

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 20 July 2011

Held at: Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way

Who was there:

Councillor Vi Dempster

Councillor Sundip Meghani

Councillor Paul Westley



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>Ward Councillors and General Information</p> <p>Members of the public were able to make general enquiries and talk to the local Councillors</p>	<p>Police Issues</p> <p>Local Police Officers were available to discuss issues or general enquiries</p>
<p>City Warden</p> <p>The City Warden was available to discuss issues affecting the local environment such as litter, graffiti and dog fouling</p>	<p>Healthy Living Centre</p> <p>Members of the public were able to find out about services available at their local Healthy Living Centre</p>
<p>Community Library</p> <p>Information about Library Services was available to the public</p>	<p>Wot Box</p> <p>Youth workers and young people from this project were available to explain this project</p>
<p>Kirton Lodge</p> <p>Officers from Kirton Lodge were available to provide information on the services available at Kirton Lodge</p>	<p>Parks Team</p> <p>Officers were present to discuss any issues about parks / grounds maintenance</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 Westley was elected as Chair for the meeting.

He welcomed all present to the meeting, thanking them for their continued support, and explained that an important focus for the Council would be community working. Consequently, the Ward Councillors would be working hard to get resources for the residents of Beaumont Leys during this time of financial constraint.

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. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Beaumont Leys Community Meeting held on 2 March 2011 were approved as a correct record.

4. POLICING UPDATE

Sergeant Rich Jackson gave an update on policing issues, highlighting the following points:-

- The Police used Problem Solving Profiles to address issues in neighbourhoods. One of those being used in Beaumont Leys was to address anti-social behaviour. Since the last Community Meeting a lot of work had been done on this, in conjunction with other agencies, which had led to a reduction in the number of reports of anti-social behaviour being made over the last few months;
- Resources had been diverted to address criminal damage being done at English Martyrs Catholic School and Gorse Hill City Farm;
- On 1 June 2011 a Police satellite office had opened at Glenfield Hospital. Work done there included searching for patients that went missing, vehicle crime, or dealing with reports of stolen bicycles. The office had been very successful to date. PC Martin Birch was based there, with two Police Community Support Officers; and
- A recurring problem at this time of year was the misuse of minimoto motorcycles. These could be difficult to pursue, so police on bikes used a head video camera to record evidence. This could then be replayed in slow time to help identify offenders.

PC Martin Birch advised the meeting that a “core” crime was defined as one that had a high level of impact on, and importance for, the victim. In the last 90 days, the number of these had reduced quite significantly. This was part of a reduction of approximately 12% in these crimes across the county.

He then advised that:-

- Crimes committed in Beaumont Leys in the Ward during the last three months included 15 burglaries, 4 robberies and 25 thefts from motor vehicles;
- Burglaries were a particular problem at this time of year, as people left windows open. Night patrols often left cards at properties doing this, reminding people how easy it was to get in through a window;
- The number of crimes specific to the Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre during the last three months included 74 cases of shoplifting, the theft of 20 pedal cycles and 52 assaults. Many of these were “non-core” crimes;
- The Beaumont Leys area had high levels of domestic violence, with 120 incidents being reported in the previous 90 days. It was not known if this was due to a high number of offences being committed, or good reporting and/or recording of the incidents; and
- 34 vulnerable people had been recorded by the Police in the last 90 days as needing extra care and support.

PC Birch encouraged anyone who was a victim of domestic violence, or knew someone who was, to contact the Police. Officers from Kirton Lodge hostel endorsed this and explained that the hostel also could provide support and help, including directing people to other agencies.

The Chair advised that the City Council had set up a working party, chaired by Councillor Meghani, to look in to domestic violence. An update on this work could be made at the next meeting.

The following points were made in discussion:-

- A member of the community congratulated the police on the response that had been made to problems experienced with children playing ball games in the street;
- Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Team Manager, advised that people found releasing Chinese lanterns were fined, as the lanterns came down as litter. The meeting was concerned that, as long as Chinese lanterns were stocked by shops, they would be bought and used. The Chair therefore suggested that the Ward Members should write to stores expressing the meeting’s concerns;
- Cannabis was being used regularly on the top deck of a bus service operated by First. The Police under took to investigate this; and

- Problems were being encountered in Beaumont Leys Lane with cars for sale and lorries parking on the grass verges. Barbara Whitcombe advised that the City Wardens had powers to deal with this. Some prosecutions already had been undertaken, as it was an offence to sell vehicles on the highway and damage to the grass was classed as criminal damage.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
An update to be given to the Community Meeting on the work of the City Council's working party on domestic violence	Councillor Meghani	Next meeting
Ward Members to write to the local Tesco store, Tesco head office and other local shops stocking Chinese lanterns, asking that they stop stocking these lanterns. This letter to be copied to Liz Kendall, the local Member of Parliament	Ward Members	Next meeting

5. WOT BOX YOUTH ACCESS PROJECT

Will Hough introduced himself to the meeting, explaining that he was a Children's Council mentor, helping young people aged 7 – 13 deliver projects. He explained that:-

- The Wot Box held a laptop computer and equipment such as video cameras, which was used to help young people become reporters;
- The Leicester Wave newspaper helped train young people using the Wot Box, encouraging the young people to write for Leicester Wave, as well as other magazines;
- Possible links with the One Neighbourhood magazine were being investigated for the future;
- The project had been based in the library, but was not well attended, so had moved to the Barleycroft Healthy Living and Youth Centre. Sessions also would be held at the Home Farm Neighbourhood Centre, Babington Community College and Beaumont Leys Youth Club on every fourth Sunday on a rota basis; and
- Some promotional work for this project was planned.

The meeting congratulated all concerned on this project and suggested that young reporters also could attend events held at Beaumont Leys Shopping Centre.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A further report on this project to be made to the Community Meeting	Jerry Connolly	As appropriate

6. SUMMER COMMUNITY AND SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Jerry Connolly, Members Services Officer, advised the meeting that:-

- Details of activities and events being provided over the summer through Sure Start had been included in the most recent edition of the One Neighbourhood magazine;
- Over the weekend of 23/24 July, taster sessions for various sports would be available City-wide as part of the countdown to the 2012 Olympic Games. Wheelchair basketball would be available at Beaumont Leys Leisure Centre on 23 July from 9.30 am to 1.30 pm and badminton would be available there on the evening of 24 July; and
- An A – Z of activities on offer had been tabled at the meeting.

The meeting also was reminded that free swimming would be available during the summer holidays to young people aged 16 and under.

7. TOMORROW TOGETHER

As no-one was able to be present for this item, it was not considered.

8. BUDGET APPLICATIONS

Jerry Connolly, (Members Support Officer), advised that £15,000 was available in the Ward Community Fund for 2011/12. He explained that, when applications were received at Community Meetings, the views of those present were taken in to account by the Ward members, who then made a recommendation on whether the application should be approved, (either as submitted or in part). After the meeting, all recommendations were passed to the relevant Assistant City Mayor for formal approval.

The Ward Members reminded the meeting that, when considering applications for funding, they considered whether the priorities identified in the Beaumont Leys Ward Action Plan were addressed. The main priority in the current Plan was to engage young people, but others included improving health outcomes for people in the City and helping those living in poverty. In addition, all applications were looked at in terms of how they related to the Ward's boundaries.

In response to questions, it was suggested that a profile of the Ward could be made available.

The following applications for grants were then considered.

Application 1 – Leicester City Ladies / Leicester City Colts Football Club

An application had been received for £1,250 to provide more coaches and training equipment, through which to extend ladies' football to more young people. An application for this amount also had been made to Abbey Community Meeting, which had been supported in full.

Representatives from the Club were present at the meeting and explained that it also was hoped to improve standards of coaching for women going in to refereeing. These were the only programmes of this nature in the City.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £1,250 be approved to Leicester City Ladies / Leicester City Colts Football Club for the provision of ladies football coaching and training equipment.

Application 2 – Cornerstone PCC (Church of England) with Churches Together in North West Leicester

An application had been received for £500 to hold a community picnic in the grounds of Alderman Richard Hallam School. The meeting noted that Fosse Community Meeting had approved a grant of £500 towards this picnic and Abbey Community Meeting had approved a grant of £250.

A representative of the applicants was present at the meeting and explained that the last few picnics had failed to attract young people. It therefore was hoped that this could be reversed by having suitable attractions. A giant Wii had been booked and it was hoped that funding could be approved by this meeting that would enable laser clay shooting to be booked. Other groups and agencies also would be approached for support for this event.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £250 be approved to Cornerstone PCC (Church of England) with Churches Together in North West Leicester towards the cost of holding a community picnic in the grounds of Alderman Richard Hallam School, Avebury Avenue.

Application 3 – Soft Touch Arts

An application had been received for £830 for the design and painting of a mural in the Home Farm / Strasbourg Drive underpass by local young people. The full cost of the project was £2,080.

A representative from Soft Touch Arts explained that this had been suggested by the young people themselves. There was some concern amongst those present that

this would not be the best location at which to show the young people's work and suggested that painting a mural on empty shop units would give their work a wider audience. However, it was recognised that to relocate this project would take ownership of it away from the young people.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £830 be approved to Soft Touch Arts towards the cost of designing and painting a mural in the Home Farm / Strasbourg Drive underpass.

AGREED:

that, if similar applications are received in the future, consideration be given to the best location before it is formally submitted to the Community Meeting.

Application 4 – Val Kindred (Leicestershire County Netball)

An application had been received for £745 to support a 10 week course to encourage women aged 16+ back in to netball.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £745 be approved to Val Kindred (Leicestershire County Netball) to support a 10 week course to encourage women aged 16+ back in to netball.

Application 5 – UR Choice Young Peoples Project

An application had been received for £5,490 for the purchase of various items to help establish a Youth and Community Café at Home Farm.

A representative of UR Choice explained that this had been proposed as a way in which people could interact and be signposted to services available in the area. It also was hoped that workshops could be provided on issues of concern.

Young people with additional support needs would be trained to work in the café, which would improve their access to the workplace, as well as being able to participate in community activity or social engagement.

Ward Members expressed support for the principle of the project, but questioned whether some of the items for which grant assistance had been requested should be provided by the City Council through the provision of the Home Farm building. Local businesses also could be asked to support this project.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that a grant of up to £5,490 to UR Choice Young People's Project towards the purchase of various items to help establish a Youth and Community Café at Home Farm be supported in principle, the final amount awarded to be recommended by the Beaumont Leys Ward Councillors following consultation with the Head of Community Services on how each element of the project can be funded;

- 2) that the Members Services Officer and Head of Community Services be asked to liaise with the Beaumont Leys Tesco store, to see if it can provide any assistance with this project; and
- 3) that a report on the final amount awarded to this project be made to the next meeting.

Application 6 – Food Parcel Scheme Partnership / Carlym Sandringham

An application had been received for £250 towards a food parcel scheme to help people in emergency situations, by supplying them and any children with food and basic personal hygiene items.

Carlym Sandringham advised the meeting that, as the effects of the national economic crisis became more obvious, more people needed help from the food parcel scheme. Several agencies were involved in the scheme, which had relied on donations to operate, but people were less able to make donations.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £300 be approved to the Food Parcel Scheme Partnership towards a food parcel scheme to help people in emergency situations.

Application 7 – Ms Haj Kaur

The meeting noted that some of the details included in the agenda about this application were incorrect. The application was for a grant of £250 towards the Mowmacre Bonfire and Fireworks event, (not £500 as reported in the agenda).

In support of the application, Carlym Sandringham advised that, although the event was based in the Mowmacre area, a lot of people from Beaumont Leys Ward attended.

Work was being undertaken in conjunction with various agencies to address on-going problems with anti-social behaviour and “postcode wars” between young people in the Beaumont Leys and Mowmacre areas. This included the dangers of fireworks and fire setting. However, although the Ward Members recognised the importance of breaking down territorial barriers, they felt that working with young people on issues such as the misuse of fireworks was part of the core business of the agencies concerned.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £100 be approved to Ms Haj Kaur towards the Mowmacre Bonfire and Firework Event.

Application 8 – Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association and Local Residents, assisted by Leicester City Council’s Parks Service

Since the agenda had been circulated, an application had been received for £250 from Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association and local residents, (assisted by Leicester City Council’s Parks Service), towards environmental improvements to Beaumont / Astill Lodge grounds.

Ward Members expressed concern that the proposed replacement plants also could perish in bad weather and suggested that local businesses could be asked to contribute to the improvement works, as they would benefit from improvements to the area.

RECOMMENDED:

that a grant of £250 be approved to the Beaumont Lodge Neighbourhood Association and local residents towards environmental improvements to the grounds of Beaumont / Astill Lodge.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A profile of the Ward to be made available for the next Beaumont Leys Community Meeting and on the Council’s website	Jerry Connolly	Next meeting
If applications similar to that submitted to this meeting by Soft Touch Arts are received in the future, work to be undertaken before its formal submission to the Community Meeting to ensure that the best location is being used to showcase the work proposed	Jerry Connolly	As needed
Further consideration to be given to the application from UR Choice Young People’s Project towards establishing a Youth and Community Café at Home Farm and an amount allocated, up to a maximum of £5,490	Ward Councillors / Jerry Connolly / Steve Goddard	Next meeting
Council officers to liaise with the Beaumont Leys Tesco store, to see if it can provide any assistance with establishing a Youth and Community Café at Home Farm	Jerry Connolly / Steve Goddard	Next meeting

The amount of grant awarded to the UR Choice Young People's Project towards establishing a Youth and Community Café at Home Farm be reported to the next Beaumont Leys Community Meeting.	Jerry Connolly / Matthew Reeves	Next meeting
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9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) One Neighbourhood Magazine

It was noted that, due to the Council elections in May, there had been a gap in the production of the One Neighbourhood magazine. Production and distribution arrangements also had been reviewed and the new arrangements appeared to be working well.

b) Recycling

In reply to a question, Barbara Whitcombe, City Wardens Team Manager, advised that Tesco was changing its recycling sites, so that people could receive one "green" Tesco Club Card point for every two cans taken to one of these sites.

The Chair also advised that changes to the City Council's recycling scheme were planned. Orange bags would be distributed to every household in place of the current system and more items would be recycled than at present. Leaflets would be circulated explaining what could be included in the bags. All dry recycling materials could be put in to the same bag and green bins would still be used for compostable materials. A report could be made to a future meeting on the new system.

Action	Officer Identified	Deadline
A report on the City Council's new recycling scheme to be made to the Community Meeting	Jerry Connolly	As appropriate

c) Capital Investment in Council Housing

John Thomson, Area Manager for Beaumont Leys, attended the meeting to talk about the proposed Capital Investment in Council Housing for 2011/12. He made the following points:-

- Approximately £900,000 was available across the City for capital expenditure on the Council's housing stock. £141,000 of this was allocated to the Abbey and Beaumont Leys Wards and was likely to be divided equally between them;

- Information on projects under consideration for the Beaumont Leys Ward was tabled at the meeting and is attached at the end of these minutes for information. It was noted that the projects were not presented in priority order;
- Problems were being experienced by residents at the Blue Gates properties, with non-residents who used the site as a short cut looking in the windows and leaving rubbish. The proposed fencing would restrict people walking through to using a limited path area;
- It was proposed that the wooden slats above the windows of properties in Butterwick Drive should be removed, as they were unsightly and hard to maintain. They would be replaced with UPVC;
- The proposed works to Oronsay Road would block access, as requested by local people and the Ward Councillors. The route that would be used after this was not much longer than the current route;
- The work proposed in Lomond Crescent was to an area adjacent to a bus stop. The land there was lower than the rest of the street, so became swampy when wet. Using tarmac on the area therefore would create a better hard standing for those using the bus stop and help stop mud sliding in to neighbouring gardens.

As there was insufficient funding to do all of these projects, it was suggested that the first three projects should be given the highest priority. The meeting agreed with this and endorsed the proposals presented.

The meeting suggested that a compromise on projects four and five could be to tidy the area under consideration in Oronsay Road so that it was safe and put any funding left towards the works in Lomond Crescent. John Thomson explained that the pruning work could be carried out under existing budgets and the meeting suggested that residents also could be asked to help tidy the area, to give them more ownership of the project.

It was noted that the Council already used other resources where possible. For example, a lot of work had been done by young people employed through the Future Jobs Fund, (a programme formerly funded by the government), and through the Community Payback programme managed by the Probation Service.

Attention was drawn to the work done in other parts of the country through the Small Business Consultancy, which used enterprise as a catalyst for change. Through this, young people could be encouraged to create businesses that could be a useful resource to the Council.

10. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.33 pm

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting 20/7/11

Housing Services Capital Investment

Total Spend

- We have £141,000 available to spend between Abbey and Beaumont Wards
- Last year Beaumont had the lions share
- This year looking for a 50:50 split

Planning and Consultation

IDEAS FOR SPENDING

- Local People
- Councillors
- Estate Management Officers

CORPORATE PRIORITY FILTER

Creating thriving, safe communities
Wellbeing and health
Talking up Leicester
Investing in skills and enterprise.
Investing in our children,
Reducing our carbon footprint
Planning for people not cars

Early Decisions

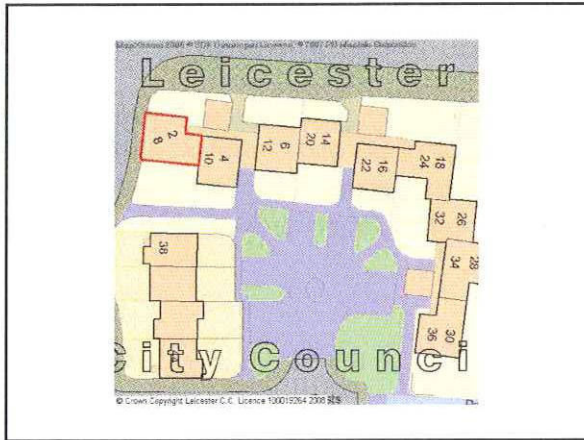
- Go back to all affected residents
- Check that our perceptions of need to do this **is actually theirs.**
- Get the works costed up

This year

- This year my job is to get the projects agreed at the Community meetings.
- (Previously projects went to Chair of Housing and Director)
- I have set out the projects as I see the priorities. (Tenant demand, VFM, ASB)
- We can fight over this!!

Project 1

- £24,628
- Blue gates Properties 2-36
- 90 meters of 6 foot metal railing
- Back gardens are open,
- Tenants vulnerable to peeping toms, smashed windows, fear of burglary
- See Map



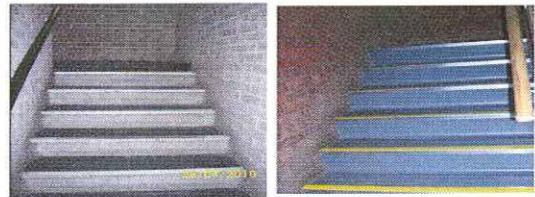
Project 2

- £2925
- Lime Grove Close
- Disabled man has difficulty opening security door from mobility scooter
- This project provides for automatic door opening
- Note there is no alternative funding for this via DDA, Social Care

Project 3

- Butterwick Drive
- £30,000- £60000
- Next phase(s) in established project.
- Replace wooden slats with UPVC
- Replace flooring, upgrade lighting
- Paint
- Widen pathways
- Popular with residents, improves letability
- Ongoing commitment

Before and after



Before and after



Before and after



Project 4.

- 32-70 Oronsay Rd
- £13,355

Ground Works

- 32-70 Oronsay rd - removal of shrubs, removal of stone ,removal of tree, supply topsoil, lay turf cost £2,457.09
- 34-38 Oronsay rd- removal of shrubs, supply and spread topsoil to make up low areas, lay turf cost £1,350.15
- 40 Oronsay rd - removal of shrubs, supply and spread topsoil to make up low areas,lay turf cost £622.16
- Side of Blakesly Walk - removal of tree, shrubs and scrub, grade, rotorvate area. Turf £5753

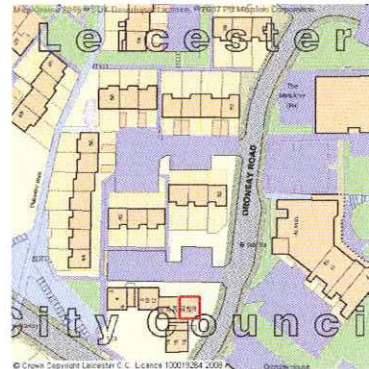
£10,182

Railings

- Railings to block access (l@1m & 1@3m) £1085
- 24m @ £87 Kneerail land adj, No32 £2088.

£3173

- Strong demand from Ward Councillors and local people



Project 5.

- £7797
- Rear of properties 1-7 Lomond Crescent
- Remove 2-3 Trees
- Tarmac & Turf to stop mud slip to adj properties
- Protect public from slippages



Project 6

- To demonstrate the huge demand I include the following:
- Over the years these blocks have had security door installation but no internal works. Residents have requested that we look at the internal appearance of the block and improve it.
-
- 2 - 8 Calder Close Painting and flooring £6064.78
- 10 - 16 Calder Close Painting And flooring £13645.71
- 44 - 60 Calder Close Painting and flooring £13645.71
- 2 - 8 Laxford Close Painting And flooring £6064.78
- 92 - 102 Portmore Close Painting And flooring £9097.17
- 104 - 110 Portmore Close Painting and flooring £6064.78
- 1 -17 Lime Grove Painting And flooring and block paving and Tarmac £14,464.13

Choices Choices Choices

- | • Project & Cost | • Running Total |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| • Railings £24628 | • £24,628 |
| • Auto door £ 2925 | • £27,533 |
| • Butterwick £30000 | • £57,533 |
| • Oronsay £13355 | • £70,888 |
| • Lomond £ 7797 | • £78,685 |
| • Project 6 £69000 | • £147,685 Nowt for Abbey! |

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