



Aylestone, Eyres Monsell and Freeman Area Committee

RECORD OF MEETING

**Held on Thursday, 27 October 2005 at Aylestone Baptist Church,
Lutterworth Road**

Present

Councillor Nigel Porter (Chair)

Councillor Barbara Chambers, Aylestone;
Councillor Mark Farmer, Eyres Monsell;
Councillor Dale Keeling, Freeman;

Inspector Paul Mansfield (Police)
David Budd (Police)
Sergeant Keal (Police)

14 Members of the public

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65. Declaration of interests

There were no declarations by Councillors

66. Record of the last meeting

A resident pointed out that minute 57 wasn't correct as the Disraeli Street planning application had not been approved. The Head of Development Control confirmed that this was technically correct and he would address the matter as part of his item.

A resident expressed concerns about question 49 which related to consultation on the location of 'Star Trak' bus stop information facilities. She noted that 'Star Trak' had since been implemented on route 25 without prior consultation.

A resident also raised a point regarding minute 61. She stated that the minute was incorrect in suggesting that Leicester City Council would be calling a meeting of the

Eyres Monsell Tenants and Residents Association. This was not within the Council's jurisdiction.

Subject to the above, the record of the meeting held on 12 July 2005 was correct.

67. Responses to questions from the last meeting

Question 41 – Aerial Photographs

The questioner commented that contrary to the response given in the papers, he had provided information on two occasions with regard to the poster referred to in the question. The Service Director, Democratic Services, in attendance at the meeting, noted that he had discussed this question with the questioner prior to the meeting. He undertook to liaise with officers to ensure that the picture would not be used again. (Since the meeting, the Service Director, Democratic Services met with the Council's Cycling Co-ordinator who commissioned the poster. He agreed that the poster wouldn't be used again in future).

Question 50 – 'Star Trak' Bus Information Signs

A resident commented that they didn't think it was satisfactory that no consultation had taken place with residents on route 25 and the fact that the work had now been done. They requested that assurance be provided that consultation will take place for all such work in the future.

Another resident requested that maps be provided to the area committee for the proposed locations of Star Trak systems. The County Council provided maps and an assurance was sought that the City Council would do likewise.

Question 53 – Community Centres

The questioner wasn't happy with the response. He wished to know what the budget's were for the centres. He felt that staff were being removed from the centres and there was no clarity on what was happening. He wanted clarity about what the levels of baseline staff were to be at the centres. He wished to know when the centres were going to be opened and what their hours would be.

Question 54

Anna Parr, Youth Worker noted that the Gilmorton Community Day held on 17 September had been a success. Hundreds of people attended and good responses to a survey were obtained which will allow for planning for the area. Since the community day a book bus was now visiting the area, there had been a successful patch walk by various agencies and a Tenants Association was planned. She noted that there was a delay in receiving financial support from the Area Committee but expected to utilise some of this.

68. Public questions

The following questions were asked by members of the public. The column on the right shows which Council officer the question has been sent to for a response to be written if it could not be answered sufficiently at the meeting. Any responses given at the meeting will be in a separate report which also contains the responses from officers after the meeting.

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| <p>58) There are a number of local youth groups looking to use education facilities for cultural and sporting activity.</p> <p>For about 25 years, City and County Schools operated a young person friendly scheme of free facility use for youth groups up to 5pm on weekdays and at weekends. That scheme still operates in Leicestershire (the worst funded LEA in England). It may have fallen into disuse in Leicester.</p> <p>In Leicestershire there is guaranteed free use of school buildings by youth groups (with a County budget to pay the rental to schools). In Leicestershire, community designated establishments – eg. Community Colleges, have the power to make a small charge to youth groups through the Community Association, but most make no charge.</p> <p>Does the City Council continue to operate the County system of free use of education facilities by youth groups? If not, who made the decision to change the arrangements for free use by youth groups and when was the change made?</p> | <p>Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning</p> |
| <p>59) Sir Johnathan North and Lancaster Schools are local schools. But parents now have the right to base their admission applications to LEA Community (non faith) Schools on religious conviction. Will the Director of Education arrange for an officer to speak to the Area Committee about how well this type of faith admission is working? Can the Area Committee have an answer to some of the following questions?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Which religions have been successful in claiming a new type faith place at Leicester Community (non faith) Schools?2. How many new type faith places have been successfully claimed?3. Which religions have been successful in claiming a new type faith place?4. What advice would the LEA give to a Rastafarian or | <p>Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning</p> |

Jehovah's Witness parent who wishes to claim a school place on the grounds of religious conviction?

5. Is there any evidence that children are being consulted when their parents claim a new type faith place? Is there any evidence that the person writing the religious reference has ever met the young person concerned? Are some religious references written from outside of the UK?

6. Can the LEA estimate how many Saffron, Eyres Monsell and Aylestone children have been prevented from attending the local schools of their first choice because of the influx of children from outside the area attending local schools for reasons of faith.

7. How many extra places have been provided at Lancaster and Sir Johnathan North to accommodate the children claiming a faith place? When were these extra places provided?

8. What advantages are parents looking for when they claim a new type faith place?

9. How many County children leave the county to claim a new type faith place in a Leicester school?

10. Can the LEA explain how a parent can claim a faith place at Rushey Mead or Soar Valley Schools?

11. Is the LEA obliged to give weight to the philosophical convictions of the parent? How could the LEA extend this right to parents?

For all schools including Catholic and Church of England Schools

12. Is there any evidence that City parents are leaving Leicester Schools because of the large number of faith schools in the County? What advantages are Leicester parents looking for when they seek a place in the county?

60) It was enquired what was happening with the toilets on Aylestone Road?

It was felt that having the entrance inside the park wouldn't stop vandalism.

It was queried what the timescale was for the renovations?

It was queried how it would be possible to keep track of the progress being made on the toilets?

It was felt that having the entrance inside the park would allow for more antisocial behaviour?

Corporate
Director of
Regeneration
and Culture

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| <p>61) The questioner thought that it was planned to create a footpath from Aylestone to Asda. It was requested that this path be designated as a bridleway. The questioner kept horses in the area and didn't want them to be stranded by not being able move them about freely.</p> | <p>Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture</p> |
| <p>62) With regard to the proposed widening of Glenhills Way, the questioner felt that there hadn't been satisfactory consultation. She was told late about the consultation and there was little or no consultation with the residents of Eyres Monsell. She felt that it would be wrong for these proposals to go to full Council without the benefit of the views of the residents of Eyres Monsell. She requested that the consultation be reopened.</p> <p>She felt that there were a number of problems with the proposals that weren't suitable, ie. the lack of access / egress for buses entering the estate, similar for emergency vehicles. She felt that the plans would create rat runs on the estate. She felt that there hadn't been full consideration given to the impact on Southfields Drive.</p> <p>She didn't find it acceptable that there was a charge for the plans of the proposals. She requested that the Eyres Monsell Tenants Association and the Linwood Community Association be provided with a copy.</p> <p>She didn't think that it was acceptable to put more traffic lanes in as it would mean more lives lost.</p> <p>Another resident requested that figures be provided to show how the air quality improvements would be achieved in view of the increased traffic.</p> | <p>Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture</p> |
| <p>63) The questioner raised concerns about an accident which took place on Glenhills Boulevard involving the loss of a young boys eye. The accident took place around middle to late October of this year. There was work being undertaken undertaken on the approach to Pork Pie island and it was to improve a corner that was dangerous. The questioner queried why 'Harris' fencing was being used as this could not secure a site properly and would allow easy access to young children on to dangerous sites. She also commented that she had regularly monitored the site and had noticed that there were numerous periods when there were no persons working on the site. She felt that this</p> | |

<p>delayed the work unnecessarily and created additional safety concerns. She queried what monitoring arrangements were in place by the Council and whether there were penalties to be paid by contractors for taking too long to undertake work.</p>	
<p>64) Who is in charge of running the city? It was thought that it was supposed to be that officers were responsible to elected members and elected members were responsible to the public, but it was thought that the balance of power had swung more in officers favour.</p>	<p>Answered at meeting (response is in the responses to questions document).</p>
<p>65) The questioner was a resident of St Annes Drive. She stated that she had campaigned vigorously to get trees introduced to the street and having been successful had nurtured them to maturity despite one or two being ripped out by vandals. She was therefore disappointed to discover that the Council planned to remove the existing trees and replace them with saplings. As far as she was aware the trees wouldn't disturb the services but were being remove because of problems with slabs on the street. She enquired why this was happening? Was it really necessary and what was the general policy on these matters?</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture</p>
<p>66) The questioner felt that the Area Committee should be the body which elects the LEA representative on to the Governors Board for the Samworth Academy. It was enquired whether this would be possible? It was felt that it would be the means by which a private school could become more publicly accountable as the representative could report back to the Area Committee.</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Education and Lifelong Learning</p>
<p>67) The questioner made a number of points with regard to parking / traffic issues in the area:-</p> <p>Concerns were expressed about the parking situation down Narrow Lane. It was felt that the street should be kept free of parked vehicles as currently the access for emergency vehicles would be blocked.</p> <p>Marsden Lane, it was stated that the 2.5 tonne limit needed to be enforced as it was frequently breached.</p> <p>Knighton Lane East, it was stated that there was a bus stop flag and a bus stop road marking, but the bus</p>	<p>Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture</p>

stopped at neither of these as there was currently no bus that ran down this route at the current time. It was requested that the situation be clarified.

Also there were no lowered curbs on the central refuge outside the Aylestone Leisure Centre which it was felt should be looked at.

69. Petitions

A petition was submitted by Saffron Young People's Project. They were requesting £135 to help pay for a planning application for a proposed skatepark. Members of the Committee agreed to have a look at the proposals and possibly provide assistance from the funding allocated to the Area Committee.

70. Presentation by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust

Jane Edyvean from University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust was in attendance at the meeting. She gave the Committee a presentation which outlined the Trust's plans to become a Foundation Trust. As part of her presentation she made the following points:-

- The presentation was part of a wider consultation process which ended on 14 December.
- The trust was currently one of the largest in the country and was the only provider of Accident and Emergency services in the County.
- A major redevelopment of all the hospital sites was being planned with a total of £761 million being invested.
- The new foundation trust would be a 'Public Benefit Corporation' – The public could become 'Members' of the corporation.
- The public would have a bigger say in the running of the organisation and the organisation would be held to account by its members.
- The Foundation Trust would be freed up from a lot of the existing NHS bureaucracy.
- There would be better dialogue with Primary Care Trusts to ensure better services.
- The Foundation Trust would be able to have greater financial freedom.
- A Members Council would be elected, they would work alongside the board in managing the organisation.
- The membership of the Members Council was one of the main issues for debate as part of the consultation process. It was made up of varying parts of residents from the city, county, Rutland and representatives from out of the county. It was also proposed to have staff, university and voluntary sector representatives.
- The Members Council would have a role in holding the board to account, appointing non-executive directors and setting term and conditions for staff.

Members of the Committee and residents made the following comments about the proposals:-

- There was a query about the number of medical professionals to be on the Foundation Trust Board. Ms Edyvean commented that there was one Doctor on the Board of Directors. The Members Council would have medical representation.
- It was queried whether the proposals outlined would lead to privatisation of the health service. Ms. Edyvean commented that the Trust could increase its private business, its core NHS work was protected. There were financial limits on the private work the Trust could do.
- It was requested that there be a space for a police representative on the Members Council. Ms. Edyvean welcomed this suggestion.
- Working arrangement with the Primary Care Trusts were queried. It was felt that current partnership arrangements could be improved. Ms. Edyvean commented that issues of concern such as this could be looked into.
- There was confusion over what was being asked, more details were needed before it was possible to give support to the proposals. Ms. Edyvean commented that more information was available from the Trust. DVD's and videos were available and there were further opportunities for community groups to receive presentations.
- The members Council would need to be given full and proper advice on areas of health problems (substance abuse, domestic violence) to enable them to guide the board properly. Ms. Edyvean said that the value of having a wide membership will mean a range of experiences can be brought to the Members Council.
- The relationship between the Foundation Trust / Members Council and the Council's Health Scrutiny Committee was queried. Ms. Edyvean commented that the Trust already works with the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee already to address matters of concern.
- It was queried whether answers would be provided to questions asked on the forms that were provided at this meeting. Ms. Edyvean commented that if an address was provided a response would be given.
- A query was raised about how the Foundation Trust would address the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister plan to make local Councillors have more a community leadership role, in particular how it would interact with the Area Committee. Ms. Edyvean said she would take this comment back.
- More public involvement in decision making by the Primary Care Trusts would be welcomed.
- Concerns were expressed about the parking problems at the Leicester Royal Infirmary. The Trust were working with the planning authority dealing with this issue. The Head of Development Control confirmed that the parking issue would be considered as part of the planning application process.
- A query was raised over the funding for the Foundation Trust, whether it would be borrowing for capital projects on the open financial markets. Ms. Edyvean said that the Foundation Trust would still get government funding. The main source of funding for capital expenditure would be the PFI route.

71. Area Committee - Budgets

Charles Poole, the Council's Service Director, Democratic Services was in attendance at the meeting. He gave a brief overview of the report attached to the papers which gave details of the budget for the Area Committees. He noted that each Area Committee had a budget of £25,000 for general expenditure and a one-off fund of £10,000 for sports initiatives. Mr Poole noted that there was already a request for approximately £70 to assist with some of the funding for the Gilmorton Community Day which happened in September. There was also the request for £135 to pay for a planning application for the proposed Saffron Skate Park.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Councillors on the Area Committee had agreed to split the budget equally between the three wards.

The Chair also informed the meeting that funding had been allocated to all 10 proposed Area Committees, three of which were currently operational. Any funding not utilised by April 2006 would be allocated to those area with operational Area Committees.

The Service Director confirmed that money not spent in the current financial year could be carried over to a future financial year and would not be lost.

Councillor Farmer proposed the following ideas for the Eyres Monsell Ward:-

- £1000 for Christmas Decorations on the Exchange.
- £1000 for a feasibility study for a skatepark on Hillsborough Road

Councillor Keeling proposed the following ideas for the Freeman Ward:-

- £3147 for a 43 metre long, two metre high fence from Grampian Close to the waste land situated behind Neston Gardens in the Saffron Area.
- £1500 from the Sports fund to retrospectively pay for the airfare of a resident who participated in the Kuk Sool Won World Championships.

Members of the committee and the public gave their support to proposal to assist with funding for the Saffron Skate Park. Richard Welburn, Head of Parks and Green Spaces commented that Parks Officers could provide support to develop such feasibility and would be looking to do so.

It was queried what the process was for accessing the funds. The Service Director informed the meeting that the Area Committee would decide which proposals to put forward, the idea would be costed and the Council's Cabinet would approve the expenditure.

The Police requested some money to assist with the work of the Joint Action Group. Councillor Farmer said he would support this and would recommend that £1000 be supplied from Eyres Monsell funding.

Members of the Committee also agreed that Ward Councillors could receive proposals outside of the meeting setting and make proposals to Cabinet. These

would however be reported to the Area Committee. A resident recommended that this way of working be reviewed after a given time. This was also agreed.

Concerns were also expressed about the monitoring and evaluation of the expenditure of the Area Committee budget. The Service Director commented that as manager of the budget he would need to be satisfied with the expenditure. An evaluation would take place in the future and if problems were found, further expenditure would not be approved.

AGREED:

- (1) that the £25,000 general budget and the £10,000 sports budget be divided equally between the Wards of the Area Committee;
- (2) that the following be put forward as proposals for the Eyres Monsell Ward:-
 - £1000 for Christmas Decorations on the Exchange.
 - £1000 for a feasibility study for a skatepark on Hillsborough Road.
 - £1000 to assist with the work of the local Joint Action Group.
- (3) that the following be put forward as proposals for the Freemen Ward:-
 - £3147 for a 43 metre long, two metre high fence from Grampian Close to the waste land situated behind Neston Gardens in the Saffron Area.
 - £1500 from the Sports fund to retrospectively pay for the airfare of a resident who participated in the Kuk Sool Won World Championships.
- (4) that the Committee supports the request for retrospective funding for the Gilmorton Community Day;
- (5) that the Committee supports the request for funding for the planning application for the Saffron Skatepark, subject to more detailed consideration of the plans; and
- (6) that Ward Councillors be authorised to receive suggestions from residents and groups and make requests to Cabinet for funding consideration; these requests are to be reported to the Area Committee and this way of working be subject to a periodical review to ensure transparency.

72. Developments in the Old Aylestone Area

Mike Richardson, Head of Development Control was in attendance at the meeting. He gave the Committee an update on developments planned for the Old Aylestone area.

Bloors Development – Disraeli Street

It was noted that this application had been approved by the Council, subject to a legal agreement. This agreement had not been finalised. Discussions were ongoing between Bloors and the Environment Agency with regard to flood alleviation measures. Even if it proves to be impossible to have these measures in Aylestone Meadows, planning permission could still be approved. However flood alleviation measures would have to be put in place either upstream or downstream of the river.

Canal Street Scheme

This had now been withdrawn.

Former Tippendens Site

The applicant still proposed to develop this site. The Council has initially said that this was not acceptable. Comprehensive flood measures would need to be considered before any development.

555 Aylestone Road

This application had now been withdrawn. There may be pre-application discussions about further proposals in the future.

St Andrews Football Club

Planning consent had been given to retain the earth mounds on the site, subject to them being reduced in height. New floodlighting had also been approved.

56 Lutterworth Road

Approval had been given for 23 flats on this site to be within a three storey block.

A resident queried what the latest position was with regard to the former Perry's building, in particular whether it was planned to demolish the building. The Head of Development control commented that he wasn't aware of an application to demolish the building. Dave Budd, Police, requested that should the Council visit the building to survey it, that the Police be invited.

73. Update on Developments at Saffron Lane Sports Centre

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

74. Leicester Witness Cocoon

The Chair welcomed Ms. R. Fowler to the meeting. She gave the Committee a brief presentation on the work of the Leicester Witness Cocoon.

- The Witness Cocoon provided a range of services for people facing crime.
- In the past year the Cocoon has supported 110 families – details of the types of cases are outlined below.
- The Cocoon are a member of the local Police Joint Action Group (JAG), Members of the public can feed into the JAG through the Cocoon.
- Members of the Public can use the services for an unreported crime even if it was not intended to pursue a civil or criminal action.
- The Cocoon did intensive work with families for of an average of 36 weeks.
- The organisation was moving in November to:- Suite 14, 2nd Floor, Kimberly House, 47 Vaughan Way, Leicester, LE1 4SG.

In the last 12 months the Cocoon has worked on the following cases:-

	Total
Referrals	110
Active Cases	41
Average weeks per case	36
Antisocial Behaviour	63
Domestic Violence	26
Harrassment / Intimidation	69
Homophobia	0
Racial	18
Assault	28
Damage	36
Murder	0
Sexual	3
Theft	12
Other	9

75. Community Safety on Parks / Saffron Hill Cemetery

Richard Welburn – Head of Parks and Green Spaces informed the meeting that Saffron Hill Cemetery was rapidly approaching being full. He explained that work was underway to extend the cemetery. This had meant that the Council had revoked its deal with St. Andrews football club regarding some of the land that was used by the club. Full consultation had taken place with the club throughout this process.

76. Public Rights of Way

The Chair noted that this issue was being discussed in greater detail at the Council's Local Access Forum. A resident requested that the matter be considered when the Area Committee holds its meeting in Eyres Monsell.

77. Information sharing

Dave Budd, Police informed the meeting that on Saturday 19th November that there was to be a Home Safety and Neighbourhood Watch Road Show .

He also noted that there was a Joint Action Group meeting due to be held on 29th November at 2pm in Southfields Drive Community Centre.

78. Dates and Venues for Forthcoming Meetings

Members of the Committee confirmed that the meetings of the Area Committee for the remainder of the municipal year would be held as follows:-

Wednesday 18 January 2006 – Aylestone Leisure Centre

Wednesday 22 March 2006 – Eyres Monsell Ward, venue to be confirmed.

Thursday 25 May 2006 – Aylestone Baptist Church

79. Any other urgent business

Committee Meetings

A resident requested that for future meetings, the agenda be reordered to ensure that people who were required to speak at the meetings were heard earlier so that they were not kept waiting around. Members of the Committee agreed to try this at future meetings.

80. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.14pm.

