

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Tuesday, 7 October 2008

**Held at: Hope Hamilton C of E Primary School, Sandhills Avenue,
Leicester.**

Who was there:

Councillor Barbara Potter

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘CAROUSEL’ SESSION

The following information stands were sited in the room. Members of the public visited the stands and were given an opportunity to meet Councillors, Council staff and the local Police and to bring enquiries and raise and issues.

Table 1 **General Information**

Table 2 **Cleansing Services**

Table 3 **Leicester Information network**

At the conclusion of this informal session members of the public were invited to take their seats and take part in the formal session of the meeting.

10. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Potter was elected as Chair for this meeting

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Shah and Mugglestone sent their apologies.

Apologies were also received from John Burrows, Chair of the Humberstone Residents Group.

12. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Potter welcomed the attendees to the meeting and introduced the officers. Councillor Potter explained that the agenda items would not be taken in the order as set out on the agenda.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th May 2008 were confirmed and agreed as correct.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Adrian Russell gave a presentation regarding Environmental services in the ward.

Collection and Recycling

He advised that the "Five for Free" service for collecting bulky items had been very popular in the ward with over 1100 collections made in the first six months of the year. He added that only in 1 in 2000 bins have been missed and those reported had been collected the next working day.

Composting and recycling rate for the ward was 33% last year with a further 9% being used for fuel. This equated to 42% of domestic waste diverted from landfill. Adriano explained that all metals and plastic was automatically extracted from the kerbside collections at the Bursam Recycling Site.

Clean Streets

The Council has area-based street cleaning teams working throughout the city to deal with the removal of flytipping, abandoned vehicles, discarded needles and graffiti.

Following national guidelines, levels of cleanliness were monitored monthly with levels of litter, graffiti, flyposting and flytipping assessed in a random selection of streets.

Graffiti removal

A new graffiti removal service had been started to remove graffiti from Virgin Media cable boxes. Virgin Media had agreed to provide funding so that the Council could paint over graffiti on their boxes. Since the scheme began in June of this year 83 boxes had been painted in the ward and a further 1116 city wide.

Pest Control

The Council's pest control team has provided treatment for a wide range of pest in the ward and it was noted that the ward's mouse problems were below city average.

Dog Wardens

Dog wardens dealt with stray, dangerous and nuisance dogs and had dealt with incidents in the ward that were in line with the city average. From September this year Dog Control orders had been introduced giving tougher penalties and fines to persons who failed to clean up after their dogs and dogs were now excluded from children's play areas.

Noisy Neighbours

Many of the noise problems occur outside normal working hours, therefore the Noise Control team had a call out service which operates between 9.00 am and 2.00am Mondays to Fridays and 2.00 pm to 2.00 am Saturdays and Sundays.

This is one of the busiest services provided by Environmental Services and it had dealt with a wide range of complaints during the previous 6 months. Warning letters were sent to those responsible, but if this did not resolve the problem, legal action could be taken, that could also include the confiscation of noisy equipment.

Food premises

The Business Regulations Team had inspected 7 food businesses in the area in the previous 6 months. Businesses are rated on a "Smiley Face" basis. And businesses were encouraged to display these results in a prominent place in their premises.

Licensing – Street Trading

It was stated that there was a general issue around food vans trading outside schools in Leicester. Now all such street traders throughout the city were required to

obtain a street trading licence. The Council have a general presumption against issuing licences, however, each application would be judged on its own merits.

Building Control

Following the earth tremor in February, the 24-hour emergency Building Control Service worked with the Fire and Rescue service to secure unsafe buildings. During the first 6 months of the year, 101 calls were made to deal with a range of building safety concerns.

The Building Control Team were also responsible for securing empty and vandalised buildings, including the arranging of the fitting of steel security shutters to prevent unauthorised access to the building.

10, 000 Trees

This new initiative will see 10,000 trees planted across the city in the next three years. This ambitious project would significantly increase the number of trees in Leicester. Leicester City Council and Groundwork Leicester were seeking feedback as to where and what type of trees to plant.

Trolley Collection

The Meeting asked if the local supermarket could be instructed to retrieve abandoned shopping trolleys from around the area. The Supermarket no longer collected the abandoned trolleys as they had installed a “protection ring” around the store, designed to stop trolleys being removed from the site. However, as this was still a problem in the ward Adrian gave assurances that he would look into the possibility of the council collecting the trolleys and charging the store for the service.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

16. WARD PRIORITIES

The Chair informed the meeting that Priority cards had been circulated at the last meeting and those people present had been asked to select three priorities for inclusion in the Ward Action Plan for the Community Meeting to address.

The Chair explained that the priorities would be discussed in order of priority.

Priority 1 – Public Transport

The Chair explained that the issue of public transport was overwhelmingly the most frequently mentioned issue on the priority cards

The Chair explained the problems regarding the lack of provision of bus services to particular areas of the ward. The Chair also explained that Centrebus had refused to restart the previously ‘re-routed’ Outer Link service. The public present suggested

that a meeting be arranged as soon as possible to discuss what the officers had planned to help alleviate the situation. They felt that the meeting should be open to the public and that an invite sent to the bus companies and Mr Vaz MP, although it was stated that the bus companies might decline to attend a public meeting and that Mr Vaz's schedule may also not allow him to attend. The Community Meeting was advised that the Forum for Older People had previously invited representatives of the bus companies to attend their meeting but they had declined.

The Chair agreed that Mr Vaz MP might have difficulty attending such a meeting but agreed to inform him of the issues. The Chair also confirmed that the Bus company representatives were unlikely to attend but felt it necessary to invite them to explain their point of view.

Priority 2 – Traffic Lights

The Chair informed the meeting that the Regeneration and Culture Department had been informed of the issues in the Ward and would be checking these out and report back in 2009 with a response.

Priority 3 – Road markings

A member of the public commented that the residents had been waiting for a level crossing outside the school for over a year. Leicester City Council had been informed but advised that they could not do anything at the present time as the road had not been adopted. The Chair advised that she would investigate further and request a response.

Priority 4 – Anti-Social behaviour

A representative of the Police advised that not enough information had been passed to them regarding this matter. The Anti- Social Behaviour unit and the Police would be working together to address this issue and make it easier and safer for the general public to report. The representative of the Police advised communication between the residents and the Police could be improved.

Residents voiced opinions that the anti-social behaviour stemmed from the lack of provision of amenities for children and teenagers in the area. They agreed that even though the Police could help with short-term solutions, it was the council's responsibility to implement the provision of facilities.

The Chair agreed to try and arrange a resident's consultation meeting on the matter.

RESOLVED:

that the actions proposed be noted.

17. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

The Chair explained that the community meeting budget of £12,000 per ward was divided into three separate budgets for use in the community.

- Community Chest
- Community Cohesion Funds
- Ward Action Plan priorities

The Chair advised that three bids had already been made.

1. Netherhall Community Transport Project

Netherhall Crew had submitted a Ward Action Plan Proposal for £5000 to enable the previously Area Committee funded (£1500) taxi service to continue. The service provided transport for elderly residents to and from essential amenities in the area.

2. Winter Wonderland

Netherhall Crew had submitted a Community Fund Proposal to fund a Christmas themed social inclusion event held in the community centre organised by The Netherhall Crew. The bid was for £300 to help with the organisational costs.

3. Humberstone Carnival

Humberstone Village Community Forum had applied for £500 from the Cohesion Fund for an all day carnival including stalls and events for all the family. The Chair advised that as the Carnival was due to take place in August 2009, it would be more appropriate to apply for funding in February.

The meeting was informed that, as the meeting was not quorate, the support, or otherwise, was sought from the meeting and that the proposals would then be circulated to Councillor Mugglestone and Councillor Shah for their comments.

RESOLVED:

That the following comments be noted: -

- 1) Netherhall Community Transport Project - **Proposal Supported**
- 2) Winter Wonderland – **Proposal Supported**
- 3) Humberstone Carnival – **Applicant requested to re-apply nearer the event, from the 2009/10 Budget, as the event was to take place in August 2009.**

18. SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The representative for the Special Olympics did not attend.

19. COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Jayne Linney explained that the council were looking for volunteers to sign up to be community partners. People with a range of skills who wanted to see a difference in their community, had effective communication skills and were able to dedicate some time were asked to apply. The community partners would be consulted about priorities in the ward and take an active part in addressing ward issues. Applicants were informed that they would need to fill in the relevant form and, if successful, would be appointed early next year.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Youth Club

It was reported that a community youth club had been started on the 7th October in the retail unit, donated by Tesco. 3 days a week for young people at the following times.

Tuesdays - 15.00 – 17.30 for the 11-14 year old age group

Thursdays - 15.00 – 17.30 for the 15 to 18 year old age group

Fridays - 20.00 – 22.00 for the 15 to 18 year old age group

It had proved very successful and popular, however, the group were looking for adults to volunteer as supervisors.

2. Manor Farm Community Project

The Manor Farm buildings, under ownership of Leicester City Council, were soon to have their tenancy renewed. It was suggested that an initiative be drawn up and submitted to the City Council to help ensure that the facility can be best used by the community

3. Community Requirements

The Community Meeting was asked to identify facilities most needed in the area. The following suggestions were put forward: -

1. Community Centre
2. Local Post Office
3. A Playground
4. A local day-care centre for the elderly

The Chair advised that the issues around the provision of a post office had already been raised and that the possibility of siting a post office at Tesco was currently being investigated.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was reported that the next meeting was scheduled for 4th or 11th of February with the possibility of an interim meeting with the Bus companies and Keith Vaz. MP.

22. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.03 pm.

