

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:30 pm, Wednesday, 18 March 2009

Held at: The Tudor Centre, Bewcastle Road

Who was there:

Councillor Harshad Bhavsar
Councillor Annette Byrne
Councillor Colin Marriott

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**

Table 2 **Community and Healthy Living Centres**
Officers were available to talk about Community and Healthy Living Centres.

Table 3 **Adult Learning Opportunities**
Information was available on adult learning opportunities in the area.

Table 4 **Mowmacre Tenants and Residents Association**
Representatives were on hand from the Mowmacre Tenants and Residents Association.

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.

29. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Marriott was elected as Chair.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies of absence were received.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Marriott declared a personal and prejudicial interest on Agenda Item 5 – Community Meeting Budget and in particular relating to the funding application for the Bedale Nature Amenity Area and the funding application for the St Georges Day Community Events. Councillor Marriott agreed to leave the meeting during the consideration of both funding applications.

32. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Abbey Community meeting held on 11 November 2008, were circulated and Members were asked to approve them as a correct record of the meeting.

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, confirmed to the meeting that the resolution in relation to the funding application should have detailed support for a funding application to the value of £1,500 and not £2,500 as indicated in the minutes.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Abbey Community Meeting held on 11 November 2008, subject to the above amendment, be approved as a correct record of the meeting.

33. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, provided a verbal update on the Community Meeting Budget and the various increases in budget amounts for the 2009/2010 period, and also explained that the budget application for the Republic of India Celebrations had been fast-tracked which was within the Community fund rules. An outline of the budget applications received since the meeting had been convened was also provided and applicants were invited to present each funding application.

Funding Application – Tuesday Social Bingo Club Room Rental

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, explained that the Community Meeting fund rules prevented the approval of funding applications that included elements of betting or gambling. Councillor Marriott reiterated this. Steve Letten, Members Support

Officer, explained to the meeting that the applicant had been informed and a revised funding application had been made.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £260.00 not be supported for the above reasons.

Funding Application – Tuesday Social Bingo Club Outing

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £200.00 be supported.

Funding Application – Community Meeting Transport

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £56.00 be supported.

Funding Application – Growing for Life Education Project

Councillor Marriott queried with the applicant the total percentage of people that utilised the Redhill Allotment from within the Abbey ward.

Councillor Bhavsar explained to the meeting that consideration was being given to supporting the allocation of an amount of money proportionate to the number of people from within the Abbey ward that use the Redhill allotment site.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.50pm, to allow for Members to seek advice from Steve Letten, Member Support Officer. The meeting reconvened at 7.55pm.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £2150.00 be supported, subject to the condition that £100 of the funding be used for publicity of the project within the Abbey Ward.

Funding Application – Bedale Road Pond Reclamation

Having confirmed a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to this application Councillor Marriott left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, confirmed that the funding application included for the purchase of some tools, and that consideration should be given to including a requirement that the tools be deposited in the Friends of Mowmacre Society once the project concluded.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £2000.00, subject to the condition that the tools be deposited in the Friends of Mowmacre Society once the project concludes, be supported.

Funding Application – Bringing Communities Together

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £1000 be supported.

Funding Application – St Georges Day Community Events

Having confirmed a personal and prejudicial interest in relation to this application Councillor Marriott left the meeting for the consideration of this item.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application for £735.00 be supported.

Funding Application – Beaumont Town Football Club

Councillor Marriott questioned the applicant on the percentage of members of the football club from the Abbey ward. In response it was stated that 60% of the members of the club resided in the Abbey ward.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that 60% of figure outlined in the funding application be supported.

Funding Application – Thursday Bingo

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, explained to the meeting that the Community Meeting fund rules prevented the approval of funding applications that included elements of betting or gambling, and that the applicants had been advised of this and were considering whether to submit a revised funding application.

RESOLVED:

That it be agreed that the funding application be deferred to allow the applicant to submit a revised application.

34. WARD ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, gave a verbal update on the ward action plan, including the development of the ward priorities. The following priority areas were outlined at the meeting:

1. Youth and Children's Services
2. Crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Policing, and Drink/Drugs
3. Traffic and Parking
4. Street Cleaning and Fly Tipping, and
5. Roads and Pavements

It was also stated that the focus on ward meetings for the 2008/2009 year was on Environmental Services, and that this would change to Traffic and Highways for the 2009/2010 year which corresponded with the ward action plan.

A resident questioned whether the issue around older peoples facilities and activities in the area could be added to the ward action plan. Councillors Bhavsar, Byrne and Marriott agreed.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
Add Older Peoples Facilities and Activities to the Ward Action Plan	Steve Letten	ASAP

35. TRAVELLERS

Adrian Russell, Service Director – Environmental Services, gave a verbal update on the matter. It was stated that:

- Problems generated by travellers in the city over the past five years hadn't been too bad as most of the encampments were linked to one family;
- The situation had worsened in the last 12 months;
- Additional travellers from outside of Leicester had moved to the area, and were causing additional problems;
- The Council procedure for dealing with encampments;
- Eviction was not a quick process due to the information gathering required; and
- That a new multi-agency initiative had been launched throughout Leicestershire. It was stated that this would lead to a streamlined decision making process and a faster decision.

Residents raised the following questions:

- Why did the Council need to reassess the families on Western Park if they are the same problem family?
- Could the Council have provided a skip on each site to address the rubbish problems?
- Why had it taken so long to form a multi agency working group?
- Why had the rubbish at the spinney on Thurcaston Road not been cleared? The ditch was full of carrots and horses were using the playing field.

Adrian Russell, Service Director – Environmental Services, responded by stating that:

- Information was needed from local people on problems to back up any court action as all matters would be taken into account;
- A skip would be used for purposes in addition to what it was required for;
- Previously not all authorities throughout Leicestershire wanted to support the establishment of such a group; and
- That action would be taken to clean the Thurcaston Road Spinney and the issues of horses would be followed up.

Action	Officer/Councillor Identified	Deadline
That the Thurcaston Road Spinney be cleared and the issue of horses be investigated	Steve Letten	ASAP

36. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Local Policing Unit

Officers from the Local Policy Unit were introduced to the meeting, and a verbal presentation covered the recent work undertaken. It was stated that;

- Over 60 arrests had been made since January 2009;
- Burglary dwellings had increased since Christmas, but a prolific offender had since been caught and imprisoned;
- A series of alcohol test alcohol purchases had been made;
- On the spot speeding checks had taken place.

37. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

