

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 21 January 2009

Held at: Gilmorton Community Rooms

Who was there:

Councillor Nigel Porter

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 Gilmorton Neighbourhood Agreement Consultation

Table 3 Police and Community Support Group

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.

23. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Porter was elected as Chair for the meeting.

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Chambers.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Porter declared a prejudicial interest in budget application C1, as he was a Member of the Aylestone Meadows Appreciation Society, who had submitted the bid. He stated that he would not discuss the bid.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Aylestone Community Meeting held on 17 September 2008 be confirmed as a correct record.

27. UPDATE ON THE LANSDOWNE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE PROPOSALS

Rev Alistair Helm, Vicar of the Church of the Nativity, Cavendish Road, gave a short update on the proposals for the Lansdowne Neighbourhood Centre.

He explained that a steering group, led by Steve Goddard, Head of Community Services had been set up to deal with the legal aspects of the proposals to upgrade the centre, and that one meeting of the group had taken place to date.

Rev Alistair Helm made it clear that the steering group was looking at shared use for the building, and that the centre had been identified as a possible one-stop-shop by Children and Young People's Services.

28. TRAFFIC ISSUES IN AYLESTONE

Paul Commons, Team Leader, Transport Development Section, Regeneration and Culture Department, was present to lead a discussion on traffic issues in the Aylestone Ward.

Paul reported that a major project was to be undertaken in relation to improving the Lutterworth Road/Aylestone Road corridor. A public consultation was to begin, with the intention to begin improvement works by May 2010.

Further consultation was to take place in the late spring around the possibility of introducing resident's parking schemes, particularly in the area close to the cricket ground. Paul explained that a questionnaire would be distributed to every household in that area, and that a scheme would only be progressed if it was favoured by the majority of residents.

Paul reported that there was currently no road safety work ongoing in Aylestone, but that any potholes would be filled if identified. A Member of the Public referred to three instances of high impact collisions with street furniture on Old Church Street in the last five years. In response, Paul explained that only incidents where a person was injured would warrant consideration for road safety work, and that an assessment was carried out every three years to determine which schemes would be undertaken. In response to a question from Councillor Porter around the possibility of increasing the number of traffic-calming schemes carried out annually, Paul stated that the Council completed five schemes per year, and that there was no funding available in the forthcoming financial year to extend this programme.

A further issue that was identified related to illegal parking, and it was felt by several members of the public that motorists often did not realise that they parked illegally on single yellow lines.

It was recognised that problems were rife with vehicles turning out of Church Street, as many motorists had continued to turn right out of the road despite it being prohibited. A Member of the Public suggested that a camera be situated at this location to deter this, and to catch offenders. Paul agreed to feed this back to the traffic impact team though he stated that they were already aware of the issue.

Several Members of the Public felt that there was insufficient parking provision to serve the shops in Aylestone. Paul reported that resident parking schemes also allowed limited waiting areas for shop customers.

29. POLICE JOINT ACTION GROUP (JAG) ACTION PLAN

Members of the public were given a presentation by PC Kevin Butler on the work of the Police Joint Action Group (JAG) and their current action plan for the ward.

It was explained that the Neighbourhood Policing Team comprised of a team leader alongside police constables and community support officers whilst the Neighbourhood Action Team consisted of a citizen focus team as well as police support volunteers and local police officers. PC Butler stated that the local priorities were to tackle and reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage on Belvoir Drive and to tackle similar behaviour in the area known as 'The Square'. The meeting heard that problems with graffiti had recently calmed. The latest 'hotspot' identified was reported as being the spinney by Montrose Road Park.

Members of the public generally felt that there was a need for more opportunities for allowing younger people could meet, and that this provision could help to alleviate the problems of youths gathering on streets. PC Butler reported that consultation

had taken place with young people in connection with looking at ways to curb the problems associated with anti-social behaviour.

30. ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

Barbara Whitcombe, City Warden Manager, Regeneration and Culture, gave a presentation on the environmental services provision in Aylestone.

Barbara explained that recent work of the Environmental Services Team included waste management and street cleaning, environmental health and trading standards, licensing and building control and parks and green spaces.

The meeting was informed that 33% of the City's waste was recycled in 2007/08 with a further 9% recovered for use as a fuel, resulting in 42% being diverted from landfill.

Reference was made to the recently commissioned MORI residents survey. The survey concluded that 80% of residents were satisfied with their waste collection service, which compared well to other similar councils.

In terms of cleansing services, the following figures were provided by Barbara, specifically in relation to the Aylestone Ward, between July and December 2008:

Fly-posters removed	257
Fly-tipping removed	50
Abandoned Vehicles Reported	8
Discarded Needles	1
Cable Boxes over-painted	91

In terms of customer satisfaction, 67% of people were satisfied with the street cleansing service in Leicester.

It was reported that there was new legislation around the distribution of free printed matter, such as flyers, in the city. Distributors were now required to apply for a license, and limitations around times and location had been imposed.

In terms of taxi licensing, it was reported that there were 1,271 licensed taxis in Leicester which comprised of 329 hackney carriages and 942 private hire vehicles. The granting of all licenses was subject to regular safety checks.

In respect of environmental health, the following figures around complaints and service requests between July and December 2008 were reported for the Aylestone ward:

Rubbish on Private Land	12
Dog Complaints	38
Pest Control Complaints	55
Domestic Noise Complaints	47
Non-domestic noise and Pollution Complaints	31

It was noted that the number of dog complains was higher in Aylestone than other wards. One Member of the Public felt that the dog control officer should target Aylestone as a hotspot area. It was further stated that there was a need for dog bins in the area.

Barbara explained that the first edition of an environmental newsletter for the Aylestone Ward would be released in February, and ensured that copies be brought to the next community meeting.

31. BMX TRACK AND MULTI USE GAMES AREA

Ian Stapleton, Eyres Monsell Neighbourhood Housing Manager, gave a short presentation on the upgrading of the BMX track and a new multi use games area.

Ian explained that further consultation with local young people was to take place to help to decide the use of the multi games area at the Gilmorton Recreation Space. It was reported that funding from the Big Lottery People's Millions had been secured, with the condition that work must start on site by the end of April and that it be finished by the end of September.

Ian explained that the Princes Trust had worked exceptionally hard to redefine the BMX track, and that he was in the process of organising a party of volunteers to clear the land at the site of the track.

It was reported that the park on Gilmorton Avenue was in a poor condition. It was hoped that a ramp would be installed as an access point to the park. It was also possible that an orchard would be planted within the vicinity.

32. BUDGET

Steve Letten, Members Support Officer, presented the budget and explained that six budget applications had been received.

As the meeting was inquorate, Councillor Porter stated that he was to defer consideration of all applications so that he could discuss each of them with Cllr Mrs Chambers, before any recommendations were made to Cabinet. It was made clear that a decision could be taken prior to the next community meeting.

Therefore, it was agreed that the following applications would be considered by both ward councillors:

- C1 – Aylestone Meadows Appreciation Society
Proposal for funding for meeting room hire
£60 requested from the Ward Community Fund

- C2 – Gilmorton Community Group
Proposal for funding for the purpose of Wayferer Breedon Gravel to re-surface the BMX track off the Great Central Way.
£2,000 requested from the Ward Community Fund
- C3 - Gilmorton Development Group
Proposal for funding for accessibility links to the proposed multi- use games area. No specific amount requested as application submitted to seek indication of support.

The following applications did not appear on the agenda, and were received at the meeting. It was also agreed that these be considered by both ward councillors.

- C4 - Saffron Fete Committee
Proposal for funding to provide advertising, equipment and van hire, first aid cover, hire and cleaning of toilets and administration.
£1,400 requested from the Ward Community Fund
- C5 – Saffron Fete Committee
Proposal for funding to provide stewarding and fairground ride hire.
£1,700 requested from the Ward Community Cohesion Fund

It was agreed that the following application concerned the Freeman Ward, and consequently would not be considered by the ward councillors.

- C6 – Aylestone Park Residents Group – St Mary’s Sub Committee
Proposal for funding for updated ecological and biodiversity and printing of leaflets.
£350 requested from the Ward Community Fund

33. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member of the public explained that he had not received a copy of Leicester LINK magazine for a number of months. The Chair urged anyone who had not been receiving a copy to write their address on a yellow evaluation form and asked the Democratic Support Officer to pass the details on to those responsible for distributing the magazine.

34. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8:20pm