

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 29 February 2012

**Held at: Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre, Armadale Drive,
Leicester. LE5 1HF**

Who was there:

Councillor Rita Patel
Councillor Barbara Potter
Councillor Gurinder Singh Sandhu

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.
Prince’s Trust Meet representatives of the Trust and obtain information	NHS Obtain Information on latest NHS Health initiative

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.

24. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Potter was elected a Chair for the meeting.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were given at this time.

27. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting of the Humberstone and Hamilton Community Meeting held on 21st September 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

28. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 16 – Greenfield development – East of Heritage Way

It was reported that a progress report would be given at the next meeting.

29. PRINCES TRUST

Matt Jesson and Mark Scott attended the meeting, representing the Princes Trust, and gave a brief presentation.

It was stated that the Prince's Trust had been founded by Prince Charles and operated across the country and was hosted by several agencies. In Leicestershire the Trust was hosted by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, in Derby it was hosted by a College and in some other parts of the country it was the Police.

Matt outlined the local Prince's Trust Team Programme that was a free 12 week Personal Development Programme targeted at offenders, young offenders, ex-offenders and young people that had left care. The programme covered a comprehensive range of activities that aimed to increase self-confidence and self-esteem and gave opportunities to develop new skills and gain a variety of qualifications. It was reported that a new 12 week programme was due to start in 2 weeks time.

Matt stated that the local Prince's Trust were always looking for new project work and the Chair suggested that the Trust advertise on a regular basis in local Neighbourhood Centres and Schools.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

30. CARE AND REPAIR

Representatives from Care and Repair submitted their apologies prior to the meeting.

31. YOUTH SERVICES

David Thrussell, Head of Youth Offending Service and Gerry Burke, Area Youth Work Manager attended the meeting to provide an update on youth services in the area and an overview of teenagers out of school.

It was reported that Youth Services across the country were suffering as a direct result of funding cuts. In Leicester it had been recognised that investment in Youth Services was important and funding had been retained.

In Leicester 14 Centres, including the Armadale Centre were operated with a range of activities and the budget available enabled both City Council and a range of partner body activities to be offered.

It was stated that the City recognised the need to engage young people at an early stage, an example being the Youth Council Elections that were to take place shortly. Leicester had a good record of involving young people in the democratic process.

Local Provision

Gerry stated that on a local level a range of activities were offered at the Armadale Centre with weekly youth work sessions offered as well as healthy eating sessions, a new computer suite and a re-furnished gym. It was envisaged that young people could be trained and reduce the levels of ASB around the estate. The detached youth team was currently concentrating on ASB issues in other areas of the City.

A member of the public questioned what activities were available in Hamilton. Gerry stated that this was an area that the Council were looking at and were looking to potential working with Hope Hamilton School to help tackle the ASB issues in Hamilton.

David stated that there were a number of 'fixed' Centres across the City offering youth activities, some of these were well used, others not. The Council were currently looking at a more flexible approach to the extent that a 'Local Offer' was being rolled out that would in effect be a flexible approach to providing young people's programmes. The full detail of the 'Local Offer' would be known in 6-8 weeks and details would be published on the City Council website.

A member of the public questioned what provision was planned for Humberstone, as at present there was nothing for young people. Gerry stated that this was an area that was being looked at to assess what provision had existed previously. The Chair stated that Humberstone had excellent schools in place and it was possible that some youth provision could be provided at those locations. Whatever was put in place would be advertised across the area.

A member of the public sought further information on the role of Detached Youth Workers. Gerry responded by stating he managed seven separate Wards and that he needed to react to issues in specific areas. At present there was one full-time Worker managing three Detached Workers in the seven Wards. The Workers were currently working within St. Matthews, Highfields and Evington Wards as these were areas that the public had identified as requiring attention.

David informed the meeting that the City Council invested heavily in Youth Services and Youth Offending Services, with the Probation Service in place to work with Adult offenders. The City was currently fifth in the country in reducing levels of youth re-offending and this was as a result of the work put in place.

Councillor Patel stated that people in this area constantly felt that they were being forgotten and that there was a seeming lack of investment in Youth Services. The department should proactively inform local organisations of what was being done as this could then form part of the solution. Officers were urged to engage with local groups and organisations.

David stated that he would bring an update back to the Community Meeting in six months.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

32. ITEMS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The following items were raised by the public and the responses are summarised as follows: -

i) 20mph zone – Main Street Humberstone

It was stated that residents had been pleading for four years to make Main Street a 20mph zone. Several other local roads had since been given 20mph speed limits and 120 streets across the City were now 20mph streets. Main Street, Humberstone had blind bends, two chicanes and passed by two schools. It was questioned whether the City Council were waiting for a fatal accident before taking further action.

The Chair stated that herself and fellow Ward Councillors had been fighting for 20mph zones in this area for a long while but this was now part of the wider City Council debate of 20mph zones across the whole City. Unfortunately accident statistics were utilised in determining the priority for implementing such traffic measures.

ii) Heavy Goods Vehicles – Operator’s Licences

It was stated that, under present legislation, only respective landowners, or people owning properties that might be affected by HGV Operations in question, were able to comment on applications for HGV Operator’s licences. A similar system to that applicable to Planning Applications was required whereby residents living in the vicinity of the application site would be able to comment and make objections.

The Chair stated that this area of work was dealt with by the Vehicle and Operator's Services Agency (VOSA), a Government Agency. To suggest changes to the processes followed would require contact with the Government and this would be taken up with the local M.P.

The Chair stated that regarding the recent issues around a scaffolding company that started operating from a local car park, action was quickly instigated by local ward Councillors to get the company moved from the car park.

iii) School Waiting Lists

It was stated that in view of the fact that several local schools were full, and parents were being advised to 'Home Teach' until vacancies became available, the City Council were asked what was being planned to ease the situation, bearing in mind that further new properties were planned for the Hamilton area.

The Chair stated that a response had been received from the Cabinet Lead member responsible for schools and this was read out as follows:-

"Thank you for your enquiry regarding the admission of pupils and provision of school places within the Hamilton area.

Officers can confirm that parents are not advised to 'Home Teach' children if they do not receive an offer for a school place of their preference.

Parents may make applications for schools that are full, and in these situations the pupils are placed on the waiting list for the school until a place becomes available. A letter is sent to parents and the admissions service work with parents to find a school with a place available as near to their home as possible.

The City Council is aware of proposals for Housing development in Hamilton as part of our Pupil Place Planning Strategy; a number of proposals are being developed for the provision of additional school places in the area.

Consultations are currently on-going with schools, governors, diocesan partners and members on options for supply of more places and as these are developed in more detail I will ask officers to keep the Community Meeting informed of their progress."

Supplementary Question

"If a parent was not able to get a child into a school before they were four years old, would the parents face prosecution."

It was stated that a response would be sought.

A member of the public stated that Hamilton lacked community space although there were a lot of play areas for children. It was apparent that S.106 monies from developers were not always spent in the area of the planning application.

In response it was stated that there was a lack of community facilities in Hamilton and S.106 monies from developers were not always spent in the area where the respective development was taking place. A large proportion of the land on which Hamilton was built had been owned by the Hamilton Trust and they had applied for the relevant permissions, there was a need to check back to the original plans to ascertain whether there had subsequently been changes of use.

It was reported that Charnwood Borough Council had received a planning application to develop a site at Heritage Way. Councillor Patel stated that members were aware of this application as it was also due to be considered by the City Council as permission was required from the City Council because access to the development was across City Council land. The more support that could be given to oppose the application would be welcomed.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

33. LOCAL POLICING UPDATE

Sgt. Wayne Nimblette and PC Deborah Thompson attended the meeting and gave an update on local policing in the area.

It was reported that in the previous three months, compared to the same period in 2011 there had been: -

- 2 ½ % increase in reported incidents
- 12% reduction in Anti-Social behaviour incidents
- 25% reduction in Burglaries other than buildings
- 46% reduction in damage to motor vehicles.

Currently the Police locally were trying to promote an increase in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in the area. The police welcomed as many calls as possible reporting crimes as this gave them a clearer picture of what was happening across the area. The Police were not able to be everywhere at once but would prioritise calls to action.

Locally the Police had identified a number of the main players involved in local ASB issues. In Humberstone village there had been problems with motor bikes riding around, as a result warnings had been issued and , should the problems persist the Police had powers to confiscate the machines.

Parking outside schools was still a problem, with vehicles blocking driveways. The Police were trying a gentle approach at first to alleviate the problem, but should this not be successful then action would be taken to ticket the offenders in conjunction with the City Wardens and Parking Enforcement Officers.

The Community Meeting were informed of the existence of Neighbourhood Link, a Police Community Messaging service that allowed local people to be kept informed of things going on in their area. There was a need to register for this service.

A member of the public made reference to the thefts of lead in Humberstone. The Police stated that they were well aware of the thefts and they were currently liaising with local scrap merchants. In the longer term it was to be hoped that the Government would tighten up on how scrap merchants ran their businesses to make the trading of illegal scrap more difficult to dispose of.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

34. CITY WARDEN

In the absence of the City Warden there was no update.

35. BUDGET

Anita Patel, Members Support Officer presented the Community Meeting Budget and reported that the Community Meeting had spent £6,444 to date, leaving a balance of **£11,256** remaining in the Budget.

The following applications were reported as having been received since the last meeting and the decisions are summarised: -

	<u>Amount applied for</u>
	£
i) Hamilton Family Fun Day 2012 Hamilton Residents Association	2444.20
An application for funding to stage a Hamilton Family Fun Day 2012, on similar lines to the event held in 2011. The event would likely be held during June 2012 on Hamilton Park Playing Fields.	
Officers reported that further information around the Constitution of the Residents Association had been sought from the applicants at the request of Ward Councillors, but no response had been received. Members were minded to support the application in principle but not until the information requested had been supplied.	
RESOLVED:	
that the application be supported in principle, pending the receipt of information requested.	
ii) Various Pitch markings Kestrels' Field Primary School	578
An application to provide various pitch markings at the school that will enable after-school activities to be extended, and for holiday clubs to be offered.	
RESOLVED:	
That the application be supported in full - £578	
iii) The Emerald Centre c/o Keyham Lane Police Station	236

An application to provide 4 goalposts at the Emerald Centre, to replace the previous posts that had been loaned out and not returned, new booking system was now in place.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£236**

- iv) **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations** **495**
Twilight Group

An application towards the cost of decorations and afternoon tea, as part of celebrations, to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, at Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre on 31st May 2012.

Note - Councillor Potter disclosed a personal and non-prejudicial interest in this application and did not take part in the discussion on the application.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£495**

- v) **'It's Your Neighbourhood' – Litter Picking** **354**
New Shoots Garden Club

An application to fund a monthly litter pick on Hamilton Estate, open to the whole community.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£354**

The following applications were received after the Agenda had been published.

- vi) **Sound System** **400**
Kickass Fitness

An application to fund the purchase of a Sound System and produce publicity for a new group exercise class.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£400**

- vii) **'It's Your Neighbourhood' - Jubilee in Bloom** **432**
New Shoots Garden Club

An application to fund the provision of plants to improve the Sandhills Avenue Shopping area.

RESOLVED:

That the application be supported in full - **£432**

- viii) **Event (12th February 2012) for Community** **300**
Celebration of birth of Guru
Shri Guru Ravidass Temple and Community Centre

RESOLVED:

that the application be **REJECTED** on the grounds that the application was retrospective and not in the Ward.

**ix) Raise Awareness and Arrange Group Sessions 1160
ADHAR Mental Health Project**

An application to raise awareness and to arrange group sessions in the Ward.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - **£1,160**

**x) Summer Holiday Club 1550
Hope Hamilton Church**

An application to fund a Summer Holiday Club. It was reported that the Accounts had been requested from the applicant and were still awaited.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in principle, pending the receipt of the Accounts requested.

**xi) Olympic Event 1200
Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre**

An application to fund an Olympic Event for Adults with Learning Disabilities to be held at Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre and the area around the Centre.

RESOLVED:

That the application be supported in full - **£1,200**.

At this point Anita reported that the balance of the Budget now stood at **£7,647.19**. In addition a sum of **£1,061.10** allocated to fund improvements at Netherhall Road shops, but not spent from 2011/12, was still in the Budget and this totalled **£8,708.29**.

RESOLVED :

- i) that the balance of **£1,061.10**, carried forward from 2010/11, and initially allocated to fund a walkway at Netherhall Road Shops, be 'ring fenced' to enable the railings to be installed at this location to finish off the previously funded walkway work.
- i) that the remaining balance in the Community Meeting Budget (**£7,647.19**) be 'ring fenced' for allocation to fund Environmental and Traffic Safety projects in the Humberstone and Hamilton Ward.

36. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

