

## CASTLE COMMUNITY MEETING

MONDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2021

(Hybrid at Room G.01 City Hall and via Zoom)

### ACTION LOG

Present:  
Councillor Kitterick (Chair)  
Councillor Myers

| <b><u>NO.</u></b> | <b><u>ITEM</u></b>  | <b><u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u></b>  |
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| 1.                | <b>INTRODUCTIONS,<br/>APOLOGIES,<br/>DECLARATIONS OF<br/>INTEREST</b> | <p>Councillor Kitterick (in the Chair) led introductions.</p> <p>It was noted that due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, this was the first of any of the Council's Ward Community meetings to be held as a 'Hybrid' with some participants including the Members being at City Hall, and others joining on 'Zoom'. The public, representatives of partner organisations and officers were welcomed to the meeting and were asked and encouraged to participate in the proceedings.</p> <p>The Chair commented on the requirement for public participants at City Hall to move to a separate table to speak, so that they could be seen and heard on the zoom link.</p> <p>An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dr Sangster.</p> <p>There were no Declarations of Interest.</p> |
| 2                 | <b>ACTION LOG</b>   | <p>The Action Log of the meeting held on 9 September 2020 was confirmed as a correct record.</p>   |
| 3.                | <b>WARD<br/>COUNCILLORS<br/>FEEDBACK</b>                              | <p>Councillors referred to the ongoing Covid issues affecting the Ward and casework.</p> <p>Councillor Kitterick advised of recent Planning and Licensing representations, and other matters that were to be covered in subsequent agenda items.</p> <p>Councillor Myers advised of work concerning the International Hotel development, and to significant work in supporting Afghan refugees in to the city.</p>   |

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| <p><b>4.</b></p> | <p><b>POLICE UPDATE</b></p> | <p>Insp. Adam Wardle and Insp. James Smallman submitted apologies, it being noted that operational issues prevented their attendance at City Hall, and access to 'Zoom' was not an available feature at Leicestershire Police.</p> <p>Written updates were submitted and read to the meeting.</p> <p>It was reported that the city had seen a dramatic change in Policing demand following the phased pandemic recovery with a dramatic uplift in the arrival of new student Police Officers.</p> <p>The return of the night time economy, hospitality and retail was welcomed although this had generated much of this additional work.</p> <p>The Policing priorities were,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-Social behaviour linked to Street Lifestyle</li> <li>• Drug taking and Drug Dealing</li> <li>• Cycle Theft</li> <li>• Serious Violence – including Robbery</li> </ul> <p>Specialist resources linked to street lifestyle issues and sex work continued to be offered.</p> <p>A number of problem management plans were in place, including issues linked to ASB and street drinking at the Haymarket Bus station and E-scooters and cyclists on New Walk.</p> <p>Further updates concerning the South Leicester NPA were noted as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insp. Adam Wardle had recently replaced Insp Mike Cawley.</li> <li>• After recent changes South Leicester NPA now covered the area of Clarendon Park and included Victoria Park.</li> <li>• Policing Priorities for Clarendon Park were anti-social behaviour, burglary, vehicle crime and noise</li> <li>• A proactive crime prevention initiative around burglary had begun with enhanced community engagement.</li> <li>• Proactive work continued with partners around Clarendon Park to raise awareness of anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul> |
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|    |                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of beat surgeries had been held around the Clarendon Park area and continue to look to increase sign ups to Neighbourhood Link.</li> <li>• Road safety continued to be addressed.</li> </ul> <p>A summary of neighbourhood activities was also submitted, together with a table showing statistical information on offences in the city and south NPAs for the period to September 2021.</p> <p>Concern was expressed at the need to increase Womens safety through and around Victoria Park, with consultation meetings being suggested. Work continued with the Students Union in this regard and updates would be submitted in due course.</p> <p>In terms of E-Scooters, concern was expressed at the speeds and inconsiderate use, particularly in the city centre and on New Walk. A conversation ensued regarding the legality of their use, whether on the highway, pavements and other public land.</p> <p>The separate enforcement powers of the police and City Wardens were reported and acknowledged and a continued debate would be held to confirm priorities. Residents and groups asked that they be involved in any future consultation on the subject of e-scooters.</p> <p>An ornamental gate designed to create a 'slalom' at the top of New Walk as a physical measure to reduce problems was also being considered.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Chair advised that any Police/Community Safety/City Warden cases, where residents felt uncomfortable in raising issues in the Community Meeting format/forum could be forwarded separately to officers for consideration and action.</p> |
| 5. | <b>CITY WARDEN UPDATE</b> | <p>Mikael Mandhu (City Warden) provided an update on environmental and enforcement activities in the Ward.</p> <p>Particular reference was made to the increased use of e-scooters, referring to the previous debate in the Police report. It was recognised that there was a growing demand for city centre deliveries, which were now made by e-scooters as well as on cycles. Problems with the congregation of delivery workers, scooters and cycles were also being addressed.</p>   |

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|    |                        | <p>The issues were not unique to Leicester and information sharing between authorities was ongoing, with a pilot schemes being introduced and assessed to ensure best practice.</p> <p>In terms of other issues updates were provided on the following areas of activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential areas of the city centre were expanding with increased numbers of flats and tenancies increasing. In the built up areas, problems with waste management were increasing with rubbish bags and items being left on the highway for collection and not in allocated bins or bin areas. Section 46 Notices had been served but the complex prosecution process was reported and acknowledged.</li> </ul> <p>Similar to the above, bars in the city centre were also leaving items in alleyways next to premises, which caused concern with access to flats and in some cases, emergency exits from neighbouring properties. A refresh of responsibilities was required since the ease of lockdown restrictions and the re-opening of hospitality sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The annual consultation with police and student unions concerning 'Freshers organised events' would be commencing shortly. The need to protect the interests of the residents of New Walk were reiterated.</li> </ul> <p>The update was noted, however in respect of the 'Freshers events', apprehension and anxiety was expressed by residents of New Walk, as previous consultation with Universities and the Students Union showed little effect or any improvement in the situation year on year.</p> |
| 6. | <b>HIGHWAYS UPDATE</b> | <p>Ed Kocik (City Highways) provided an update on current and expected highways issues, works and maintenance at various locations in the Ward, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The New Walk scheme 'slalom' gates and barriers (as referred to in previous reports and updates) were ongoing. Some delays with supply of materials had affected progress.</li> </ul>   |

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|    |                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highway works to resurface Oxford Street and Welford Road were ongoing and were due to be finished in November 2021. Works would then continue at Knighton Park Road.</li> <li>• Traffic Regulation Orders were being processed including the Clarendon Park experimental parking scheme. The success (or otherwise) of the experimental Order would determine whether it would be made permanent after 6 months.</li> </ul> <p>With regard to the Clarendon Park Experimental Parking Order, it was reported that initial reaction and responses had generally supported the scheme, with some residents in the wider area asking for their streets to be included. The problems of potentially displacing the parking issues to adjacent streets was noted.</p> <p>Due to consultation and concerns arising from the objectors' report, it had been agreed to circulate enhanced information on the scheme to clarify the situation with permits. Access to the website information was clarified, which included a FAQs section and details of 'visitors permits'.</p> <p>In terms of restrictions for football matchday parking, the problems and complications caused by unknown and irregular match days and times was acknowledged. The enforcement problems expected had meant that separate 'matchday' restrictions would not be included at this stage.</p> <p>In conclusion, the need to ensure that neighbouring Wards benefitted positively was raised, and consultation with Knighton Ward Councillors would be enhanced.</p> |
| 7. | <b>COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET</b> | <p>The Chair referred to the availability of funds and reiterated previous comments that applications in the Castle Ward should show a specific benefit to the Ward and its residents, and not be related to an event or project held centrally for the wider benefit.</p> <p>The position concerning the determination of applications and allocation of the Ward Community Fund was noted and accepted.</p>  |

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|           |                                  | <p>In terms of feedback following funding, which was always encouraged, the Chair commented on the list of recent successful applications and the positive outcomes of the projects funded.</p> <p>It was reported that 'RHS East Midlands in Bloom' had sent a note of thanks and confirmed they had given an award to the Adderley Road Garden Group.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Officer clarified the arrangements for receipt of applications and Councillors reiterated that applications were encouraged.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Chair commented that discussions concerning the 2021 Clarendon Park Christmas Fair were ongoing, with 5 December being expected to be the confirmed date. It was noted that the costs of the event would be partially covered by Ward funding.</p> |
| <b>8.</b> | <b>ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</b> | <p>a) Knighton Library</p> <p>The proposed enhanced use of the library, including options for use out of normal 'library opening hours' was discussed and welcomed.</p> <p>It was reported that the open space area at the rear of the building was also under consideration for an enhanced use.</p> <p>b) Community Theatre</p> <p>As the cinema was intending to re-open shortly, advice was sought on Covid information since the partial relaxation of restrictions and opening of the hospitality sector. It was considered that the Council had advice and information that could be shared with community groups.</p>   |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>CLOSE OF MEETING</b>          | The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.  |