

## FOSSE COMMUNITY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2022

Woodgate Resource Centre, 36 Woodgate, Leicester, LE3 5GE

Present: Councillor Cassidy (Chair)  
Councillor Waddington

<b>NO</b>	<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>ACTION REQUESTED AT MEETING</u></b>
1.	<b>INTRODUCTIONS &amp; APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>	<p>Councillor Cassidy as Chair led on introductions and welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Members were asked to declare any interest they might have in the agenda items to be discussed. No declarations of interest were made.</p>
2.	<b>ACTION LOG</b>	<p>The Action Log of the previous meeting held on 22 February 2022 was confirmed as a correct record.</p>
3.	<b>HIGHWAYS UPDATE</b>	<p>The Chair notified the meeting that the agenda items would be heard out of order.</p> <p>The Chair introduced Councillor Clarke, Deputy City Mayor with responsibility for Transport, Clean Air and Climate Emergency. He thanked the ward councillors for allowing him the opportunity attend the meeting to inform residents of plans for the area in terms of highways. The Chair explained the role of the Executive to residents.</p> <p>Officers provided the following information on works undertaken in the ward over the past 12 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inspection of the Ward's roads continued, with works including patch-up, gully work and fencing repairs undertaken.</li><li>• Railings and bollards had been fitted along Tudor Road / Tudor Close.</li><li>• Blackbird Road speed had been reduced from 40mph to 30mph as part of wider works for the area.</li><li>• Residents were consulted over residents parking schemes in Woodgate and Tudor Road. Woodgate online consultation (90 responses) was held from 11 March to 24 April 2022, and public exhibitions (32 visitors) held.</li><li>• An update was provided on the Safer Walking /</li></ul>

Cycling route from Beaumont Leys to Five-Ways, through to Woodgate and then Highcross Street, to provide a safer corridor, and link from the city centre to Beaumont Leys:

- In order to reduce the impact of motor vehicles on the environment, several experimental road closures, such as the one on Buckminster Road, were being brought in around the city in order to improve walking and cycling facilities. It was noted that the Authority could have gone ahead with a permanent closure. An experimental closure could be in position for 18 months, with the objection period for the first six months. Officers had until mid-May 2023 to make a decision on the Buckminster Road closure. If the decision was made to make the closure permanent, it would need to be considered by an independent inspector.
- Feedback had also been received from other parts of the area, from residents who were grateful for the road closure as they had seen a reduction in traffic.
- Traffic counts had been undertaken before and during the enclosure, and another count would be undertaken late September 2022, in order to view changes in traffic flow. It had been noted there had been a significant reduction in vehicle movement in the area, but the issue was that more traffic had been moving along Colwell Road, which was being addressed.

Residents were then given the opportunity to provide feedback and to raise concerns:

- Colwell Road was a narrow compared to Buckminster Road, with frontages of the houses close to the road. It was calculated that the volume of traffic was up by 80%, with large lorries and vans using the road. It was thought that over time it could undermine the foundations of the houses which were so near the road.
- Speeding on the road was an issue, with worries of damage to parked vehicles.
- When using off road parking, it was difficult to drive out onto the road or to park because of a blocked view from other cars and queuing traffic.
- The original letter received from residents was Buckminster Road had been closed to prevent rat running from Anstey Lane to Groby Road, reduce congestion and improve air quality.

- Since the bus lane on Groby Road had been brought in, it had moved traffic down Brading Road onto Buckminster Road and Colwell Road. The suggestion of Colwell Road being made one way was welcomed. The bus lane being 24hours was also questioned.

Officers had been out to talk to residents with a suggestion for Colwell to make a short section one way and were asking for feedback. Other options to be considered were traffic calming measures once up-to-date information had been received. Officers were looking at a combination of factors to try to address the situation, whilst keeping residents on board.

Other comments from residents included:

- A resident who lived on Buckminster Road stated the road was more peaceful but traffic was faster.
- A suggestion was made to make Buckminster Road one way and to leave Colwell Road as it was.
- It was safer for children to walk on Buckminster Road because the paths were wider.
- With the road closure, people were having to drive around the area, which caused more pollution.
- With the proposed removal of the right turn from Woodgate onto Buckminster Road / Blackbird Road, it would force more drivers onto Medina Road.
- There were issues with people visiting the Anstey Lane Club parking at the top of Colwell Road.
- It was asked if a restriction could be placed on Colwell Road to prevent heavy goods vehicles.
- It was asked where cars were going to park when the development in front of the shops started.
- There were derelict cars on Bradgate Street that needed removing.
- There was increased traffic since the introduction of the bus lane on Groby Road. Particularly down Medina Road.
- Residents asked for parking bays at Buckminster Road shops and the GP surgery on Groby Road.

Residents asked why the bus lane on Groby Road was 24 hours for infrequent buses. Officers explained that where there were no other particular demands such as shops, etc. and if the lane worked during peak times, there was no need to have it timed. It was

further explained the bus lane had been installed before commencement of the Five Ways junction work, as there was an economic case for the buses not to be delayed. It was noted that if the small part of bus lane after Medina did not work it could be altered if necessary.

It was noted that Groby Road had double yellow lines, which had been in place before the bus lane was installed, therefore homeowners and delivery drivers should abide by the yellow lines and not park on the pathway and cycle lane.

The Deputy City Mayor stated the aim and design of the scheme was to reduce the carbon footprint, improve air quality and make streets safety by dissipating traffic on the 'A' Roads away from residential streets, and that the road closure was experimental to see if there was a change in traffic flow. As part of the experiment it was also hoped it would encourage more people to walk short journeys.

He said that the reason he had attended the meeting was to listen to residents, and that he had heard points made at the meeting he had not heard before and he would take all of them on board. He asked those present that he hoped they appreciated the motive and challenges for the city, to improve air quality, the climate and provide safer streets with competing demands, and he wanted to get to a point where lives were improved.

Officers noted the issues being faced on Colwell Road and a solution would be sought that would be beneficial to Colwell Road. Officers had also picked up the point around increased traffic due to the bus lane.

Officers then discussed the proposed works on the complex Five Ways junction. It was explained that when constructed 40+ years ago there was less traffic on the road. It was reported the junction had the highest accident rates than any other part of the city and was difficult to manage. When looking at the larger scale development in the area, it was appreciated the area used to be largely industrial, but now with more residential development the route could no longer cope. The reconstruction of the junction would make it a safer, more sensible junction to cope with new development, hence the rebuild of

		<p>Ravensbridge Drive and Blackbird Road junction that had taken place. The removing of the right turn from Woodgate onto Blackbird Road would give more time for the movement of traffic.</p> <p>Members of Woodgate Residents Association had submitted objections against the Five Ways scheme which would have impact on nearby Woodgate Streets with cut through and would impact shoppers going to Aldi. It was further stated that with the removal of the right-hand turn, there would be additional traffic on Medina Road with the potential for build-up of traffic on Groby Road wanting to turn right. It was also noted that notices to changes in parking were confusing.</p> <p>Other road issues in the area were put forward by residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A request was made for traffic calming on Wentworth Road. It was noted the request had been passed to the Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhoods Team.</li> <li>• Tudor Close was accessed from Tudor Road and was usually blocked by shop and school traffic. The issue would be addressed when consulting on the residents parking scheme.</li> <li>• Pavement parking caused obstructions. The PCSO informed the meeting that people should report obstructions to the police who could recover the vehicle following a period of observation. It was noted that double yellow lines also applied to pathways up to property boundaries.</li> </ul>
4.	<b>WARD COUNCILLORS FEEDBACK</b>	<p>A Fosse Ward newsletter is attached for information.</p> <p>Councillor Waddington reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents had been consulted on residents parking. There had been two public events and leafleting.</li> <li>• Response figures had been low but were higher in Woodgate than Tudor Road.</li> <li>• People that responded wanted a 24 hour, 7 days a week scheme.</li> <li>• Another leaflet consultation had taken place with a 'Yes /No' answer to if people wanted a scheme.</li> <li>• Tudor Road had a low response with main issues arising towards King Richards Road / Tudor Close area.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents Parking Scheme would be brought to a future meeting in the Ward.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>POLICE UPDATE</b>	<p>It was reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issues of cars parked on Bradgate Street had been difficult to address as it was privately owned the land.</li> <li>Car obstruction was being looked into.</li> </ul> <p>Residents raised issues on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concern that people would use Aldi as a cut through from Blackbird Road when the Five Ways junction works commenced. Bradgate Street Aldi access was no entry.</li> <li>The other issue in the area were people using one-way streets the wrong way in Woodgate.</li> <li>Cyclists / electric bikes / scooter problems needed to be addressed.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Waddington requested that crime figures for the area be brought to the next ward meeting.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<b>CITY WARDEN UPDATE</b>	<p>An update was provided and is attached for information.</p> <p>Residents were also encouraged to report obstructing vehicles to the City Warden.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET</b>	<p>It was reported that since 1 April 2022, 17 applications had been supported totalling £10,638. The balance was £9,346.</p> <p>It was explained that there could be no carry forward of funding because of the local election in 2023.</p> <p>Groups were encouraged to apply for funding before then end of the financial year, but preferably by February 2023.</p> <p>Maxine and Rachel from Woodgate Adventure Playground provided information on their Alice in Wonderland themed tea party that had taken place for children, family and friends, and brought art pieces to the meeting to display. Some 269 people had attended the event which was free of charge to the local community. Positive comments had been posted on Facebook.</p>

		<p>Councillor Waddington said it had been a wonderful event and thanked everyone that had taken part to make it a success.</p> <p>Geoff Forse reported that the hanging baskets on Woodgate had been provided through funding. A new floor had also been installed in the Resource Centre following a funding application.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• St Pauls in the Ward was now a Conservation Area.</li> <li>• The Selective Licensing policy had been introduced by the Council, which was the option that would benefit Fosse Ward the most.</li> <li>• It covered areas with high numbers of noise and anti-social behaviour complaints, the disrepair of houses and fly-tipping.</li> <li>• Private landlords would need to register with the Council.</li> <li>• The Council now had powers to enter a property.</li> <li>• The Council was working with all organisations to find out what properties were rented out privately.</li> <li>• Anyone in private rented accommodation would report issues to Councillors. It was noted there would be a specific team looking after the licensing of landlords, the costs for which would be financed through the scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair asked that an update on the Fosse Road school development be brought to the next meeting.</p> <p>The meeting ended at 8.10pm</p>







## Residents' parking schemes update

From March to May this year, Leicester City Council invited residents and businesses in the Woodgate and Tudor Road areas to give their views on the potential introduction of residents' parking schemes in those areas.

Residents and businesses were able to give their views by completing the online consultation, as well as by attending public exhibitions where they could talk to the ward councillors and council officers about the proposed schemes and traffic issues.

The data and feedback is currently being analysed with a view to formulating more specific proposals in consultation with ward councillors. These proposals should be made public in the autumn.

## Improving privately rented accommodation

From 10 October, most landlords of all kinds of privately rented housing in Fosse ward will have to apply for a licence from Leicester City Council. They will also have to prove that they are acting responsibly on issues such as gas and electrical safety, smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and dealing with repairs and problems about waste disposal, tenancy management and anti-social behaviour.

This scheme is much needed in our area, as we have received many complaints from tenants and their neighbours about 'rogue' landlords who neglect their properties and the management of their tenancies. This often results in problems for tenants and the wider neighbourhood, which can be difficult to resolve.

This 'selective licensing scheme' will operate in the parts of the city which have suffered from the most problems and will allow the council to inspect and force bad landlords to take action and improve housing standards.



## Councillors' surgeries

Cllr Ted Cassidy and Cllr Sue Waddington hold surgeries on the second Saturday of each month at Woodgate Resource Centre, and the third Saturday of each month at Fosse Library.

All surgeries run from 11am-12noon



# Fosse Ward

This newsletter has been prepared by Leicester City Council to update local residents and stakeholders with the latest information

## Woodgate Community Food

During the first wave of the pandemic in early 2020, we formed the Fosse Mutual Aid Group to support residents with food and prescription collections, dog walking and other activities.

It soon became clear that there were many people struggling to eat as well as pay their bills. So, with the help of volunteers, Woodgate Community Food launched in June 2020, based at Rally House at the end of Bonchurch Street.

Since then, Woodgate Community Food has helped more than 3,000 people and the numbers grow each week – from around 30 families a week initially to around 130 now.

Through fundraising, donations and financial support from the council, the foodbank is open on Saturday mornings and provides people with weekly top-ups of food. Furthermore, it is entirely volunteer-run.

If you'd like to find out more, or have an idea for how Woodgate Community Food can help more people in the community, you can get in touch. Call 0116 403 0146, text 07520 634584 or email [woodgatecommunityfood@gmail.com](mailto:woodgatecommunityfood@gmail.com). You can also search for Woodgate Community Food on Facebook.



## Vernon Street gardens reopens

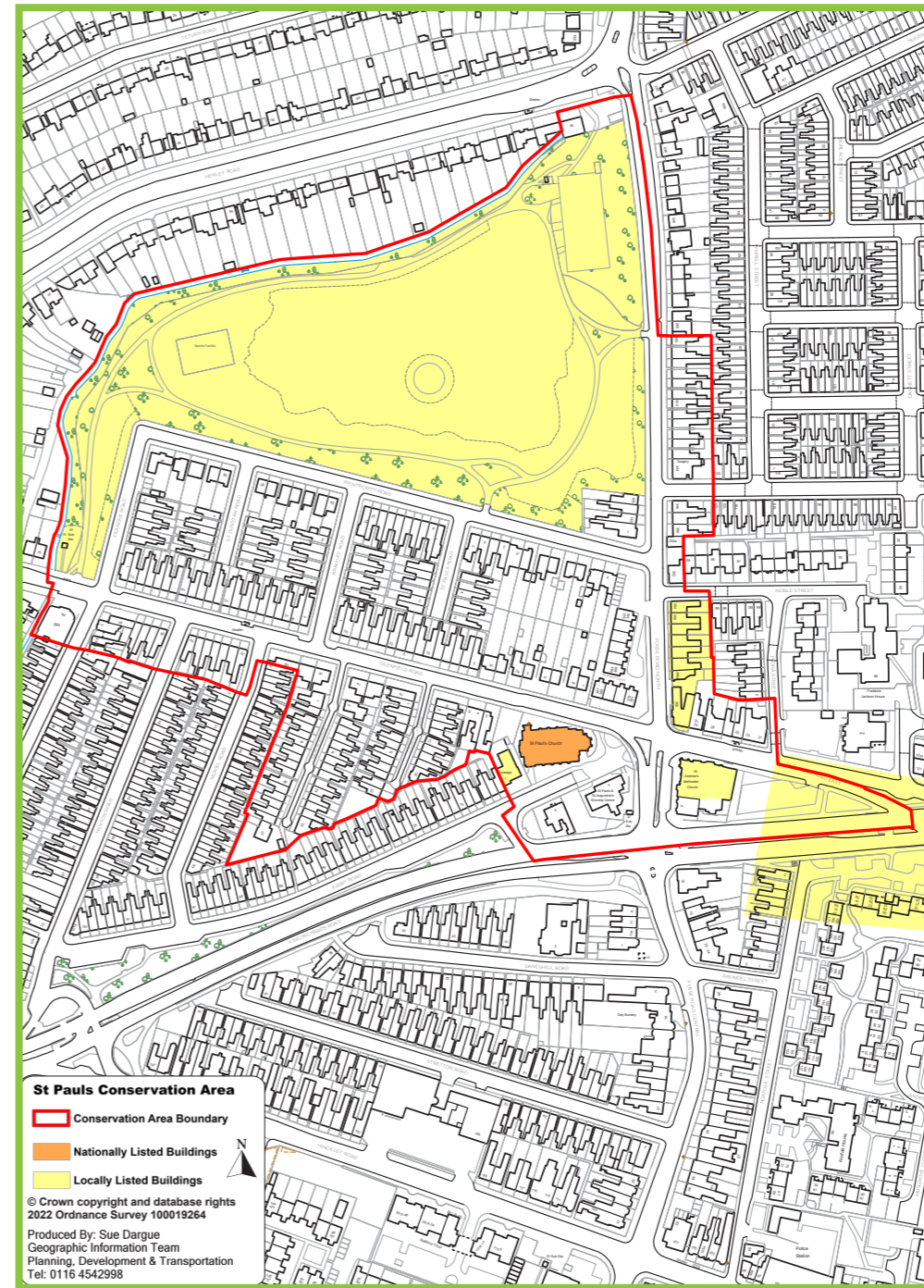
Your Fosse ward councillors Ted Cassidy and Sue Waddington at the recent reopening of the Vernon Street gardens.

# Ward funded platinum jubilee events

A range of activities supported by community ward funding took place in the ward to celebrate the platinum jubilee.

These included a free picnic at Rally House, to a Mad Hatter's tea party for families at the Woodgate adventure playground.

Ward funding is available to support small community groups to stage events of this type throughout the year, as well as other small projects. You can find out more information about ward funding, including guidelines, at [leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings](https://leicester.gov.uk/communitymeetings)



## St Paul's conservation area designation

We carried out a public consultation last year on the potential designation of a new conservation area in Fosse Ward. The proposal was supported by 95% of people who responded.

The area in question is shown on this map. It sits close to the north of the West End conservation area and features part of the Victorian suburban expansion of the city out to the west.

The council has now designated this area as St Paul's conservation area. This means

that there are now some restrictions on development rights to help ensure that change is managed in a way that maintains and enhances the special qualities of the conservation area. All properties in the new conservation area will receive a letter that explains the changes.

You can find out more about what this means at [leicester.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation/heritage-conservation/conservation-areas](https://leicester.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation/heritage-conservation/conservation-areas)

# Minute Item 6

## Fosse ward update

### Bins on the street

The bins on the street project started in April with the whole team visiting the ward as a result 1077 properties were identified as leaving their wheelie bin or household waste out on the public highway and were issued with a first warning. The second visit took place in late May and the third stage visits have also been completed. All properties that are still leaving out household waste or their bins will now receive a fine per adult per household.

### Alleyways

All alleyways are private land and not the responsibility of Leicester City Council to clear or maintain. The signage for this has finally arrived with the handyperson service and they will be fixing to the alley gates.

We have also set up on my account the ability to request and pay for an alley gate key if the original lock is still intact and we have the master key. If the lock has been changed, they will need to sort this out with neighbours as it is a civil matter and we do not own the gates. They can also request and pay for any maintenance for the alley gates.

A number of properties have been sent a S78 letter reminding occupiers that it is their responsibility to clear all waste and maintain their alleyways.

### Fly tipping

This is still an issue but is being dealt with as part of the bins project as the majority of waste is not actual flytipping but excess waste put by the side of the bins and left.

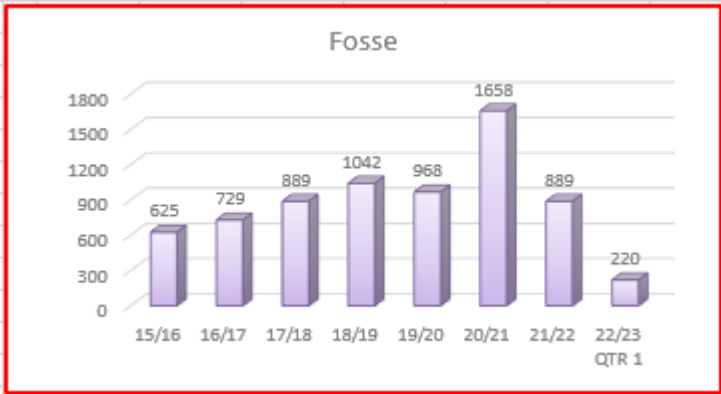
A business is currently under investigation after evidence was found from their business in a fly tip on Tyrrell Street. A PACE by post is being conducted and checks in to their duty of care will be done.

A property on Fosse Road North is currently under investigation after on-going issues of fly tipping by residents. CCTV footage has been obtained and PACE interviews are to be conducted.

Various properties have been served community protection warning notices and legal notices for items/waste being left outside of their properties. High compliance rate after notices issued.

The top fly tipped streets have all been written to and a multi lingual booklet delivered to explain the offences and how to dispose of their waste correctly.

The chart below shows the flytipping year on year with a huge spike during lockdown when the tips were closed.



Untidy land

Hinckley Road explosion site has now been made secure and overgrowth and waste has been cleared after notices were issued to all land owners.

Any other issues

Any other issues can be reported to me via the Love Leicester app or via myaccount on the Leicester City Council website.