



## **Humberstone & Hamilton and Thurncourt Area Committee**

### **RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Monday, 30 January 2006 at Thurnby Lodge Community Centre, Thurncourt Road, Leicester.**

#### **Present**

##### **Councillors**

Councillor John Allen, Thurncourt - (Chair)

Councillor Brenda Maw, Thurncourt;  
Councillor John Mugglestone, Humberstone and Hamilton;  
Councillor Roman Scuplak, Humberstone and Hamilton;  
Councillor Stephen Thompson, Humberstone and Hamilton;

##### **Partners**

**Insepector Barratt – Hamilton Local Policing Unit**

20 members of the public were present at the meeting:

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#### **55. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **56. RECORD OF LAST MEETING**

The record of the previous meeting dated 28 November 2005, having been previously circulated, were agreed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the last paragraph of Minute 48 on page 7, due to it being duplicated on the previous page.

#### **57. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair drew the meetings attention to the report that gave responses to a question asked at the previous meeting of the Area Committee.

The response to the question was noted.

The Chair further reported that he had passed a series of questions to Paul Vaughan at the last meeting relating to the provision of Youth Services in the area. Paul Vaughan had subsequently provided unsatisfactory responses to these questions and the Chair had asked him to provide more detailed responses as soon as possible.

## **58. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following questions were submitted on question forms during the meeting. Discussions that took place about these questions are outlined below. It was explained that any questions that could not be answered in full at the meeting would be submitted to the relevant departments for response at the next meeting of the Committee.

- 28) Why is so much money being spent on re-paving Netherhall Road when Keyham Lane pavement (Tesco end of Keyham Lane) is so uneven and dangerous, especially for wheelchairs.

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Mugglestone agreed to visit the site referred to to assess the condition of the pavement referred to.

- 29) Leisure Provision for local community in West Hamilton – I have lived there for the past 13 years and nothing gets done for adults/children.

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Mugglestone stated that, until now, little leisure provision for adults or children had been provided for West Hamilton, with various facilities originally planned having never been built. A new Library had recently opened and there were plans for changing rooms to be constructed on the football pitch, as well as a childrens adventure playground. Later in 2006 a multi-sports pitch was being provided on the top car park.

- 30) With all the Budget cut backs in the air, how are we (the City Council) to improve our services to combat the Government's agenda on Health and Obesity for children.

*Comments at meeting*

A member of the public stated that through being involved with 'Healthy Schools in Leicester' he was aware that all schools were being encouraged to be healthy schools. Children were being encouraged to partake in more healthy activities. Parents should be encouraging their children to take advantage of the opportunities now available at all schools to help reduce obesity.

- 31) Have we got Ward Councillors support to keep the libraries at Humberstone and Netherhall open.

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Scuplak reported that the City Council were currently spending some £50,000 per year on keeping the libraries at Humberstone and Netherhall open, whilst the cost per borrowing equated to approximately £60 per book. Borrowings at each of the two libraries had fallen to below 40 during December 2005. The new library at Hamilton offered a much wider range of facilities with a steady increase of borrowings since opening. Regarding Thurnby lodge Library, it was stated that the building currently housing the library was unsafe and that this library would be re-located.

The Area Committee also sought clarification as to why the usage figures reported for the Humberstone and Netherhall Libraries seemed so low.

- 32) How long will it take for improvements to be made to the junction of the A46/A47 Link Road and Scraftoft Lane.

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Allen stated that he and Councillor Mrs. Maw were meeting with officers on 31 January to discuss action that could be taken. A request was also made that officers be asked to look at the potential hazard of north bound traffic using this road and making a right turn at the roundabout near Tesco at Hamilton, and suddenly meeting stationary traffic waiting at the pedestrian crossing sited a short distance from the roundabout.

- 33) Can we have regular updates on Youth Centre usage at the Area Committee. This could be presented by the Senior Youth Workers in the two electoral areas (Humberstone and Hamilton, Thurncourt).

- 34) Within the Education and Lifelong Learning Department base Budget Proposals 2006/07, Proposal R1, Community Services, the proposed reduction is: -

“To rationalise the number of community settings operated across the City and reduce the premises costs but retaining the staffing establishment to meet quality standards of customer care in the remaining centres.”

With this proposal in mind, which Centres are to close and what are the implications for re-located libraries.

## **59. PETITIONS**

Two petitions, one from residents of Wintersdale Road and the other from residents of Perkyn Road and related to the same footpath, and with a total of 22 signatures were presented by a member of the public in the following terms: -

“We the undersigned, being residents of Wintersdale Road and Perkyn Road, urgently need measures to correct the vandalism, rubbish dumping and associated anti-social behaviour in the footpath known as Wintersdale Walk.

In the past five years, fires have burned the privately owned fences to the extent that owners are reluctant to continue their repairs, this in turn allows for unauthorised access over the rear gardens, recently this has resulted in two burglaries at Christmas where they used Wintersdale Walk as a means of access to the rear gardens and consequently this caused a great deal of upset.

We believe either drastic action in the form of secure fencing or a closure order for the walk is now the only course of action that will allow us to enjoy the safety and privacy of our houses.”

RESOLVED:

that the petitions be forwarded to the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Culture for a reply.

## **60. JOINT ACTION GROUP**

Inspector Chris Barratt, Commander, Hamilton Local Policing Unit, attended the meeting and opened by stating that it had been realised that there was a need to move away from community consultation, as it had become too police driven. To address concerns a series of Joint Action Groups (JAGs) had been proposed across the City and the local JAG had been launched in September 2005.

The local JAG was made up of representatives from local Tenants Associations, Residents Groups, Housing Department, Parks Service, Youth Service and other groups and met every six weeks to identify problems and find ways of dealing with them within the following four main areas of crime: -

- Persistent Offenders
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Theft and Drugs
- Violent Crimes.

Since September several issues had been addressed and there were a number of issues pending further action by the JAG, namely: -

- Willowbrook Park – motorcycle problems
- Improving youth facilities
- Graffiti
- Anti-Social behaviour
- Vandalism.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

## **61. LOCAL POLICING - UPDATE**

Inspector Chris Barratt reported that Thurnby Lodge and Netherhall would soon go live as part of the Neighbourhood Policing initiative being rolled out across the County. The initiative followed a pilot scheme trialled in Coalville in 2005 and the Hamilton LPU would comprise five separate Neighbourhoods.

Beat Officers would be spread across several shifts and each Neighbourhood would have it's own allocation of Beat Officers. This would enable local people to get to know their officers, which would help to establish lines of contact.

RESOLVED:

that the thanks of the Area Committee be conveyed to the Hamilton Local Policing Unit for their efforts in tackling crime in the area.

## **62. MANAGEMENT OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

Geoff Lake, Area Parks Manager, and Barry Ingram, Senior Parks Officer, attended the meeting to outline management arrangements for the following Parks/Open Spaces: -

Willowbrook Park  
Monks Rest  
Ocean Road Open Space  
Moorfields Open Space.

Barry opened by stating that there were 4 Parks Officers in post to control the parks and open spaces in this area. As part of the day to day work liaison was carried out with other partners, such as the Police.

In response to a question from the Chair, Barry stated that the problem with motorbikes on Willowbrook Park stemmed from the fact that the park was an open park, along with other similar parks across the City. A Parks Officer was based in the area, at Monks Rest, 2 ½ days per week and had tried, unsuccessfully, to apprehend the motorcyclists but had received verbal abuse. Members of the public were asked to report the details of sightings that could potentially lead to the confiscation of motorbikes; this could take the form of a diary itemising dates, names and the colour of particular bikes. It was further suggested that the CCTV cameras could be used to gain evidence of incidents but it was stated that by the time the cameras could be trained to a particular spot on the park the perpetrator would have left. The Police stated that they would keep the matter under review.

As a further issue mention was made of the problems of dog-fouling on Willowbrook Park and of the absence of the dog warden. Barry stated that there was no dog warden employed by the City Council at the present time although the Parks Officers had powers to issue fixed penalty notices to the owners of dogs responsible for fouling.

The Chair stated that it was the intention to set up a 'Friends of Willowbrook Park' that would meet probably some four times per year. The officers stated that such a group would then, by becoming formally constituted and opening a bank account with authorised signatories, be able to access funding that the City Council were not able to access, e.g. certain Lottery funding. The group would then be able to liaise with the City Council on setting up a programme of works.

On general areas of concerns regarding parks it was stated that graffiti on parks was an issue, with the buildings on Humberstone Park cited as an example. The officers stated that such graffiti should be removed within 48 hours of being reported. It was stated that this location had been highlighted as it was intended to install a new toilet block at this site very soon and graffiti would not be welcomed. The officers agreed to look into the graffiti issues at Humberstone Park.

RESOLVED:

that the information be noted.

### 63. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Area Committee were reminded that they had previously agreed, in principle, the following requests for funding from the Area Committee budget 2005/06: -

	£
i) Manor Farm Project (Development Work)	12,500
ii) Willowbrook Activity Centre (Improvement Works)	6,000

The Area Committee were further reminded that the following requests had also been received at the last meeting of the Area Committee, held on 28 November 2005: -

iii) Local Community Safety enhancements- purchase of door and window locks.	(No costing)
iv) Local Summer Play Scheme 2006 (partial funding)	(No costing)
v) Additional signage for Old Humberstone area.	(No costing)

The following further requests for funding were received as follows: -

vi) Anchor Tenants Limited – re-imburement of cost of providing a barrier, preventing motorcycles using the walkway between Lilac Avenue and Keyham Lane.	1,125
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Note:

Councillors Allen and Mrs. Maw disclosed personal and prejudicial interests in the following request, and took no part in the discussion on the item.

vii) Thurnby Lodge Community Association –	3,800
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Purchase and erection of 76m length of 2m high pallisaded fencing along one side of boundary of Thurnby Lodge Community Centre.

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|-------|--|-------|
| viii) | Netherhall Neighbourhood Centre –<br>Purchase and erection of unspecified length of Pallisaded fencing, dividing the car park from the edge of a brook, for health and safety reasons. | 3,900 |
| ix)   | Provision of two 'No Motorcycles' signs at Willowbrook Park  | 78    |

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) that the Area Committee re-affirm their agreement to requests for funding (i) and (ii) above;
- 2) that the Area Committee agree in principle the requests (iii) and (v) for funding as referred to above;
- 3) that the Area Committee agree in principle the requests (vi) and (vii), (viii) and (ix) for funding as referred to above; and ,
- 4) that the Ward Councillors be authorised to allocate funding as they see fit to ensure that the full amount of the allocated Area Committee budget 2005/06 is committed.

**64. EAST MIDLANDS AMBULANCE SERVICE**

Ian Donnelly, representing East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS), attended the meeting to outline proposals to enhance the local service, and of proposals to close the existing Goodwood Ambulance Station. It was stated that, unlike certain other emergency services, the ambulance stations were basically a parking place for ambulances and for crews to rest and eat.

The Area Committee were informed that when an emergency call was received the nearest appropriate resource was sent, which could be an ambulance, a paramedic or a helicopter. Crews responded from either the Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI), Strategic Stand-by points or whilst en-route to/from another call. It was stated that a number of Strategic Stand-by points were used across the City, and were basically parking places where an emergency vehicle could wait and be able to by-pass City Centre traffic congestion and therefore respond more quickly to a call than if starting from either the LRI or an ambulance station.

EMAS were anxious to improve the service in the City and they had identified Gorse Hill, near Gorse Hill Hospital, off Anstey Lane, as the preferred site for development into a 'Level 1' site, a site already owned by EMAS. A 'Level 1' site provided a three-vehicle facility for repairs to vehicles and also comprising facilities to have vehicles thoroughly cleaned and prepared by staff, other than the actual crews. The overall aim was to improve efficiency and reduce vehicle 'downtime', i.e the time vehicles

were out of service and/or not available for work. EMAS were confident that the provision of the 'Level 1' site at Gorse Hill would be a cost effective measure and assist staff retention in the Service.

RESOLVED;

that the information presented be noted.

## **65. INFORMATION SHARING**

### **Old Humberstone Conservation Area**

The Area Committee were informed that the City Council were undertaking a rolling programme of reviews of all 23 of the City's Conservation Areas. A review involved a detailed assessment of the character and appearance of each area, its architectural and historic importance, the boundaries of the Conservation Area, and the actions necessary to preserve and enhance the character and appearance of the area.

A Draft Appraisal was circulated for information at the Area Committee and members of the public present were informed that any views on the Appraisal, or suggested management plan would be welcome as part of the wider consultation that was currently taking place. All views and comments were to be directed to June Gray, Conservation and Enhancement Team, Regeneration and Culture Department, Leicester City Council, (telephone (0116) 252 7281, 'e' mail [june.gray@leicester.go.uk](mailto:june.gray@leicester.go.uk).)

## **66. SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following topics were suggested for the next meeting: -

Doorstep Crime – presentation by Trading Standards

Childrens Centres – how are they to be developed

Safer Stronger Communities aspect of the Local Area Agreement.

RESOLVED:

that the above topics be agreed as the basis for the next meeting of the Area Committee.

## **67. DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Humberstone, Hamilton and Thurncourt Area Committee would be held at 7.00pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2006, the venue, subject to availability, to be the Community Hall, Hamilton Library.

**68. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business.

**69. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.08pm.

