

# **Your Community, Your Voice**

## **Record of Meeting and Actions**

**6:30 pm, Tuesday, 21 June 2011**

**Held at: Main Hall, East West Community Project, 10 Wilberforce Road, Leicester LE3 0BG**

Who was there:

Councillor Andy Connelly
--------------------------

Councillor Sarah Russell
--------------------------

## 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.

<p><b>Summer Play Schemes and Activities</b></p> <p>Information was available on play schemes and activities being provided in the Ward during the summer</p>	<p><b>City Warden Service</b></p> <p>The City Wardens team was present to discuss residents' concerns</p>
<p><b>Police Issues</b></p> <p>Members of the public were able to talk to the local Neighbourhood Team</p>	<p><b>Community Meeting Budgets and Enquiries</b></p> <p>Members of the public were able to make general enquiries and talk to their local Councillors</p>

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.

## **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Connelly was elected as Chair for the meeting. However, as he was called away during the meeting, Councillor Russell took the Chair for part of the meeting, as recorded below.

*Councillor Connelly in the Chair*

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

No such interests were declared.

## **3. WARD COMMUNITY BUDGET 2011/12**

With the agreement of the Meeting, this item was moved up the agenda.

Peter Cozens, Members Support Officer with Leicester City Council, advised that the total Ward Community Budget for 2011/12 currently was £15,000. A decision was awaited on whether Community Cohesion funding would be available in 2011/12.

The following applications for funding were then considered.

### **a) Fullhurst Community College – Hardship Fund**

In response to questions, Lorraine Clay, Extended Services Co-Ordinator with Leicester City Council, advised that the funding requested was a one-off sum that would enable a hardship fund to be started. The Fund subsequently would be sustained through fund-raising activities that the students would be encouraged to become involved in.

It was questioned whether it was appropriate for the Community Meeting to be asked to fund school uniforms, but it was agreed that not having the correct uniform could make students stand out, particularly as the College now had a strict uniform code. It was anticipated that, once the fund was operating, a stock of second-hand uniform could be built up that could be sold to students.

The Meeting also questioned whether, following changes to funding for schools that had been made since the application was submitted, the College now could finance the IT element of the project from other funding it received.

Lorraine Clay confirmed that students receiving help from the fund would not be means tested, but other records and data held by the school would be checked to make informed appropriate decisions about how money from the fund should be allocated, (for example, using the list of those receiving free school meals).

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) that consideration of the IT element of this bid be deferred, so that further investigations can be made in to how this part of the project can be funded;
- 2) that half of the bid remaining once the IT element is excluded be funded by this Meeting, this being a grant of £1,250; and
- 3) that the College be asked to give feedback at the next Westcotes Community Meeting on the Hardship Fund, (including how funds will be allocated and monitored).

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A representative of Fullhurst College to be asked to give feedback at the next meeting on the Hardship Fund	Peter Cozens	Next meeting

b) City Warden Service – Keys for Alley Gates

In response to concerns from the Meeting over who would hold the keys it was proposed to purchase, Barbara Whitcombe, (Leicester City Council's City Wardens Team Manager), advised that each gate would have a different key. However, the Police, the City Council and the Handyman service each would have a master key that opened all of the gates. Each property with a gated access would be supplied with one key for their gate, but additional ones could be bought for £3.70 each.

Councillor Russell reminded the Meeting that bins left on streets when alley gates could not be opened caused many problems, as did fly tipping in open alley ways that could not be locked, and that a previous operation to install alley gates had led to a reduction in burglaries. Sergeant Simon Barnes, (Leicestershire Constabulary), confirmed that the number of burglaries in terraced houses currently was increasing.

In response to questions, it was noted that bolts could not be used on the alley gates in question, as some houses used the front room as a bedroom, so these houses could not be accessed from the front. Residents therefore needed to have access to the side or rear of the property.

If gates still needed to be installed at any properties, residents should get in touch with the Ward Councillors, or City Council officers.

RECOMMENDED:

- that a grant of £1,080 be approved to the City Warden service for the purchase of alley gate keys.

*Councillor Connelly left the meeting during consideration of application b) above and Councillor Russell took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.*

#### 4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

##### a) Minute 35 – Planning Applications

Councillor Russell reported that:-

- The hostel at 10 Westcotes Drive had ceased trading and would become accommodation for nurses.

Some concern was expressed that the property at 10 Westcotes Drive could be used for purposes other than that claimed, so it was agreed that this would be monitored;

- The hostel at 18 Westcotes Ward would remain, as it had planning permission to operate as a hostel and, in general, no problems were reported regarding its operation; and
- The hostel at 20 Westcotes Drive had been required to supply a certificate of lawful use for the Council's planning officers. If a certificate was not supplied, as appeared to be the case at present, formal notice would be served on the hostel to stop trading. A report then would be made to the City Council's Planning and Development Committee on what action would be taken.

Councillor Russell also reported that various work had been done to alleviate the problems with rats in the Western Road/Briton Street/Bede Island Bridge locations that had been reported at the last meeting:-

- Sunken footway slabs to the left of the bridge. Highway Management had re-levelled this paved area;
- The electricity sub-station (next to the bridge). Western Power Distribution had re-levelled some slabs and removed rubbish within the curtilage of the sub-station;
- City Highways had cleaned out several localised road gullies and replaced four missing rodding eye stoppers to these gullies;
- The Western Pub had given permission for Street Lighting to erect some "DO NOT FEED THE BIRDS" and "NO FLY-TIPPING RUBBISH" signs on their perimeter walls adjacent to the bridge. These signs had been erected.

Jamie Stubbs (City Warden with Leicester City Council) would be monitoring this area and would consider issuing fixed penalty notices for the dumping of food;

- To prevent rats entering the storm water system from the river, Severn Trent had given permission for the two broken non return valves to the storm sewer (Bede Island side) to be replaced. This work had been done;
- The other brick storm outlet (Western Pub side) was discussed between Severn Trent and May Gurney, (the new contractors for Severn Trent), on 21 April 2011.

At that meeting, Severn Trent decided not to fit a non return flap, due to difficulty with access and the possibility of the flap and brickwork not giving a tight seal;

- Equity Shoes demolition site. Dave Bagshaw, (the contractor representing Jamie Lewis (Developers)), had sealed off four open drains and removed a soft water well; and
- A gap of 35 mm between the edge of the bridge and highway slabs on The Western pub side appeared to be a major contribution to the rat infestation of this area. City Council Enforcement Officers needed to visit the site with officers from the Bridges Team, Highways and Pest Control and would advise when the gap had been sealed.

This work was welcomed, but it was noted that, since the last meeting, rats had been seen on a different site near the river. This was owned by Severn Trent Water Ltd and Councillor Russell offered to contact the company to determine what could be done about the rats.

b) Minute 37 – City Warden Service

It was noted that rubbish from take away food outlets on Narborough Road was being dumped in the Saxon Street / Roman Street area and was not being cleared away. Jamie Stubbs, Leicester City Council's City Warden for Westcotes Ward, advised that she was working with the businesses concerned to get waste contracts set up if they did not already have one. Fixed Penalty Notices also were being issued where possible.

It also was noted that the litter bin had been installed on Great Central Way, but it appeared it had been moved from elsewhere. In addition, the Parks Service had said that it had not received the money for the bin. Councillor Russell offered to look in to this.

AGREED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2011 be approved as a correct record, subject to the second paragraph on the second full page of text for minute 35, "Planning Applications", being amended to read as follows, (additional text shown in italics):-

"The Ward Members only heard late in the afternoon on the day of the meeting that the application had been withdrawn, following officer advice to the applicant. The Ward Members had lodged a formal complaint about ~~the way in which this had been dealt with~~ *this officer*, the outcome of which was awaited."

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
Severn Trent Water Ltd to be asked what action can be taken to deter rats from the area by the river	Ward Councillors	Next meeting

It to be confirmed whether the litter bin installed on Great Central Way previously had been located elsewhere and, if it was, why it was moved.	Ward Councillors	Next meeting
It also to be determined if the grant approved for the bin had been paid.	Peter Cozens	Next meeting

## 5. BEDE PARK

Councillor Russell introduced this item, explaining that Dave Flavelle, (Area Parks Manager with Leicester City Council), was present at the meeting to discuss problems that had been encountered with barbecues being used in Bede Park.

It was recognised that various other issues regarding how the Park was used were of concern, so a meeting had been arranged for residents of the “herbs streets” to meet various agencies and discuss these other issues. This would be held on Friday, 1 July 2011 at the East West Community Project.

With regard to previous discussions about the advisability of building a ball park on Bede Park, Councillor Russell advised the Meeting that a ball park would not be built there.

Val Smalley was thanked for finding where the keys to the notice board at the entrance to Bede Park had been stored. In order to ensure they did not get lost again, it was proposed that the City Warden should keep one and that the other should be held by Ian Smalley of Tin Drum Books. Mr Smalley confirmed that he was happy to keep the notice board updated. Any notices for display could be delivered to the shop.

Councillor Russell advised the meeting that the other three notice boards for the area had been manufactured and delivery was awaited.

Dave Flavelle introduced himself to the Meeting, advising that he was there to discuss issues regarding, and obtain the views of the community on, barbecues on Bede Park.

He explained that Parks Services currently found barbecues being used all over Bede Park, especially on warm or hot days. These tended to be the self packed, ready to cook type that could be bought from places such as supermarkets. Barbecues of this type caused fire damage to the grass in the Park and contributed to the litter problem. Other litter also was generated by people using the barbecues, including alcohol bottles and tins.

Dave Flavelle advised that Leicester City Council Byelaws for Pleasure Grounds, Public Walks and Open Spaces prohibited barbecues unless a designated area had been identified and asked the Meeting for its views on introducing a barbecue designated area on Bede Park.

The following concerns were expressed about this proposal:-

- Having a designated area would encourage groups of people to sit and drink alcohol in that area, which could contribute to anti-social behaviour in the Park. Misuse of alcohol in the Park already occurred and appeared to be increasing;
- There could be an increase in the number of dogs brought in to the Park and there already were problems with people not clearing up waste from their dogs;
- People would ignore the designated area, or not realise where the area was, and continue to have barbecues wherever they wanted in the Park;
- Having a designated area for barbecues provided an opportunity for people to enjoy a barbecue without breaking any bye-laws; and
- At present, the Police had no powers to control the use of barbecues in the Park, but having a designated area would change that situation.

The Meeting suggested that making the Park an alcohol-free zone could help reduce anti-social behaviour problems there. This could help officials, who could find it difficult to approach people causing a nuisance due to excessive alcohol consumption, as such a zone had worked well in other areas.

The Meeting noted that such a zone would not prevent people sitting outside to drink alcohol in designated premises, such as a café or pub, but they would not be able to sit outside in other areas and drink alcohol. It was noted that this idea had been rejected when previously considered, but the Ward Councillors were willing to consider it again.

Some reservations were expressed about having an alcohol-free zone operating 24 hours a day, as the area was densely occupied, but had very limited open space. It also could be difficult to monitor activities over such a long period of time. It therefore was suggested that the zone could be limited to just operating overnight.

The following points also were made in discussion:-

- It currently cost approximately £15 – 16,000 per year to clean Bede Park;
- A key problem was that at least one of the two supermarkets on the edge of the Park sold disposable barbecues; and
- Leicestershire Constabulary's Licensing Officer had encouraged the branch of Sainsbury's by the Park to agree not to sell drinks in glass bottles. However, Tesco had not co-operated with this, so Sainsbury's had reverted to selling drinks in glass bottles.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
The possibility of creating an alcohol-free zone in Bede Park to	Ward Councillors	Next meeting



be investigated, along with the options available for the periods of time for which such a zone can operate		
---	--	--

*Post-meeting note:*

*Following the meeting, it was established that the cost of cleaning Bede Park was approximately £10 – 12,000 per year*

## **6. SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES AND ACTIVITIES**

The Chair reminded the Meeting that a display of summer play schemes and activities had been held during the Information Fair part of the Meeting.

Leaflets giving details of the full range of schemes being provided were available at the Meeting and also could be obtained from various locations around the City.

## **7. THE MANOR HOUSE NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE**

The Chair reminded the Meeting that the Manor House Neighbourhood Centre had been closed for a while, but in response to a campaign by local people it had been reopened for a trial period. Since then, it had been running very successfully as a pilot joint venture between Leicester City Council and the community.

Arthur Manger, Secretary of the Centre, introduced himself to the Meeting and explained that:-

- A small programme of courses had been established, but activities at, and support for, the Centre were increasing;
- A successful lunch club was operating and had about 20 regular members;
- The Centre had met most of the targets set by the Council, in particular that requiring 2,000 people to come through the Centre's doors each month;
- An Arts Festival would be held at the Centre on Saturday, 25 June 2011. Thanks were extended to the Meeting for the funding that had been provided to the Kaleidoscope Arts Group for this from the Community Meeting budget;
- A Polish night, (which included a barbecue and non-alcoholic bar), was being held at the Centre on Saturday, 9 July 2011. It was hoped that this would give the Polish community a focal point, as well as promoting the Centre to that community. Although this was a Polish event, everyone was welcome to attend;
- A partnership had been formed with Leicester College, through which the College had provided a grant to enable the Centre to run courses of the type offered by the College;

- It was proposed to develop an allotment at the back of the Centre premises, which would be used for some courses to be run at the Centre;
- The former arts and crafts centre would be developed as a youth area, which it was hoped would help reduce anti-social behaviour;
- A longer-term aim was to convert a room at the Centre in to a Community Lounge; and
- It was hoped that literature about the Centre could be circulated more widely in the community in the future.

The City Council now used the Centre as an example of how the community needed to be involved in the running of Neighbourhood Centres for them to work properly. In view of its success since its relaunch, it currently was not under threat of closure.

The Meeting expressed its thanks to the managing committee at Manor House for the work it was doing and the way that the Centre had been bought back in to the community.

## **8. CITY WARDEN SERVICE**

Barbara Whitcombe, (City Warden Team Manager at Leicester City Council), explained that it was intended to give a review to each Meeting of the work that the City Warden had been doing in the Ward over the preceding three months.

It was noted that the City Wardens were working with the City Mayor on a number of the priorities for action identified under the 100 Days Programme, (for example, clearing up areas and work to stop businesses leaving rubbish in the streets).

The City Warden's Westcotes 6 Month Action Plan (June – November) was tabled at the meeting and is attached at the end of these minutes for information. Anyone who had any comments, or items for inclusion, was welcome to send these to the City Warden.

The following points were noted during discussion:-

- The City Warden was undertaking regular patrols on Saxon Road and surrounding streets to monitor fly tipping;
- Income from fines (Fixed Penalty Notices) could only be used on environmental education and work relating to the prevention of environmental crimes. At the City Council, it was used to pay for things such as leaflets and other information circulated by the City Warden service, and the purchase of items such as "stubbies" in which cigarette ends could be placed;
- No feedback had been received on whether fines had been imposed in relation to fires that had been lit on waste ground in the Ward. The Ward Councillors undertook to investigate this;

- The Bins on Street campaign had stopped while legal issues were resolved. Now this had been done, the campaign was restarting;
- The Council had let a contract under which weeds were sprayed twice per year. Each year, the work started from a different point and this year Westcotes Ward was one of the last to be done. However, spraying was due to start within the next week. The weeds would die back over the following two weeks and any remaining after that would be hooked out;
- The new downloadable application for smart phones for reporting complaints and problems was being promoted widely, but they still could be reported in the usual ways, such as text, e-mail or via the City Wardens or Ward Councillors. All of these methods would be included on the Council's Facebook page;
- It could be difficult to have rubbish cleared from in front of properties, as the name of the property owner was needed in order for a reported problem to be logged and this name was not always known;
- When a rented property had tenants in, household rubbish was collected under normal household waste collection processes. However, when such a property was empty, rubbish from that property was classed as business waste;
- Additional rubbish collections had been made at the end of the university summer terms, which had proved very successful. Alley ways also had been cleared where possible;
- It was not permitted for cars to be repaired on the road, except in an emergency, as this took up parking space and could leave oil or other residues on the road that could lead to blockages in drains and gulleys; and
- Previously, it had not been possible to take action against the owner of some large vehicles that had been parked on roads in the Ward for some time, but a recent change in legislation meant that the Police were reconsidering the position.

## **9. POLICE ISSUES IN THE WESTCOTES WARD**

Sergeant Simon Barnes, (Leicestershire Constabulary), advised the Meeting that in the Ward in the last three months there had been:-

- 26 burglaries to dwellings, which was a reduction of 20 on this time last year;
- 8 burglaries other than dwellings, compared to 20 over this period last year;
- 21 robberies and thefts from persons, compared to 29 over this period last year;
- 34 thefts from and of motor vehicles, compared to 36 over this period last year; and
- 11 arrests for anti-social behaviour, compared to 14 over this period last year.

The Meeting welcomed these improvements.

The following points then were noted during discussion:-

- Begging had not been legalised. Recent incidences of children begging in the streets were being dealt with by the Police and other agencies;
- Consideration was being given to installing more CCTV cameras by the canal. The towpath was not owned by the City Council, but all agencies were being encouraged to work together to improve lighting there and cut back trees, so that the cameras in that area could work more efficiently;
- The Police did not own any CCTV cameras, but were given access to those owned by the City Council, De Montfort University and local businesses as needed. For example, 25 reports of incidents in the area around Tarragon Road had been received in the last year, with 14 reports applying to Bede Park on its own. It was not always possible to be sure that these had been made as a result of cameras, but having cameras meant that it was possible to check information received. Arrests had been made through this system of working;
- The CCTV camera in Bede Park was owned by De Montfort University. Trees in Bede Park obscured the camera's view of the path, but it was hoped they could be trimmed back. De Montfort University had provided a map of the trees' locations and details of which ones needed trimming. A tree surgeon would be used, to ensure that the work was done properly;
- The cameras in use in the Ward had no audio interface and did not automatically scan round an area, although controllers could direct the cameras to particular points when needed. Scanning cameras were not very useful, as it could be very difficult to get a good quality image from them;
- The camera operators from De Montfort University would be invited to the meeting with residents about Bede Park on 1 July 2011, (see minute 44 above), to explain how the cameras worked;
- The Police had classed Westcotes as a priority area for responses to calls reporting incidents at night, due to the extent of the night time economy and the amount of alcohol consumption in the Ward. However, this did not guarantee any particular response when reports were made; and
- The Police still operated an anti-social behaviour car, in which a Police Community Support Officer could attend reports of such behaviour.

The Meeting thanked the Police for the work they had done to make the Ward a nice area to walk round.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
CCTV camera operators from De Montfort University to be invited to the meeting with residents about Bede Park on 1 July 2011 to explain	Ward Councillors	30 June 2011

how the cameras work		
----------------------	--	--

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### a) Cycle Racks on Narborough Road

Councillor Connelly reported that cycle racks had been installed on Narborough Road, in order to help prevent thefts of cycles and stop cars parking on the pavements.

### b) Planning Issues

Councillor Connelly advised the Meeting that an item on planning applications had not been included on the agenda for this meeting, as he had become a member of the City Council's Planning and Development Control Committee. He therefore needed to get legal advice on whether discussions about planning applications at Westcotes Community Meetings would be construed as him having a pre-determined view of these applications.

If it was possible to have items on planning applications in the future, it was likely that Councillor Connelly would not participate in the discussion on them.

## **11. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair thanked all present for attending and closed the Meeting at 8.57 pm

This page is left blank intentionally.

# Minute Item 7

## Manor House Neighbourhood Centre



Affordable rooms available to hire for:

- Parties
- Meetings
- Seminars
- Training
- Group Activities and lots more

We are planning to deliver the following sessions depending on the level on interest:

- Spanish Classes
- I.T. Classes
- Self Defense for Women
- Under 5's Stay and Play
- FAB Nutrition and Exercise Classes

Thinking of starting a group or club?

Are you interested in getting involved in activities within your community?

For further information please call 0116 222 1021



**Manor House Community Association**

Manor House NC, Haddenham Road, Leicester LE3 2BG



Leicester  
City Council

### Centre Program from April 2011

<b>Monday</b>	● ER Dance Fitness	5pm - 7pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	● Lunch Club ● ER Dance Fitness ● Kick Boxercise Fitness ● Leicester Martial Arts Academy	12.30pm - 2pm 5pm - 7pm 6pm - 7.15pm 7.30pm - 9pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	● Yoga Adult Class	9.30am - 11am
<b>Thursday</b>	● Bowls Club ● Zumba Dance Fitness	2pm - 4pm 6.30pm - 8.30pm
<b>Friday</b>	● Stay and Play (sessions start on May 6th)	9.30am - 12.30pm
<b>Saturday</b>		
<b>Sunday</b>	● Narborough Road Christian Fellowship	10am - 1pm

If you're interested in taking part in any activities or in starting your own group, please contact the centre on 0116 222 1021 or email [community.services@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:community.services@leicester.gov.uk)

# Polski Grill

Saturday 9th July

Sobota 9 Lipiec 2011

Manor House

Haddenham Road Leicester LE3 2BG

goscie proszeni sa o przyniesienie wlasnego jedzenia i bezalkoholowych napojow

- wieprzek z rozna / hog roast
- polska muzyka / polish music
- live music 60's, 70's & 80's
- diskopolo - DJ disco dancing
- pokazy - shows - stalls
- zapisy na kursy, zajecia i wycieczki
- ESOL - jezyk angielski
- sobotnia polska szkola
- klub matki i dziecka
- klub sportowy - sports club

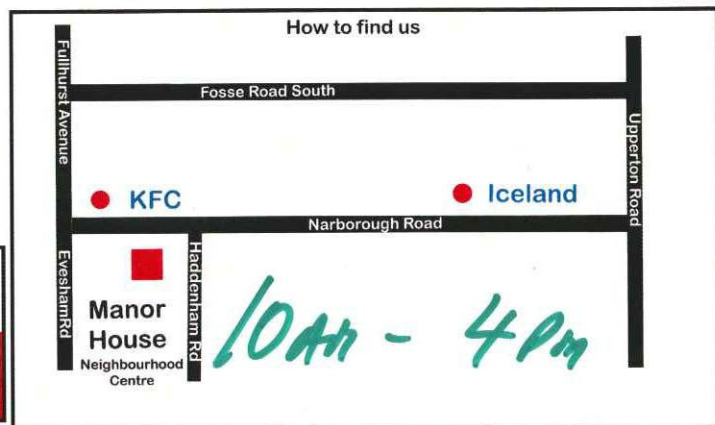
for more info contact MAREK CUPIAL (07919 391455)

Supported by



Leicester  
City Council

Polish  
Bar-BQ





Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11
Section 3 and 4 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 Vehicles for sale and repairing vehicles on the highway investigations Upperton Road/ Fosse Road South					
Section 46 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Bins on Street already completed		Section 46 and 47 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Bins on Street - start project in student areas			
Educational School & Promotional Visits- King Richards, Shaftesbury Junior School and Leicester College					
Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Regular Patrols for fly tipping - Saxon Street, Roman Street and Narborough Road					
Customer Service Requests					
Section 34 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Duty of Care Inspections Narborough Road					
Section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 Dog Fouling patrols Wilberforce Road, Shaftesbury Road and Western Road					
Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Littering Patrols - Problem areas, Narborough Road, Hinckley Road and Braunstone Gate					
Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 Patrols for fly posters Woodgate, Braunstone Gate, Briton Street and Narborough Road					
Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 Narborough Road Graffiti removal project		Section 1 of the Criminal Damage Act 1971 Graffiti Patrol and the removal of Graffiti from lamp posts, bins and electric box			
Section 93 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Street Litter Control Notice for Maryland Chicken					
Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 Litter Patrols for Bird Feeding - Briton Street and Bede Park due to complaints and problems with rats in the area					
Monitor for untidy front gardens - inform residents about bulk collection and working with Area Environmental Health if required					
Schedule 3a of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 for Free Distribution of Printed Matter on Braunstone Gate, Western Boulevard and Bede Park					

Targeted Enforcement  
 Ongoing Work  
 Completed Or Committed Work  
 Educational Initiatives

## Westcotes 6 Month Action Plan June - November

This page is left blank intentionally.