



**Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Westcotes and Western Park  
Area Committee**

**RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Thursday, 1 November 2007 at Robert Hall Memorial Baptist Church, Narborough Road (Corner of Upperton Road)**

**Present**

Councillor Sarah Russell, Westcotes (Chair)

Councillor Roger Blackmore, Western Park

Councillor Peter Coley, Western Park

Councillor Andy Connelly, Westcotes

Councillor Michael Cooke, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

Councillor Anne Glover, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

Councillor Wayne Naylor, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields

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**112. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Sarah Russell was elected as Chair for this meeting.

**113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Cooke.

**114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were asked to declare any interests that they may have in the business on the agenda and declare that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

Councillor Naylor declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 10, Area Committee Expenditure, as he was the treasurer of the Kids To Entertain You group that had applied for area committee funding.

## **115. RECORD OF THE LAST MEETING (LILAC)**

The record of the meeting held on 6 September 2007 was agreed as a correct record.

## **116. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT THE LAST MEETING (GREEN)**

Discussions took place on the responses to questions and are outlined as follows:

210 – The Chair re-iterated the officer response and stated that the dates for Area Committee meetings were released publicly as soon as they had been agreed by Members.

219 – In response to a Member of the public claiming that the Council should attempt to do more to improve the frequency of evening bus services, the Chair stated that as bus services were operated by private providers the Council had very little control over influencing such changes, but would happily pass comments on to the providers.

220 – The member of the Public who posed the original question explained that she was interested to find out why the after school clubs had not been re-instated at the Oak Centre. The Chair requested that a further response to this question be provided.

## **117. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following questions were asked and discussed as follows. Questions were then to be sent to relevant officers for a more detailed response, which would then be reported back to the next Committee.

**221)** De Montfort University has had an unfair advantage over other universities because all its student accommodation is located within walking distance of the campus. This is what appeals to students and the reason why it has expanded so rapidly.

The university describes the campus as “a modern student village with a 1000 capacity nightclub at its core”. They don't mention that family homes are located within 300 yards of the nightclub.

**Q1** The Human Rights Act states that everyone has the “right to respect for private and family life, and protection of property”. How can this be achieved when families are kept awake till 5.30am and have their property vandalized throughout the week?

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The Human Rights Act states that everyone has the “right to respect for private and family life, and protection of property”. How can this be achieved when families are kept awake till 5.30am and have their property vandalized throughout the week.

**Q2** Other City Councils have identified demographic imbalance as the root cause of all these problems. They are building student accommodation away from residential areas. I would like to know how can balance be restored in the community when residents are being sandwiched in between the campus core and new student accommodation?

**223)** If all the residents in your street are temporary or non-English speaking, then how is it possible to effectively challenge planning/licensing applications on your own? Also, community campaigns often take years even within a sustainable population. How can residents campaign effectively within a transient population like the West End?

**224)** Fly Boarding is illegal and already being challenged in other parts of the city. Leeds council has gone further and placed restrictions even on legal boards, making them smaller and flush with buildings. Can these ideas be implemented in Westcotes?

**225)** A garage at 2A Wilberforce road is being investigated (Ref:PE/LB/20074623C) for working on the street and ruining the environment. The landlord owns many properties in the area and some of these have gardens filled with rubbish. Why are no conditions being imposed on cowboy landlords in the area?

**226)** The Leicester Mercury has run several articles about emergency vehicles struggling to access the area. Why is illegal parking still not being effectively challenged on Western Road?

**227)** Will we have a bin fine scheme?

**228)** Glasgow Council has a limit of 10% student homes around their campus. Why does the majority of student accommodation still rely on an unregulated private housing market and can such restrictions be implemented here to bring balance to the community.

**229)** Could some one find out what is going to happen to the play equipment that is adjacent to Bendbow Rise School as people were told that when the school moved that the play site would move with the school?

**230)** The grocery shop on Heyford Road has been taken over for Rent. I had a word with the owner about the rubbish and broken glass we walk through. He said that the Council won't listen to him when he rings them to empty it.

**231)** There was insufficient information on the closure of roads for the Leicester marathon, What additional plans are there to avoid the congestion which occurred? Perhaps it is possible to publish a plan of the area with closures marked up in the Leicester Mercury?

**232)** What can be done to clean the pavements of Upperton Road upto the Fosse Road traffic lights. Tonight is a prime example ie bins overflowing, black bags, cardboard, T.V etc. Often residents do not put bins out for emptying and collectors do not empty although it is obvious that this is required.

**233)** Western Park School was closed in 2005 and its site within the park has remained closed ever since. Could you tell us if there are any plans for the building or its site or will it be reopened?

**234)** Is any action being taken over no.3 Upperton Rise where the owner is storing at least 4 skiploads of used bricks and other used building materials on part of his garden which fronts onto the public pavement? He also currently has broken pallets and other rubbish in the adjacent road in the path of passing traffic. The site is an eyesore and is even worse than previous years where the same owner stored old carts and then piles of used breeze blocks.

**235)** What can be done to improve the area of Western Road (especially where it meetings Norman Street and towards Upperton Road Bridge)?

**Issues:**

- 1) Vandalism of Cars
- 2) Dumping of Rubbish, both on the street and in our back and front garden, in bags and loose (fast food wrappers and bottles)
- 3) Graffiti on our house, on the pavement and on the derelict buildings in the area.
- 4) Noise at late hours/early morning up to 3-4am in the form of singing, shouting, violent shouting and recently fireworks
- 5) Burglary

The area has a run down look to it, which does nothing to deter people from antisocial and criminal behavior apart from having to suffer the above problems, it is having an effect on the value of our home.

**236)** Can we limit permits to traders that undertake to charge reasonable prices for their goods?

**237)** Can we liaise with Festivals Unit about action against traders close to organised events?

## **118. REVIEW OF STREET TRADING POLICY**

The committee received a presentation on the review of street trading policy from Rachel Hall, Licensing Team Manager. Rachel broadly described the types of street trading that occurred within Leicester, and explained that a new act came into force in 2006 that gave the Council greater powers which allowed council officers to seize goods and vehicles of traders operating in the consent area without a permit. Rachel explained that the consent area currently comprised the City Centre but that this could be expanded to the whole of Leicester if the Council granted a permit to applicants.

To determine whether such an extension would occur, the Council was to consult existing traders, residents, councillors and school head-teachers. Rachel informed the meeting that it was also vital to seek the views of members of the public and explained that questionnaires on this could be accessed from the council's website ([www.leicester.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.leicester.gov.uk/licensing)) or by contacting the licensing department on 0116 252 7000. Alternatively, attendees were invited to take a copy of the questionnaire away with them. The meeting heard that once the consultation had been completed, the results will be analysed to form a consensus of public opinion and then a policy document would be compiled for Members' approval.

A member of the public asked what resources the Council had at street level to enforce the street trading regulations. Rachel explained that the Council had a Licensing Enforcement Team that comprised of a team manager and four full-time enforcement officers.

Another member of the public asked whether consent for street trading was site specific. Rachel confirmed that this was the case for city centre trading, and that this was normally granted for vendors such as hot food sales vans during evenings.

The Chair thanked Rachel for her presentation and for answering questions.

## **119. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

Alison Bowen, Team Leader, Planning Policy and Design was in attendance to provide a presentation on the Local Government Framework (LDF) Consultation.

Alison explained that an LDF is comprised of a number of separate but related planning documents. She stated that a Core Strategy underpinned this which provided an opportunity for planners to take a fresh look at the City and this would include strong community involvement from the offset. It was intended for the strategy to be completed by 2010.

Alison explained that the main issues within the strategy were the provision of good quality affordable housing, providing a greater number of jobs, ensuring that the City Centre is attractive for businesses and visitors, aiming to increase the number of people who use public transport and cycle, to decide to what extent should less popular open space should be protected and what Leicester can do to help sustain and develop the environment.

Alison encouraged those present to give comments and ideas as part of the LDF consultation by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007, and stated that people could be included on the consultation database.

The Chair thanked Alison for her presentation and stated that Westcotes Library and the Brite Centre were going to be consultation basis. Following a request from a consultee, Alison agreed to investigate whether the Oak Centre could also be used as a consultation base.

## **120. BRAUNSTONE HALL UPDATE**

An Officer from the Resources Department, Leicester City Council had provided a written update on Braunstone Hall. The note explained that the Hall had been marketed and nine expressions of interest had been received, which encompassed a variety of possible uses, and these applications were being considered by officers in consultation with the BCA.

This was welcomed by Members, and the Area Committee would be receiving a further update on Braunstone Hall at a future meeting.

## 121. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET (YELLOW)

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer explained the current position with regard to the Area Committee Budget.

Steve reported that five applications had been submitted to the Area Committee for Members to consider. He informed the meeting that a su of £14,340 was available to be *spent*. The Chair took each application in turn:

D1 Consultation with the public and other stakeholders on the nature and type of Residents Only Parking Scheme to be adopted for the West End area of the City.

The applicant asked for £3,000.  
This was **agreed**.

D2 Consultation of a traffic scheme In Dulverton Road.

The applicant asked for £6,000  
This was **agreed**.

D3 Equipment and safety improvements for The Doghouse Skatepark

The applicant asked for £4,045.99  
This was **not agreed**

Members requested to receive figures in relation to the wards in which service users lived in, as they were not satisfied that the money would support people living within the Area Committee area. The applicant agreed to provide this for the next meeting.

Councillor Naylor also offered to speak to the applicant and discuss possible alternative sources of funding.

D4 Kids to Entertain You (KTEY) Kids in the West End

This application was for 22 group members to perform at "Sunday Night Live at Her Majesty's Royal Theatre" in London's West End.

The applicant asked for £1,180  
This was **agreed**

D5 Braunstone Adventure Playground Mural Project

The applicant asked for £2,300  
This was **agreed**

## **122. PETITIONS**

There were no petitions.

## **123. INFORMATION SHARING/COMMUNITY NEWS**

There was nothing to report.

## **124. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 31 January 2008 at 7.00pm and would take place at Westcotes United Reformed Church, Hinckley Road (corner of Westcotes Drive).

## **125. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

