

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:00 pm, Monday, 5 October 2009**

**Held at: St Philips' Church Hall, Evington Road**

Who was there:

Councillor Iqbal Desai
Councillor Parmjit Singh Gill
Councillor Hussein Suleman

## **51. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors were asked to declare any interest they had in the business on the agenda, and/or indicate that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

No such declarations were made.

## **53. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were approved as a correct record.

## **54. CITY WARDEN**

The Chair introduced Richard Harold, who had recently been appointed as the City Warden for the Stoneygate and Spinney Hills wards. Richard spoke of his intention to actively patrol both wards and wished to engage with all communities within his work. He explained that he would be seeking local people to nominate themselves to work with him as a representative for their own street.

## **55. TRAFFIC AND HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Andy Thomas, Head of City Development, was present to discuss traffic and highways issues in the area.

Andy made the following points:

- Consultation in respect of the Evington Road residents parking scheme was being progressed and the scheme will proceed if no representations were made during the statutory objection period.
- An area-wide residents parking scheme around Evington Valley Road was unable to be implemented due to current capital funding levels.
- A Local Transport Plan will be produced specifically for Leicester City Council.

Andy also sought views with regard to pothole repairs schemes in Stoneygate.

A Member of the Public stated that potholes were still evident on Rowsley Street despite some work to the road surface already being completed. In response to a request by Members, Andy agreed to re-visit Rowsley Street to assess the level of re-surfacing work that was required. In response to an additional request by

Councillor Suleman, Andy agreed to provide Members with information on the mechanisms that were in place for assessing road-surfacing work on a particular street.

Clarity was sought by a Member of the Public around the effectiveness of making a street on-way as a measure of reducing traffic speed. Andy confirmed that one-way streets often included additional speed-reduction measures such as road-humps or chicanes. In response to a point raised by a Member of the Public, he clarified that all such work must be carried out in accordance to British Standards but methods of using new materials to install road-humps were constantly being explored.

A Member of the Public asked whether a residents parking scheme that covered Kimberley Road had been proposed. Andy explained that there were currently no proposals to introduce a scheme that covered Kimberley Road, but that any area could be considered where the majority of its residents favoured a scheme.

Another Member of the Public felt that a 20mph speed limit should be imposed on Evington Valley Road. Andy stated that a 20mph speed limit would be introduced upon completion of works on Evington Valley Road, and that depended on securing funds from the Council's Capital Programme. It was confirmed that the earliest this could be was 2011. Councillor Gill, seconded by Councillor Suleman, proposed that work to introduce speed restrictions on Evington Road be carried out as a priority.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
That officers re-visit Rowsley Street to assess the level of re-surfacing work that was required.	Andy Thomas, Head of Traffic Management	January 2010
That Members be provided with information on the mechanisms in place for assessing road-surfacing work on a particular street.	Andy Thomas, Head of Traffic Management	January 2010
That work to introduce speed restrictions on Evington Road be carried out as a priority.	Andy Thomas, Head of Traffic Management	January 2010

## 56. POLICING IN THE RUN-UP TO RAMADAN

Inspector Shane O'Neill and PC Anil Chauhan from the Spinney Hills Local Policing Unit were present to lead a discussion on policing in the run-up to Ramadan.

Inspector O'Neill thanked all police officers for all of the work that had been undertaken in the Evington Road area during the Ramadan period. He also

extended his thanks to the many residents who helped to inform the police officers of those issues that required action.

The meeting were informed that over 2,500 house-hold visits took place around the Evington Road area. It was explained that the additional patrols had reduced anti-social behaviour incidents rapidly in comparison to the same period last year. He further stated that all who lived in the Evington Road area would receive a letter that outlined the results of the policing work during recent weeks.

The Councillors thanked the Police Officers for the work undertaken in recent weeks and saw it as an example of effective policing. The Councillors felt that it crucial for the good work to be sustained, and that there were several hot spots of activity within Stoneygate where specific attention was required.

A Member of the Public spoke of the vandalism and graffiti problems suffered at St Phillips Church Hall. It was felt that these problems had been on-going, and presented barriers to extending the uses of the Church Hall. In response to a further concern around traffic and parking within the vicinity of the hall, Councillor Gill suggested that a meeting be held between representatives from the Church, the Mosque and local Councillors to see whether such concerns could be addressed.

In respect of the anti-social behaviour issues raised, Councillor Gill asked whether any arrests had been made. Inspector O'Neill stated that numerous anti-social behaviour incidents had been reported and that it was imperative that the police were made aware of exactly when and where such incidents took place, in order for offenders to be punished.

The Chair permitted Mr Kantilal Solanki of the Shree Saraj Hall to inform the meeting that the Hall was subject to a potentially life-threatening attack recently. Mr Solanki reported that a firework rocket was fired through the letterbox at the Hall whilst a celebration was taken place, and that the rocket caused injury to one person, but warned that the consequences could have been far worse. In light of this incident, Councillor Gill encouraged greater vigilance amongst the public, and welcomed efforts from the Police to find the perpetrators. Inspector O'Neill reported that house-to-house calls in the area surrounding the hall had been undertaken, but that no relevant information surrounding the incident had been provided to date. The Community Meeting strongly appealed for any information with regard to this incident to be passed to the Police.

	Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
57.	That a meeting between representatives from St Phillips Church, the neighbouring Mosque and local Councillors be convened to discuss traffic and parking concerns.	Kate Owen	January 2010

Kate Owen, Members Support Officer, provided an update on the Ward budget.

Kate explained that at the beginning of the financial year, the budget available to the Ward stood at £17,000. It was confirmed that £2,000 of this had been spent, to give a remaining balance of £15,000. However, Kate reported that agreement had been given to allow last years' under spend to be carried forward and this gave a total budget available to the Ward of over £20,000.

Kate explained that Members had agreed to consider the two following applications:

**1) Karl Brown–Community Fund Basketball Sessions– request for £1,345**

To pay for basketballs, t-shirts and other equipment as well as tutoring costs and publicity.

Both Councillors and Members of the Public were of the view that further information was needed around which wards participants lived in, and whether a proportion of the funding could be supplied from other wards. Clarity was also sought around the ownership of the equipment

AGREED: that this application be deferred to the next meeting in order for additional information to be gained from the applicant.

**2) CKI School of Martial Arts –Freestyle Karate – attendance at World Championships – request for £5,400.**

To pay for travel and accommodation costs as well as championship entries and tracksuits.

Several Members of the Public asked whether alternative sources of funding had been investigated. The applicant confirmed that there were no national sources of funding available and that participants would have to pay their own expenses should funding not be secured.

Other Members of the Public were of the view that this application allows the local community to display its support towards young people.

The applicant stated that other wards had been approached for funding, but that sufficient money was not available for the group. Members expressed their disappointment that funding from neighbouring wards could not be provided.

AGREED: that the application be supported.

## **58. WARD ACTION PLAN**

Kate Owen, Members Support Officer, provided an update on the Stoneygate Ward Action Plan.

Kate reminded the Community Meeting that the following priorities were set in 2008:

1. Cleanliness of the Ward
2. Traffic Issues (speeding and congestion)
3. Parking Issues
4. Anti-Social Behaviour
5. A lack of community facilities

Kate confirmed that Priority 1: Cleanliness of the Ward was tackled as the main priority in 2008/09, and that the community meeting received several presentations from Environmental Services and the City Warden.

Kate explained that priorities 2 and 4 were the prime focus for the community meeting during the current year.

In respect of priority 4, it was reported that the Local Authority would continue to work with the Police to help to address anti-social behaviour issues, particularly around the Evington Road area.

In respect of priority 5, Kate confirmed that community facilities would be the ward priority for 2010/11.

#### **59. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Chair confirmed that the next Stoneygate Community Meeting would take place on Tuesday 19 January 2010 at 6pm at Mayflower Methodist Church Hall.

#### **60. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

