

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Monday, 15 December 2008**

**Held at: Coleman Primary School, Gwendolen Road, Leicester**

Who was there:

Councillor Hanif Aqbany
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Councillor Dr Shofiqui Chowdhury
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## 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**

#### **Ward Councillors**

Members of the public were given an opportunity to talk to Councillors Aqbany and Chowdhury before the formal meeting commenced

### **TABLE 2**

#### **Cleansing Services (Leicester City Council)**

Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Manager and Steve Chenglen, City Warden with responsibility for Spinney Hills were in attendance to talk to members of the public

### **TABLE 3**

#### **Police**

Residents were given an opportunity to raise any queries with a representative from the police

### **TABLE 4**

#### **Leicester LINK**

Jon Davis from the Carers' Federation was present to talk to members of the public about how they could get involved in the Local Involvement Network, an organisation that looked at how health services were delivered in Leicester.

### **TABLE 5**

#### **Domestic Violence**

Stephanie McBurney, Domestic Violence Co-ordinator and Shobhana Patel, Community Safety Team, were in attendance to talk to members of the public about issues relating to domestic violence

### **TABLE 6**

#### **Special Olympics**

Members of the public were given an opportunity to talk to Steve Humphries, Games Director, Special Olympics about the games that were scheduled to be held in Leicester in July 2009

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.

## **20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor Dawood submitted his apologies for the meeting, and in his absence Councillor Chowdhury explained that he would chair the meeting.

## **21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were asked to declare any interests they might have in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Act applied to them.

No such declarations were made.

## **22. RECORD OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Spinney Hills Community Meeting held on 20 October 2008 had been previously circulated and Members were asked to approve them as a correct record.

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Spinney Hills Community Meeting held on 20 October 2008 be agreed as a correct record.

## **23. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET**

Councillor Chowdhury introduced the Community Meeting Budget and explained that an application for £1300 from the Ward Action Plan Budget had been received from St Matthew's Young People's Neighbourhood Board. Peter Oliver, Assistant Neighbourhood Manager and two of the young people from the Neighbourhood Board were introduced to the meeting and they gave a short presentation on their funding application.

They explained that the St Matthew's Young People's Neighbourhood Board arranged meetings and organised activities for young people, but they felt that more activities and sports were needed. The budget proposal was to request funding to provide the following activities:

- Learning to cook/healthy eating workshops
- Creative music workshops
- Access to health and fitness activities

Further details and a breakdown of costs were distributed to members of the public at the meeting.

Councillor Chowdhury explained that if the Community Meeting supported the funding application, the recommendation would go to Cabinet for approval.

RESOLVED:

that it be agreed that the funding application be supported.

Councillor Chowdhury thanked the young people for their presentation and invited other groups to submit funding applications to the Community Meeting.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
The budget application that the Members had agreed to support, to be submitted to the Cabinet for decision.	Jayne Linney, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible

## 24. WARD ACTION PLAN

Jayne Linney, the Member Support Officer to the Committee, gave a short update on the Spinney Hills Community Meeting Ward Action Plan. Jayne explained that parking problems around the St Peters, St Matthews and Worthington Street areas had been identified by residents and an Officer from the Leicester City Council Highways Department would be invited to attend the next Community Meeting.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
An Officer from the Highways Department to be invited to attend the next Spinney Hills Community Meeting	Jayne Linney, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible

Jayne also explained that funding applications in respect of activities for young people would also be welcome, to address issues raised in the Ward Action Plan.

Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Manager, Regeneration and Culture was then introduced to the meeting. Barbara explained that the new City Wardens Scheme had been introduced to help improve the quality of the local environment by working on a more pro-active basis. Barbara introduced Steve Chang-leng, the Warden for Spinney Hills to the meeting, and explained that:

- the Wardens would work closely with the local communities and schools
- they would help to educate the public
- they would help direct members of the public to relevant council departments where they could not deal with an enquiry themselves
- they would spend most of their time out on the streets and were not office based
- they could issue on the spot enforcement fines for a variety of offences: for example an £80 fixed penalty fine could be issued for dropping litter
- the Wardens also were responsible for reporting a variety of problems to the relevant council departments; such as abandoned vehicles, stray dogs etc

The problems created by residents who sold vehicles from off the streets was also raised and Barbara explained that the council was currently investigating ways of dealing with this. It was intended that they would initially start with problems on East Park Road.

Barbara finished her presentation by asking residents to phone the City Wardens on 2527002, regarding any environmental problems or issues in Spinney Hills. Barbara added that the more the residents contacted them, the more problems and issues the Wardens would be aware of and could therefore respond to.

## **25. COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

The Chair explained that this item would be deferred to the next Spinney Hills Community Meeting.

## **26. SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

Steve Humphries, Games Director, Special Olympics was introduced to the meeting and Steve explained that the Special Olympics would be held in Leicester from 25 - 31 July 2009. The meeting heard that:

- The Special Olympics were the third member of the “Olympics family” and the games were for athletes with learning disabilities. These games therefore differed from the Paralympics, which were for athletes with physical disabilities
- The Special Olympics were last held in Leicester in 1989
- The games would be a major event for the City; Leicester had not staged a national event for 20 years and the games would also be part of the journey towards London 2012
- The Special Olympics 2009 would provide a fantastic opportunity for Leicester to show the rest of the world, why the city was so special
- The athletes participating would be treated as V.I.P.s and the competition was all about them and their talents
- Events would be held in various different parts of Leicestershire including Abbey Park, Grace Road, the Walkers Stadium, Oadby and Rutland Water
- The games village would be centred around Walkers Stadium
- There would be opportunities for athletes, families and volunteers to socialise in the evening
- 2700 athletes would take part in 21 sports over 7 days
- 1500 volunteers to help with the events were needed and Steve had information on volunteering opportunities for anyone who was interested. Information was also on the Leicester City Council website:  
<http://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-council--services/lc/sports-services/news-update---2007/special-olympics-2009>

- Volunteers were needed to help with a wide selection of duties including catering, car parking and acting as stewards
- It was anticipated that a deal with a television company to broadcast the games would soon be signed; this had never happened before with the Special Olympics
- The Special Olympics received no Government funding, unlike the Paralympics. It was hoped however that some major sponsors would become involved in the games
- Martin Johnson, Gary Linekar and Englebert Humperdink were all patrons of the Special Olympic Games 2009

Steve was thanked for a very interesting and inspiring presentation.

## **27. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

