

Freemen

Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

**6:30 pm, Thursday, 29 September 2011
Held at: Church of the Nativity, Cavendish Road**

Councillors in Attendance

Councillor Elly Cutkelvin
Councillor Bill Shelton

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.
Orange Bag recycling Scheme Obtain information on the soon to be introduced new recycling scheme	

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.

12. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Shelton was elected as Chair for the meeting.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this time.

15. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the previous meeting of the Freemen Community Meeting held on 22nd June 2011, as previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

16. COUNCILLORS' COMMUNITY REPORT

Councillor Shelton reported on the following: -

i) Saffron Fete 2011

As Event Manager for this event he had received feedback from a number of people that this event had been the best to date. One minor criticism had been the lack of rides for very young people. More people were now being sought to serve on the Saffron Fete Committee, the next meeting of which was expected before Christmas.

ii) Marriott Primary School

As a Governor of the School it was stated that the Marriott Primary had been in Special Measures until recently when a new Head had been appointed. The staff had been fully supportive of the new Head and the changes proposed at the time, with the result that the school was now performing better than the national average. A special visit to the school had been arranged for Councillor Dempster, Assistant City Mayor, to visit the school and award the school a Certificate of Honour.

The City Warden stated that he had reported the graffiti on Marriott Road and had spoken with the staff at Marriott Primary School, the graffiti had yet to be removed.

iii) Planning Matters

Wheatsheaf Site

It was reported that The Wheatsheaf site on Knighton Lane was subject to an application for housing provision that was granted. A number of complaints had been received around potential traffic problems but work had started on the site and no further complaints had been received. The development would be phased to raise funding to restore the Wheatsheaf building itself.

It was further stated that S.206 funding from the developers of the site would be staying in the area to provide play facilities, particularly for young children.

Manchester Hotel

An application had been received to convert the building to student flats. A lot of complaints had been received but the application had been granted.

Site opposite Manchester Hotel

An application had been received to turn the site into a gas storage facility. The application had been refused but the applicant appealed against the decision. The Government Inspector looked at the Appeal and granted the Appeal in the applicants favour, the gas storage site would now go ahead.

Velodrome Site

A member of the public questioned what was happening regarding this site. Councillor Shelton stated that an application had been submitted years ago, but following the granting of planning permission, the applicant disappeared. Another application followed and the same thing happened. The City Council has made it clear that they want a mix of Housing and apartments on the site. In the meantime the Assistant City Mayor with responsibility for the environment had been approached with a view to the exterior of the vacant site being improved.

Macaulay Street/Knighton Fields Road West

Planning permission granted and the site has been fenced off after a long period of time. Apartments were to be built on this site. Also on the same street an application had been submitted for 'The Glassworks' site. Residents had presented a petition and handed this into the Planning Department. The application would now have to be considered by the Planning and Development Control Committee, although it had not yet appeared on the Agenda.

Football Pitches, Aylestone Road

It was reported that the official opening of these pitches would be on Monday 10th October at 4.00pm. The fence around the site had recently been painted as part of a Community Project scheme.

iv) Free Swimming

Councillor Cutkelvin reported that the recent free swims at Council facilities during the summer had been a great success and would now be rolled out across the City during holidays.

v) Knighton Fields Primary School

It was reported that this school was under-performing and that there were proposals that it could be converted to an Academy. Cabinet were to consider the matter and consider how best the school could be improved and avoid conversion to an Academy.

vi) Chimney – Saffron Lane

A chimney to industrial premises on Saffron Lane had recently been found to be emitting noxious emissions. The City Council had secured some improvements following a number of complaints from local residents.

vii) St Mary's Allotments

It was stated that discussion had taken place at Cabinet around the problems at this site, designated as Housing and Open Space in the Local Plan, and it had been agreed that a site visit would be arranged to meet local Councillors and senior officers. A member of the public stressed that Cabinet need to be aware of the local sensitivities within the local community around this site.

viii) Highways – General

The following issues were highlighted: -

- Parking Issues – Keble Road (around the Mosque)
- Grit Bin now installed on Saffron Lane
- Industrial area – potholes now been attended to

ix) Community Meetings

It was reported that the scope of Community Meetings was due to be broadened and would feed into Joint Action Group (JAG) meetings and vice-versa. Officers based within the community would manage the meetings and the format of meetings was likely to be different.

It was stated that feedback was required from the public.

Comments received: -

- Contact details of Councillors required on Agendas/publicity
- Publicity not widely distributed
- Saffron Post Project currently delivers to every house in Saffron

x) Aylestone Leisure Centre

A member of the public stated that new lockers had recently been provided in the wet area of the Centre, however there were only 4 working lockers in the dry area. There was only a need for some 20 lockers in the dry area and that this issue had been ongoing for at least 6 years when a request to get at least 12 working lockers in the dry area had been first made.

The Chair suggested that this issue be raised on October 10th when he was due to be holding a regular surgery at the Centre, and when the City Mayor would also be present.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

17. NEW ORANGE BAG RECYCLING SERVICE

Geoff Soden, Waste Services Manager attended the meeting and outlined the implementation of the new Orange Bag Recycling Scheme across the City, replacing the current Green Box Scheme. It was stated that the new scheme would start on 18th October.

It was reported that over the next 2 weeks a roll of sacks and a welcome pack would be delivered to every property in Leicester. Each welcome pack would include a list of items that could be recycled in the orange bags, this included paper, cardboard tin cans and food containers, although food containers and cans should be rinsed out first. It was stated that the main items that could not be recycled this way were soiled nappies, food waste and wood.

In each roll, several bags from the end of the roll was a sticker that enabled further bags to be requested, these would be delivered on the day of the collection. Collections would remain on the same day as previously.

Those householders wishing to keep their existing Green Box could do so, or alternatively, attach the red sticker in the welcome pack and leave the box out with the recycling where it would be removed and recycled.

A member of the public suggested that it would be a good idea if the City Council could make provision to dispose of Green Waste. In response it was stated that the Ball Mill at Bursom extracted compostable material and this was then sent to the anerbic recycling plant where it was digested and converted to provide electricity.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

18. POLICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sgt. Little attended the meeting and reported on local policing in the Freeman area. It was stated that the Freeman local policing team were currently targeting ASB issues in the Stanton Row and Linwood Centre areas.

Crime figures were reported as follows: -

	June-Sept 2011	June-Sept 2010
Burglaries	14	16
Thefts from Motor Vehicles	16	16
ASB	41	39

The Team had recently lost 2 PCSO's but had also gained 2 PCSO's from the adjoining area to keep the same numbers.

Leicestershire Constabulary were in the process of rolling out a new initiative 'Neighbourhood Link' as a means of enabling the public to communicate with their local police and other agencies via computer. The link required the person to register to use the service but then enabled them to make and receive messages about crime issues in the area. It was hoped to roll out this service over the next few months.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

19. CITY WARDEN

Scott Clarke, City Warden attended the meeting to provide an update and also stated that he was currently providing cover for the Eyres Monsell Ward to cover for the shortage of Wardens.

Scott stated that he had recently targeted the Hazelden Drive/Lothair Road area but had not had to issue any fines. The Freemens Common area was to be targeted next as there were a lot of issues to be dealt with, a Community Action Day was due to be held at Freemens Common commencing at 10.30am on Tuesday 5th October.

Scott stated that he was looking to bring a Street Artist to the area to engage local youths and to undertake workshops, although this idea had been turned down by the City Council. It was however hoped that street art could be provided at various locations across the area.

A member of the public stated that she had recently moved back into the Freeman area and was glad to see that dog waste was now accepted in ordinary waste bins, this meant that dog waste on the street was now drastically reduced.

Both Ward Councillors expressed their satisfaction with the work that City Wardens were undertaking across the City.

20. BUDGET

Officers reported that the following applications for funding had been received:-

i) Applications Fast Tracked since the last meeting

- Linwood Centre – 25th Birthday £500
- STARS Freestyle Dance Academy £500
- Supporting our Artistic Youth (Pink Lizard) £500
- Empress Roller Skating – European Championship £500

ii) Applications for consideration at this meeting

- 1) SAFTAS £700

Application from Saffron Community Enterprises Ltd. To part fund the annual Safta's Volunteer Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was last held in February 2011 and a date and venue had yet to be finalised for the next ceremony. The event was also part funded by the NHS.

RESOLVED:

that the application be fully supported - **£700**.

2) Catch 22

£300

Application received on behalf of the Saffron/Eyres Monsell Junior Youth Involvement project to part fund a 'joining two communities through gymnastics project'. A similar bid has also been submitted to Eyres Monsell Community Meeting.

Officers reported that there were some issues to resolve regarding the application and that further information had been sought from the applicants but was not yet forthcoming. A meeting between the Ward Councillors and the project was due to take place the following week.

RESOLVED:

that the Community Meeting is minded to approve application, pending the successful outcome of the meeting with the project.

3) Pink Lizard – Supporting our Artistic Youth

£3504

Application split between Freeman and Eyres Monsell Community Meetings to fund sessions for youths to teach acting, dance , singing, guitar and music.

It was reported that a grant from the Arts Council for England was also pending. Further information on the application had been sought by officers but was still awaited.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **DEFERRED** pending the supply of further information requested on the number of local youths to benefit from the project and of the decision from the Arts Council for England. The Ward Councillors for Eyres Monsell Ward would also be appraised of the situation.

4) Wheelchairs

£320

Application from SAFF Support for Elderly People, based at Southfields Drive Community Centre, to fund the purchase of four wheelchairs to enable SAFF Support to be able to take local residents out on trips. A similar bid had been submitted to Eyres Monsell Community Meetings and had been approved.

RESOLVED:

that the application be fully supported - **£320**.

5) Saffron Acres (£821)

It was reported that this application for £1821 had been submitted to the last meeting where £1,000 had been granted with agreement that the balance be presented to this meeting. It was reported that the funding was to continue and expand the work previously started to encourage local youths to grow their own vegetables and to prepare and cook them on site.

RESOLVED:

that the balance of the application be fully supported - **£821**.

iii) Other Applications

Saffron Directory

Officers reported that an application had previously been deferred pending a discussion on the future of the Directory.

It was reported that work on the Directory had been delayed but that it was anticipated that it now would be launched in January and 2012 and that the application should therefore be deferred for the time being.

RESOLVED:

that the application be **DEFERRED** until the next meeting.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Health Conference – Saffron

It was reported that the Saffron Neighbourhood Management Board had allocated some funding towards the holding of a Health Conference event in Saffron later in the year.

22. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

It was noted that future meetings would be held on: -

Wednesday 7th December 2011 at 6.30pm at the Linwood Centre, Linwood Lane.

Wednesday 14th March 2012 at 6.30pm at Aylestone recreation Ground Pavilion.

23. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

