

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 19 January 2011

Held at: Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre, Armadale Drive

Who was there:

Councillor John Mugglestone

Councillor Barbara Potter

INFORMATION SHARING – ‘INFORMATION FAIR’ 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 service representatives.

Ward Councillors and General Information	Police Issues
Residents could talk to their local Ward Councillors and raise general issues	Police Constable Martin Pebedy was present to talk to members of the public about local policing issues.
Probation Service	Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre
Irek Staszak from the Leicestershire and Rutland Probation Trust was present to talk about the Community Payback Scheme.	Members of the community could find out about activities that were available at the centre.
Home Energy Team	No Smoking Campaign
Geoff Hutchins, Home Energy Office was present to talk to residents about energy saving in the home.	Annie Gallagher from the National Health Service was present to offer advice on how to stop smoking.
Local Bus Services	City Wardens
Julian Heubeck, the Public Transport Co-ordinator, Leicester City Council and a representative from Thurmaston Bus were present to talk to residents about issues relating to the local bus services.	Members of the public could talk to Charlotte Glover, City Warden for Humberstone and Hamilton and Barbara Whitcombe, Team Manager, City Wardens.

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.

91. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Potter was elected as Chair and welcomed everyone to the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting.

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Shah.

93. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

No such interests were declared.

94. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting held on 22 September 2010 be agreed as a correct record.

95. MATTERS ARISING

A resident referred to the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2010 in respect of the local bus service.

There was some discussion over the No 52 bus with members of the community expressing different opinions as to whether or not the bus route was appropriate. In particular a resident expressed concerns that the No 52 bus had been routed along Barling Road and as a result there were concerns over the safety of children and problems with parking and sharp turns on the road. The Chair commented that the City Council did not control bus routes, however councillors had tried for several years to get a bus service in Hamilton but recognised that there were issues with the current service.

Julian Heubeck, the Public Transport Co-ordinator from Leicester City Council was present at the meeting along with a representative from Thurmaston Bus. They explained that they recognised the concerns of residents, which they were trying to resolve.

A member of the community questioned the current situation with some of the roads in Hamilton still not being adopted. Councillors explained that it was up to the developer to inform the council when a road was up to standard and ready for

adoption. Councillor Potter stated that she was chair of the Planning and Development Control Committee and was aware that it could take many years for the council to adopt a road.

96. ADDITIONAL ITEM OF BUSINESS: BALL COURT, ARMADALE DRIVE. NETHERHALL

Martin Forbes, Senior Youth Worker gave a brief update on the ball court on Armadale Drive. Martin explained that there had been issues surrounding the refurbishment of the ball court but these were gradually being resolved. Flood lights would be installed at the ball court on 7 February and thanks were given to the ward councillors for their help in getting the matter resolved.

In relation to the youth club, the Chair commented that young people had expressed concerns that although a considerable sum of money had been spent on the gym there was no qualified instructor. Martin responded that there was a gym instructor with an enhanced CRB disclosure and the Chair asked Martin to carry out some advertising, as people appeared to be unaware of the fact

A member of the community asked that a further update be brought to the next community meeting, as to how many people were using the facilities at the gym and ball court.

97. HOME ENERGY TEAM

Geoff Hutchins from the Leicester City Council, Home Energy Office gave a brief presentation on the services that the Home Energy Team provided. Geoff made the following points:

- The team aimed to help home owners out of fuel poverty.
- The team could help to improve the fuel and heating efficiency in the home.
- Grants were available to people who were on benefits and advice was also available to help people obtain a loan.
- They could give advice on saving energy.
- They could help people to access the warm front scheme.
- They could also provide information on the best energy suppliers.

Geoff invited members of the community to help themselves to some free samples, products and leaflets giving more information of the services available.

Geoff was thanked for coming to the meeting.

98. NETHERHALL ROAD / IVYCHURCH CRESCENT TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME - UPDATE

Robert Bateman, Team Leader for Highways and Drainage Design, Leicester City Council was present at the meeting and gave an update on the Netherhall Road/Ivychurch Crescent Traffic Calming Scheme. Robert explained that the work would commence on 14 February 2011 and it was anticipated that it would be complete by mid March 2011/

The following questions and comments were made:

- *Will the buses be re-routed?*

Robert responded that the bus companies would be aware of the situation and that he thought it was very likely that they would re-route the buses.

- *Why is there no traffic calming scheme at Keyham Lodge School?*

Robert responded that the traffic calming scheme was based on where the accidents were and traffic calming was not planned outside the school. Residents commented that there had been a number of accidents outside the school and they believed that a traffic calming scheme there was warranted.

- *Why is there a 20 mph limit outside Hope Hamilton School and a 30 mph limit through Humberstone and outside the Humberstone schools.*

Councillor Mugglestone commented that there was also a 30 mph limit outside Kestral Field's School and he added the ward councillors would like to see a 20 mph limit outside all schools.

- *Problems are exacerbated by parents who drive their children to local schools, when they live within walking distance. In addition they frequently park their vehicles irresponsibly.*

Councillors stated that they agreed with the concerns raised by residents and also supported the need for traffic calming on Keyham Lane and would continue to campaign for these issues.

99. LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND PROBATION TRUST COMMUNITY PAYBACK SCHEME

Irek Staszak from the Probation Trust gave a presentation on the community Pay Back scheme. Irek made the following points:

- The Pay Back team organised work for people who had been given between 40 and 300 hours of unpaid community service.
- They went out to charitable organisations and to people's homes and could help older people.

- Offenders were assessed for their suitability in carrying out any work and health and safety issues were taken seriously.
- The team could help with painting projects, gardening and also had a woodworking workshop.
- The team did not charge for labour although materials would need to be provided.

Members of the community made the following points:

- *I am aware of the predecessor service and know that they had carried out some high quality unpaid work in a church in Leicester.*
- *The memorial footpath near Keyham Lane is very overgrown and the gate is broken. Can the Payback Team help with this?*

Irek confirmed that they could help with this type of work and asked for the resident to contact the service with more details.

- *The Royal British Legion Humberstone, have submitted a funding bid to make improvements to their memorial garden. Could the Payback Team help with this work?*

Irek confirmed that they could and that he had already spoken to the people who had submitted the bid.

Irek was thanked for his presentation.

100. POLICE UPDATE

Police Constable Martin Peberdy gave an update on policing in the Humberstone and Hamilton Ward.

Martin explained that this was a challenging time for local police. Cranesbill Road in Hamilton remained a priority area, and together with the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, the Police were spending a considerable amount of time dealing with problems there. Two people had been arrested and were waiting to go to court. Martin added that there were various ongoing issues concerning Cranesbill Road and he couldn't comment further for the time being.

Other policing priorities were Bessingham Close and also speeding vehicles in the area. Speed operations were carried out approximately once a month and Martin added that as residents had expressed concerns about speeding problems in Keyham Lane, this road would also be included in those speed checks.

Martin added that members of the community had also mentioned problems with parking outside schools and explained that schools could implement a scheme

entitled 'Star Walkers' to encourage children to walk to school. Star Walkers had been adopted at Kestrel Fields and children could earn stickers by walking to school and those stickers could then be exchanged for rewards. Martin explained that he could work with schools to implement the scheme; and for example the Police could launch the scheme during an assembly. The scheme was funded by Leicester City Council for the first 12 months and after that could be funded through the Parent Teacher Association.

Martin asked members of the community to keep the Police informed of issues or concerns in the area.

101. NETHERHALL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Shilen Pattni gave an update on the refurbishment that had taken place at the Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre. Shilen explained that the refurbishment was not quite complete and there were some snagging issues to address. Staff had been consulting with the community to find out what they would like to see offered at the centre and ideas for new activities or groups were still welcome.

Shilen added that a leaflet was available giving details of the facilities and activities that were being offered.

A member of the public questioned whether the outside of the centre would be painted as well and Shilen responded that this would be done when the weather improved.

The Chair added that they would continue to try to obtain funding to improve the outside of the centre and thanks were given to Hiten Patel and Sally Taylor for their work within the community.

102. MANOR FARM DEVELOPMENT

Kathy Bourassa, Development Officer with Housing Strategy Options was present to give an update on the Manor Farm Development and to seek residents' views on the naming of roads. Kathy explained that the developer was aware that residents would like to name the roads and therefore suggestions were invited for 6 or 7 road names.

Kathy explained that road names should not be difficult to pronounce or spell and if they were named after a person, that person should either be deceased or there should be overwhelming support for the suggestion.

The following suggestions were made:

- Guy Joseph Patrick McKenna Collis (an ex-Lord Mayor)
- Squirrels (the Humberstone village logo)
- Dilkes

- A Humberstone village resident (name not given) who had worked very hard for the local community but was now suffering from poor health.

Kathy stated that the suggestions would be further investigated and checks would also be made with the Post Office before any decisions could be taken.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
To further investigate the suggested road names for the Manor Farm Development	Kathy Bourassa, Housing Strategy Options.	As soon as possible

103. HOUSING AREA MANAGEMENT - CAPITAL SCHEMES

Andy East, Housing Services submitted a brief update on the Housing Area Management, Capital Schemes Funding and explained there was an aim to improve the general appearance of the Netherhall shops by better lighting and improvement to the concrete steps. Work had been delayed because of the cold weather.

The Chair requested that improvements be made for access to Costcutters, because many older people used the post office there and currently had to walk the long way round. The Chair asked if this could be a priority for 2011/12 or sooner if possible.

Andy stated that they would look into this further and obtain some estimates.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
To obtain estimates to improve access to the Post Office at Costcutters in Netherhall.	Andy East, Housing Services	By the next Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting.

104. ADDITIONAL ITEM: CITY WARDEN'S UPDATE

Charlotte Glover, the City Warden for Humberstone and Hamilton gave an update on environmental issues in the Ward.

Charlotte explained that:

- Three fixed penalty notices had been issued for fly tipping.
- Work had been carried out to reduce the amount of dog fouling.
- The City Wardens were about to launch a new campaign to clean up whole streets which were considered to be 'grot spots'.

- Work would also be carried out to help private owners and landlords to clean up their own areas. Permission from the landowner was required before any private land could be cleaned up.
- It was hoped to encourage people to take more responsibility for their own property.
- Members of the community could feedback to the City Wardens by email or by speaking to the local Ward Councillors.

105. COMMUNITY MEETING BUDGET

Peter Cozens, Member Support Officer presented the community meeting budget. Peter stated that there was currently just under £6,000 remaining in the budget; the bids submitted exceeded that amount and therefore Councillors would be unable to agree then all.

Peter then introduced the following funding applications:

Essensual Rejuvenation Youth Pod Village

Funding of £1843 had been requested to set up a community pod village event, where a mix of different size portable pop up shelters offering different activities would be available. The applicant who had submitted the funding application was not present at the meeting.

Peter explained that the bid had been deferred from the last meeting because both he and the Councillors needed more information on the project. The information had not been received and without more details on the application, Peter stated that he was unable to recommend to Councillors that the application be supported. In addition, the event was due to be held in the summer, if funding was granted, it should come from the new financial year. For those reasons, the Councillors were recommended to refuse the funding application:

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be refused.

Humberstone Infant School – “Groundforce Humberstone Infants”

A funding application for £1500 had been submitted to set up an allotment in the school grounds. It was planned that produce could be grown which could be used, donated or sold to raise money for local charities.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported.

Rapport (Hamilton Youth Club)

Peter explained that this funding application had been withdrawn.

Hamilton Residents' Association

A funding application for £3771.09 had been submitted to set up Hamilton Residents' Association and also for the association to hold a Family Fun Day.

Dr Henwood from the Hamilton Residents' Association was present at the meeting and explained that the people of Hamilton felt isolated and the association had been set up in response to that concern. Funding was requested to cover room hire, administration costs and the printing of a newsletter. The Joint Action Group (JAG) had originally proposed to provide funding of £1,000 towards the fun day, but because the event would be held in the new financial year, were unable to make that commitment.

Councillors explained that they would support funding for the fun day to the value of £2,274.16 but the community meeting budget protocol did not permit funding for set up costs for the association and the newsletter.

Members of the public queried the decision not to support the funding application for the association and commented that other community meetings had supported similar ventures.

Councillors responded that there was a need to cut costs and economies could be made by holding meetings in people's houses to avoid hiring rooms and paying rent; however they would check on the budget regulations.

Dr Henwood stated that the approval of £2,274.16 towards the Family Fun Day would be a good start but queried the Councillors decision not to support funding for the association's set up costs and newsletters.

Peter offered to discuss the funding application further with Dr Henwood after the meeting and also suggested that the funding bid might be re-submitted, or a new funding application be submitted to the Joint Action Group.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application in respect of the Family Fun Day be supported to the value of £2,274.16

Leicester East Dance / Theatre Group

A funding application for £580 had been submitted for the dance group to attend a series of workshops in London led by Sadlers Wells. The day would culminate in a performance on stage. A representative from the dance group explained that this was a very special opportunity for the young people and funding was requested to help with costumes and transport.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application for £580 be supported.

Councillors also extended an invitation for the young people to give a dance demonstration at a future Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting.

Peter explained that the following funding application had been received after the agenda was distributed.

Royal British Legion Humberstone Garden of Remembrance

A funding application for £500 had been submitted to restore the Memorial Garden to its proper condition, to include a tidy up of the site and the planting of new shrubs etc. The Legion hoped to secure the advice of a professional gardener to produce a planting plan. Voluntary assistance would then be obtained to clear the area in order that the professional gardener could then plant the new shrubs.

Councillors suggested that the Community Pay Back scheme might be able to help with the project.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application to the value of £500 be supported.

Peter explained that there was £1061.10 remaining in the community meeting budget.

Councillors stated that it was likely that any unspent money in the community meeting budget would be clawed back and would not be carried forward to the next financial year. They suggested that the unspent money should be put towards a community clean-up and also used to fund emergency applications submitted before the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED:

that any unspent money in the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting budget be put towards a community clean up and also used to fund emergency funding applications submitted before 31 March 2011.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
To finalise the funding bids that the meeting had supported and submit them to the Cabinet Lead for approval.	Peter Cozens and Anita Patel Member Support Officers.	As soon as possible

106. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.26 pm

