangerous site.

## 212. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

### i) Current Budget 2007/08

It was reported that the current estimated remaining spend for the Area Committee, for the remainder of 2007/08, was £4376.

### ii) New Budget Proposals

The following proposals were reported at the meeting: -

	£
1) <u>Netherhall Travel and Social Committee – Senior Citizens residential – Hampshire</u>	400
2) <u>Thursday Drop-in Groups (Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre) – End of Year Lunch</u>	200

It was reported that, in respect of both of the above applications, the Area Committee had previously awarded funding and that under the current rules no further funding could be granted. Alternative sources of funding would however be advised to the applicants.

Members stated that in future such funding requests should be advised of alternative funding sources prior to the Area Committee meeting.

3) <u>Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre – End of Year Party for Children</u>	250
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It was agreed that a sum of **£200** be granted in respect of the above application.

#### Note:

Councillor Potter disclosed a personal interest in the following application and took no part in the discussion.

4) <u>Cheeky Monkeys Parent and Toddler – End of Year Party at Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre</u>	250
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It was agreed that a sum of **£200** be granted in respect of the above application.

## 213. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

## 214. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted on question forms during the meeting. Discussions that took place about these questions are outlined 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 Area Committee: -

70) **Funding – Raven Centre/Thurnby Lodge Youth Club**

*I would like to ask why the Raven Centre gets money to open when there are no people there, but the Thurnby Lodge Youth Club (Boyzee) gets little money to open and is always full.*

71) **Raven Centre – Opening Times**

*We want the Raven (Centre) to open more times for longer and for all girls and boys 10/16 years old, more clubs and football clubs and dance clubs.*

72) **'No Through' Road Signs – Thurnby Lodge**

*Would the Council consider putting up a 'No Through' road sign on the bungalow areas at Upperhall Close, Upperhall Green and Armadale Green as local tenants are complaining of too many vehicles using these roads as a turning point.*

73) **Skate Park – Grassed area off Thurncourt Road**

*I want a skate park on the big field across the road from the Raven Centre because there are problems on Humberstone Park with no safety.*

74) **Hamilton Way**

*There are two rights of way crossing this road, yet it is very difficult to cross the road at either location. Could at least one pedestrian refuge be installed.*

75) **20mph area – Maidenwell Avenue/Sandhills Avenue**

*The end of Maidenwell Avenue and most of Sandhills Avenue have now been designated a 20mph area, however, this is being ignored by most motorists. What steps are being taken to enforce this limit.*

76) **Bus Service – Columbine Road**

*How does stopping a frequent and much used bus service be classed as 'Improving the amenities in the area' as the stated reason for applying to the Council for the change.*

## **215. INFORMATION SHARING**

There were no items to be shared.

## **216. SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **i) Bus Services**

It was reported that the 40/41 route had now reverted to its' former route meaning that parts of Netherhall were now without a bus service again.

It was suggested and agreed that as there were a number of issues around bus services in the area that representatives from First, Arriva and Centrebus be invited to attend the next meeting.

### **ii) Cuts to Area Committee Budgets**

It was questioned why there would only be £10k allocated to each Ward Committee in future and to question what would happen to the unspent monies held by the current Area Committees.

## **217. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2007 at a venue to be notified.

## **218. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

