

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Monday, 19 September 2011

Held at: Coleman Primary School, Gwendolen Road.

Who was there:

Councillor Aqbany

Councillor Dr Chodhury

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 Talk to your local councillors or raise general queries	Police Issues Talk to your Local Police about issues or raise general queries.
The New Orange Bag Recycling Scheme Find out more about this scheme, which is to shortly be introduced.	Traffic Issues Talk to officers from Leicester City Council about traffic issues in Spinney Hills.
Home Energy Advice Service Obtain information about schemes operated by the Home Energy Advice Centre	School Admissions Find out more about the school admissions service in Leicester.

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.

43. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Dr Chowdhury was elected to Chair the meeting.

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mohammed Dawood.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

46. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

In respect of minute 39 'Police and Community Safety Update', it was confirmed that Grove Road was covered by the Spinney Hills and not the Hamilton Local Policing Unit.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment detailed above, the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

47. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Steve Letten, Service Manager, Admissions & Exclusions, Leicester City Council, was in attendance to provide a brief overview of the School Admissions service.

Steve's presentation included the following points:

- The timetable of applying for a school place for the 2012/13 school year was described. It was made clear that offers would be made to parents by the week-beginning 16 April 2012.
- In respect of starting junior school, parents would only need to apply for a junior school place if their child was in Year 2 of an infant school, but that there was no automatic right for a child attending an infant to school to transfer to any junior school.
- Parents were encouraged to apply now for children currently in year 6 who would be transferring to secondary school in Autumn 2012. The deadline for this was 31 October 2011.
- General Application Forms had to be completed if parents wished to transfer their child's school mid-term.
- A robust set of criteria was used for allocating pupils to a particular school with priority given firstly to children in care of the local authority.
- Parents were asked to indicate three preferences when applying for schools. It was stated that it was vital for applicants to rank the schools in an order of preference.
- Late applications were considered after those received on time. This often resulted in such applicants not receiving places at their preferred schools.

- An independent appeals panel was in place to consider cases of those who did not receive their preferences.

Further clarity was sought on the appeals process. In particular, it was enquired who formed the panels. In response, Steve confirmed that the panels were operated independently by the Council's Legal Services division. As they were independent to the Admissions and Exclusions teams, it was made clear that the appeals panel were permitted to overrule initial decisions. Steve agreed to provide further information in relation to the composition and powers of the independent schools appeals panels.

A question was asked in respect of the percentage of applicants who were allocated their first preference. In response, Steve confirmed that 85.5% of applicants were allocated their first preference for secondary schools last year and that 93% in total were allocated one of their first three preferences.

RESOLVED:

That further information be provided in relation to the composition and powers of the independent schools appeals panels

48. THE NEW ORANGE BAG RECYCLING SCHEME

Mark Porter, Biffa Operations Manager, was present and gave a presentation on the new orange bag recycling scheme, which was shortly to be implemented across Leicester.

Mark stated that the new orange bag scheme would replace the existing green box recycling scheme, which had generally low participation rates. There were restrictions around permitted contents of green boxes, whilst residents could place several types of recyclables into the new orange bag.

Mark explained that a pilot study for the scheme had taken place within four areas of Leicester, and following its success, a decision had been taken by Cabinet to extend the scheme to the whole of the city.

Although most properties in Leicester would receive the service by October, Mark explained that the programme could not be immediately rolled out to the whole of the City and that the programmes would be phased over the next twelve months to include all properties in Leicester.

A resident enquired how a new roll of bags could be obtained. In response, Mark explained that a sticker was included towards the end of each roll of bags which residents were asked to attach to their next bag to request an additional supply of bags. It was also confirmed that there was not a limit to the number of bags a resident could fill per week.

It was further reported that although the day of the week in which collections were taken would not alter, the time of the day for collections could potentially change.

Following a question, Mark confirmed that it was not planned to remove any existing recycling banks in Leicester.

49. TRAFFIC ISSUES UPDATE

Chris Middleton, Traffic Management, Leicester City Council, was in attendance to provide a brief update on Highways matters.

Chris reported that progress had been made in respect of the removal of double yellow lines along Gwendolen Road, between Dorothy Road and Gedding Road. He explained that a number of different lengths of parking restriction along Gwendolen Road had been removed during recent years. In terms of the new proposed removal, Chris stated that the work would be advertised on 3 October 2011, and that a three week period for objections would commence from this date. Should there be no objections put forward to the proposal, it is likely that work would commence in January 2012.

Councillor Dr Chowdhury explained that the ward councillors had received a number of enquiries from residents during recent months around parking and traffic concerns in the Gwendolen Road area, and that this proposal encompassed some of the issues raised with the councillors.

50. CITY WARDEN SERVICE

Yagnesh Antunes, City Warden for Spinney Hills, was present to provide an update on his recent activity in the ward.

Yagnesh stated that he had spent a significant amount of time tackling nuisance parking along East Park Road. Notices would now be placed on offending vehicles.

It was noted that instances of fly-tipping had remained constant over the past few months, and that he had recently issued three penalty notices. A number of fixed penalty notices had also been issued for littering offenses on Melbourne Road.

Yagnesh explained that he had posted leaflets through letterboxes to promote the Council's bulky waste collection service with the aim of deterring residents from dumping large items.

It was acknowledged that there was significant dog fouling on Cank Street, Derwent Street and within Spinney Hill Park. Residents were encouraged to report instances of dog fouling which occurred on the public highway to the Council's customer services. In order to curtail the problem, Yagnesh confirmed that he had increased his patrolling in the early morning when such offenses were more likely to occur.

A resident stated that there were problems with the amount of waste being left outside a particular shop on the corner of Dronfield Street and Mere Road. Yagnesh agreed to investigate this matter and to talk to the businesses concerned.

A resident raised concerns in respect of the level of cars parked for sale along East Park Road and stated that many had been situated there for several weeks. Yagnesh confirmed that this was illegal and agreed to investigate this matter the following day.

The meeting heard that Yagnesh was to leave his position of City Warden for the Spinney Hills Ward. The Councillors paid thanks to him for his work undertaken within the ward.

51. POLICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ANTI -SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ISSUES

Sergeant Chohan was in attendance to provide an update on policing, community safety and anti-social behaviour issues in Spinney Hills.

Sergeant Chohan raised awareness of the website www.police.co.uk website which provided information about crime and policing within particular local areas, and provided an insight the places where crime frequently occurred.

The meeting was informed that several arrests had been made in connection with anti-social behaviour that had occurred at Spinney Hill Park, and with regards to the significant disorder which took place on the St Peters' Estate, Sergeant Chohan explained that up to seventeen people would potentially be charged as a result.

It was explained that instances of anti-social behaviour along Grove Road had declined following the installation of the alley-way gate which was partly supported by the Community Meeting.

It was acknowledged that there were sports facilities within the ward (including ball courts) which were under-utilised, and it was generally felt that more work was needed to encourage young people to participate in sporting activities, in an effort to reduce the numbers of young people who congregated on streets.

52. BUDGET

Anita Patel, Member Support Officer to the Spinney Hills Community Meeting gave an update on the Community Meeting budget.

Anita reported that the budget for the year was £15,000. To date, a sum of £3,953 had been spent leaving a remaining budget of £11,047.

Anita explained that ten funding applications had been received and had been included on the agenda. Councillors had considered the applications in detail prior to the meeting.

1) Caribbean Carnival 2011– Sequence Carnival Troop

Amount requested: £2,000

It was explained that this application had been deferred from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be rejected.

2) Highfields Festival Event – Highfields Community Association–

Amount requested: £2,000 from each of Spinney Hills, Castle and Stoneygate Wards

RESOLVED:
that the application be supported to the value of £1,000.

3) Life-skills Training – the Stoneham Project

Amount requested: £539

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be rejected.

4) Play-scheme in the Park – Build Community Development

Amount requested: £500 from each of Spinney Hills, Coleman and Stoneygate wards.

Anita explained that a new date had been set for the event since the application was submitted. In light of this, the Councillors had proposed to defer consideration of the application.

RESOLVED:
that the funding application be deferred following the re-scheduling of the event.

5) Education and Confidence Building – Upper Tichbourne Homeless Hostel Residents Group

Amount requested: £1,200

RESOLVED:
That the funding application be deferred following the re-scheduling of the event and that the application be forwarded to the Stoneygate Ward members for their consideration.

6) Boxing Club Equipment – Champion Boxing Club

Amount requested: £1,120 from each of the Spinney Hills and Stoneygate Wards.

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £1,000.

7) Summer Holiday Scheme– African Caribbean Centre

Amount requested: £1,500

Anita reported that this scheme had already taken place, but that the Councillors had agreed to fast-track a sum of £500.

RESOLVED:

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

8) Football Club for Victoria Park – Leicester Zim Warriors Football Club

Amount requested: £360 from each of the Spinney Hills, Beaumont Leys, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields, Castle and Westcotes.

Anita reported that this scheme had already taken place, but that the Councillors had agreed to fast-track a sum of £360

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £360.

9) African Caribbean Achievers Awards – African Caribbean Citizens Forum

Amount requested: £2,000

RESOLVED:

that the funding application be supported to the value of £500 on the condition that this be spent on trophies for the event.

10) Community Family Fun Day – Highfields Rangers Football Club

Amount requested: £1,000

Anita explained that bid was for compensation for an event which was unable to take place. It was stated that community grants could not be used as recompense and that the club was also based in the Rushey Mead ward.

RESOLVED:

That the funding application be rejected.

Following the pledges made by Councillors at the meeting, it was confirmed that a sum of £7,687 remained in the Spinney Hills Ward budget.

Action to be taken	Officer identified	Deadline
That the funding applications that Councillors had supported be submitted to the Cabinet Lead for approval.	Anita Patel, Member Support Officer	As soon as possible.

53. DATES OF FUTURE COMMUNITY MEETINGS

It was noted that future Spinney Hills Community Meetings would take place on the following dates:

Monday 28 November 2011

Monday 12 March 2012

54. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7:58pm.

