

Beaumont Leys Community Meeting

Your Community, Your Voice

Record of Meeting and Actions

6:00 pm, Wednesday, 4 September 2013

Held at: Christ the King Church, Beaumont Way, Leicester, LE4 1DS

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.

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.
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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.

11. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Councillor Meghani was elected as Chair for the meeting.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Dempster submitted apologies for the first part of the meeting as she was attending another Community Meeting in Rushey Mead Ward. Councillor Dempster arrived in time for Item 18 – Patchwalk Update.

Apologies were also received from Haldene Broomes (Youth Services).

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at this time.

14. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the last meeting of the Beaumont Leys Community Meeting held on 18th June 2013 be agreed as a correct record.

15. HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

John Dowson, Team Leader Sustainable Transport and Ed Kocik, Team Leader Traffic Operations attended the meeting to address several concerns raised around various traffic issues and the 55 bus service at the last meeting.

i) 55 Bus Service

John reported that the City Council supported a number of bus services whilst the remainder were commercially operated services.

In 2011/12 severe funding cuts were imposed on the City Council by the Government and it was necessary to review a number of areas funded by the City Council and these included supported bus services.

However, the 55 service, operated by Centrebus was proposed to remain an hourly service between the City Centre and Beaumont Centre only (no longer to Thurcaston Park) and operate on Mons-Sats. An alternative bus service (No. 154) would continue to serve Thurcaston Park. This cut would save some £280k over the course of 1 year. It was reported that some 100-150 people used the 55 service each day during the working day. The final decision would be made by the City Mayor. The cut proposed was the only bus service affected in the Beaumont Leys area.

Councillor Westley stated that Council budgets had been severely cut and savings were being made across a wide range of City Council provided services. From meetings of the Bus Users Panel that met regularly in the City it was apparent that the major bus companies operating within the City received a lot of subsidy and it was widely felt that they needed to review their operations as the City Council could no longer continue to provide the same level of subsidies.

ii) Heathley Park

Ed Kocik stated that he had been asked to produce a mini scheme to alleviate parking problems in the vicinity of the Sunlight Bakery on Heathley Park Drive.

It was reported that the most practical solution was re-introduce some car parking, on one side of the road, near the Bakery and also extend no-parking into some of the side roads. It was also apparent that some of the existing road markings had eroded and these would now be re-painted. The aim was to keep the problems of parking in the vicinity of the Heathley Park public house and the Sunlight Bakery in that area of Heathley Park Drive. Sunlight Bakery had however indicated that they were looking to implement different ways of parking within their site in an effort to ease the current problems. In concluding it was stated that the existing shrubbery, sited opposite Dunscombe Road, would be removed to improve sight lines for motorists using this part of Heathley Park Drive.

Councillor Meghani stated that he had made a request that the City Council traffic Enforcement Officers undertake random checks on roads in Heathley Park.

16. CITY WARDEN UPDATE

Matthew Davinson, City Warden attended the meeting and gave the following update: -

Fly-Tipping

Incidences of fly-tipping on the following streets: -

Astill Lodge – Pankhurst Road, Pitchens Close, Halley Close, Astill Lodge Road.

Bradgate Heights – Lady Hay Road.

Heathley Park – Edgeley Close

Heacham Drive – Beaumont Walk, Blakesley Walk.

Nuisance Parking

Beaumont Walk

Litter

Bishopdale Road

Fly-Posting

Laithwaite Road

Dog Fouling

Bishopdale Road, Martinshaw Close.

Overall Complaints

18

Events:

Dog Fouling Stencils on Heathley Park and Glovers Walk.

Clean-Up – Blue Gates Road and Pitchens Close – 5 trucks filled.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

17. POLICING UPDATE

Pc. Adam Woolman attended the meeting and gave an update on local policing since the last meeting. The following recorded crimes were reported for the period 19/06/13 – 04/09/13, compared for the similar period in 2012: -

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Burglary – Non dwelling	12	11
Burglary – Dwelling	15	15
Robbery	2	4
Theft of Motor Vehicles	5	6
Theft from Motor Vehicles	18	12
Drugs	11	22
Indecency	12	9
Damage	64	51

It was reported that there was 1 Problem Solving Plan in place at present, covering problems with motorbikes. 1 person had been dealt with and there had been others that had been cautioned and had not been seen with motorbikes since.

It was reported that the Police did not have specific powers to deal with car parking on double yellow lines at Heathley Park, or indeed at other locations. Should a vehicle be causing an obstruction then the Police could prosecute. The City Council Traffic Enforcement officers did not patrol Heathley Park very often and Police would not be averse to re-gaining these powers.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

18. YOUNG PEOPLE'S COUNCIL

This item was deferred.

19. PATCH-WALK UPDATE

Councillor Westley reported that litter problems and parking problems had been observed on Bishopdale Road and an Action Plan had been drawn up.

A resident highlighted the car parking problems on Heathley Park Drive and also the issues around youths damaging cars and of the seeming lack of police presence. PC Woolman stated that the Government cuts had seriously reduced the numbers of police across the County and further cuts were planned.

Members of the public were reminded that the City Council collected, free of charge, up to 5 items of bulky waste per household. It was suggested that maybe a notice could be displayed outside the communal bin areas highlighting the phone numbers of the City Council Bulky Waste Collection Service.

Due to incidences of fly-tipping at Castle Hill Park some £20k had to be spent on clearing out ditches. There was a need to highlight that littering such facilities could lead to large amounts of expenditure to clear up.

It was reported that work was underway to integrate the current Parking Enforcement Officers into the City Warden Service. As a direct result it was also planned that City Wardens would then be undertaking enforcement of vehicle parking on double yellow lines across the City.

The Chair reported that a new Pet Shop was due to open in The Centre very soon.

The Council was looking to alleviate car parking problems in the vicinity of local businesses such as the Hospital, Sunlight Bakery and Samworth Bros.

Travellers were also a problem in the area, relating to unauthorised encampments and officers were working to address the problems. The City Mayor was putting forward planning applications for 2 travellers sites (Redhill and Beaumont Leys), the local community and Ward Councillors were strongly opposing these applications. It was stated that Ward Councillors could facilitate discussions around objecting to the

planning applications and represent local residents at the Planning and Development Control Committee but would not be able to offer legal advice. The aim was to be able to achieve the maximum impact and to maximise the effect when the objections were submitted to the City Council.

Councillor Dempster reported that the Community Meeting had recently granted funding to the Heathley Park Residents Group to stage a Bank Holiday event. The event had taken place and had been well attended.

Councillor Dempster stated that there were problems of street drinkers that tended to gather around the Barleycroft Centre and were putting off several groups that wanted to use the Centre, to the extent that these groups had opted to go elsewhere. It was stated that the area referred to was not the subject of a 'no drinking zone' like the City Centre. It was generally agreed that the local shops selling alcohol should be taking a more responsible attitude. Councillor Westley stated that he would be taking this issue up with Licensing Officers with a request that they look more closely at the Barleycroft shops and street drinking in that area. Councillor Dempster suggested that a meeting be arranged between Ward Councillors, the Police and Licensing Officers, this was agreed.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

20. BUDGET

The Members support Officer introduced the budget applications that had been submitted since the last meeting. Following the introduction discussion took place on each application and, following the completion of the discussion there was a short recess to enable Ward Councillors to reach their decision on each application.

Members stated that, in future, applications received requesting more than £500, should be submitted with more detail to include information on what the funding was to be spent on, numbers of participants and the time scale of the activity to be funded.

The following applications were withdrawn by the applicants prior to the meeting

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|-----|--|------------------|
| i) | <u>Drop-in sessions and running costs</u> | £4,750.00 |
| | Application received from Ur Choice Young Peoples Project. | |
| ii) | <u>Building a caring community project</u> | £1601.81 |
| | Application received from Key Roots Formation. | |

The Following applications were considered by the Community Meeting

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|------|--|----------------|
| iii) | <u>Ur Choice Young People Project</u> | £470.00 |
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Application received for funding to provide support to a group of disadvantaged young men to develop a constitution and support to enable them to run a football group themselves.

Members agreed to support the application in full.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - £470.

iv) Empowering unexperienced and unemployed Somalis £4,186.00

Application received from SOMINFOS (Joint with Spinney Hills and Stoneygate Wards) to part fund a project to empower Somali males and females.

RESOLVED:

that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant has previously been funded by this Community Meeting and the project that the funding was allocated to had not yet started.

v) Football Activity £450.00

Application received from FC Britannia to fund football activity. The applicant did not attend the meeting.

RESOLVED:

that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant has previously been advised to contact the NHS.

vi) Shoot 2 the Future Basketball Sessions £992.00

Application received from Leicester Basketball Developments CIC to part fund Basketball Sessions.

RESOLVED:

that the application be supported in full - £992.00

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Alderman

The Chair reported that former Ward Councillor Keith Lloyd-Harris had recently been made an Alderman of the City of Leicester. This was an ancient order bestowed to individuals who have given a lot to the City.

22. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.13pm.