



**Braunstone Park & Rowley Fields, Westcotes and Western Park  
Area Committee**

**RECORD OF MEETING**

**Held on Thursday, 23 March 2006 at West End Neighbourhood  
Centre, 7-9pm**

**Present**

**Councillors**

Councillor Andrew Tessier (Chair)

Councillor Roger Blackmore, Western Park;

Councillor Peter Coley, Western Park;

Councillor Andrew Connelly, Westcotes;

Councillor Andrew Vincent, Braunstone Park and Rowley Fields;

**In Attendance**

Adrian Russell, Service Director, Community Protection and Well Being

Mike Pepper, Section Manager, Transport Development

Mark Thompson, Braunstone Local Policing Unit

John Brown, Braunstone Local Policing Unit

John Norton, Hinckley Road Local Policing Unit

Kerry Norton, Hinckley Road Local Policing Unit

Marianne Whiting, Sure Start

Number of Members of the Public present: 39

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**46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared by Members.

**47. RECORD OF LAST MEETING**

The record of the meeting held on 19 January 2006 was agreed by members.

#### **48. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

The meeting looked at further responses received to questions asked at the meeting of the Area Committee on 19 January 2006. The following points were raised.

##### Question 88 – Woods near Leicester Forest East (Highway Spinney)

It was reported that this land had been purchased in 1977 under a compulsory order by the Housing Department. The Housing Department is currently maintaining the area, but are discussing handing the land over to the Parks Department who would be able to sustain the area.

##### Question 90 – The entrance to Western Park

Councillor Blackmore suggested that himself and Councillor Coley push for the formation of a landscaping user group.

##### Question 91 – Railway line

The Police reported that no one claimed responsibility for the fencing by the railwayline and that no funding had be put forward. Adrian Russell, Service Director: Community Protection & Wellbeing, stated that he would investigate this issue.

##### Question 92 – Tree surgery

It was requested that the Housing Department revisit this issue further. Many trees were planted by the Housing Department and tenants did not know where to find the money for maintenance. Some trees were thought to be dangerous and could fall over.

##### Question 93 – Rancliffe Gardens

The Committee asked if Braunstone Home and Garden Care could be contacted to help with this site

##### Question 95 – 301 bus service

It was suggested by residents that the 301 bus service could be re-routed to include the Brite Centre and the health centre.

##### Question 100 – pedestrianisation

Councillor Blackmore stated that this issue had been raised by Councillor Coley at Cabinet.

Concern was expressed that access to the market and other areas would be a big problem for many people who would not be able to carry large amounts of shopping to the new bus stops. It was suggested that alternative transport could be organized, such as a mini train to transport people from the bus stops to the market, which could be sponsored by the Shires. Concern for the safety of pedestrians walking along Churchgate at certain times of the day was raised.

#### Question 104 – CCTV

An additional question was raised regarding whether the CCTV on Braunstone Gate had been funded from the camera budget for the Great Central Way and therefore diverting resources from that area.

Councillor Blackmore stated that this would be looked into, but believed that it was from a separate budget.

### **49. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

### **50. PARKING**

Mike Pepper, Section Manager from Transport Development discussed with the Committee the residents parking scheme and priorities in the area. It stated that letters had been distributed to all residents in the area requesting their opinions on the residents parking scheme and asking them to vote on its implementation.

If the scheme was voted against they would tidy up the current orders and add lines around corners to try and aid emergency vehicle access. If the scheme was approved there would be better powers for enforcement, and more resources than for the previous scheme. Previously the Police had not got the resources to prevent parking by people outside the scheme, especially as the police had more pressing and serious crimes to cover. He stated that the scheme should make a profit of around one million pounds which would be used to subsidise local bus services, such as the inner circle and the Sunday services.

The local residents were asked their views on priorities in the area. Mike put forward the suggestion that to ensure short stay parking was available near the shops, a 20p an hour charge could be put in place.

Members of the public asked if the Walkers Stadium could have a multi-storey car park that would relieve parking issues on match days. In response it was commented that multi-storey car parks are not profitable, so it was unlikely to happen. Mike stated that they would prefer better bus services to the stadium.

Members of the public questioned why the car park at New College had not been used as previously suggested. Councillor Coley commented that the college had

agreed to this and planned for the money to go towards subsidising the school, however the club had pulled out.

It was felt that there was a lack of traffic wardens in the area, especially on match days. The Police stated that there had not been enough resources for this, however with the new PCSOs there will be patrols on match days around the area.

Councillor Connolly agreed that match day parking was a big problem for residents and stated that the club had not completed all their original conditions on their planning consent. He suggested that the club pay for the resident parking scheme.

Councillor Blackmore stated that he would check what the planning conditions were and write to the club for action to be taken, he would then report back to the Committee.

It was queried what would happen to the households that do not have a car, but have visitors who had cars. Mike stated that each household would be given 5 free passes for visitors and after that each pass would cost a pound.

In response to a question Mike stated that it is illegal for people to sell their cars on the street.

## **51. WHEELIE BINS ON PAVEMENTS**

Adrian Russell, Service Director, Community Protection and Well Being discussed with the Committee the measures that were to be put in place to address the problems with wheelie bins left on pavements.

He informed the Committee of a test sample of streets that were targeted to keep their bins inside. The scheme started with sending out letters asking residents to remove their bins, for those that had not compiled notices were sent that stated that legal action would follow. He stated that at the end of the scheme there were number of people that did not remove the bins and a lot of resource had been used up. Since then the Council had gained powers of delegation, enabling the Council to send out fixed penalty notices, which did not have to go through the courts, the fines received would help to cover the costs. The campaign should be underway in Leicester in the summer months.

Members of the public asked how this would affect schools and business. Adrian stated these would also be address, as the scheme looked at a number of highways issues and not just wheelie bins.

In response to a question about the use of the old style metal bins, Adrian commented that most people seemed to find the new bins easier to use.

Members of the public questioned the recycling collections and compared this with the number of bins given to people in the County. Adrian stated that most city houses did not have the same amount of space and two wheelie bins would take up

too much space. The larger wheelie bins were being replaced with the smaller ones and people in the city could get free assisted collections, for this to have been arranged the Council would need to be contacted in advance. He stated that any broken glass needed to go into the wheelie bins, rather than the green boxes.

Councillor Connolly asked what had been wrong with the green bag system for recycling. In response it was stated that the bags had been emptied into the same place and then hand sorted. If the recycling in one bag had not been clean it would contaminate all the recycling and it would all have to be thrown away. With the new system they could see what was in the box and add it to separate compartments of the vehicle.

Concern was expressed over fly tipping, and the lack of understanding about how to remove unwanted items. It was stated that the Council would remove any items and try to contact the people concerned.

## **52. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET**

### Braunstone Motor Project

The meeting received a presentation from Wayne Naylor and Rob Bindloss from the Braunstone Motor Project, in support of their funding bid. The presentation displayed a short film demonstrating the work that the Braunstone Motor Project had done with local Children.

The Project was originally offered a jobs bus from the City Council, which it converted into an educational facility, called the 'Buzz Bus'. The bus travelled to different schools proving a number of facilities, such as basic mechanics, how to be safe on motorbikes, arts and crafts, computer use, hair and beauty, job advice and school holiday activities.

In response to a question it was stated that the bikes used for mechanics were the small bikes that have been banned from the roads. It was noted that these worked well as a teaching aid, but they did not use them on the road. They tried to engage with young people to stress the dangers and consequences of driving dangerously, illegally and without helmets.

The group had around 50-80 young people a year between the ages of 8-16.

Councillor Blackmore asked how quickly the bus could be put together. It was believed that the bus would be ready within six weeks, making it ready for the summer holidays.

Councillor Coley, seconded by Councillor Tessier, proposed that the Committee support the bid and it was agreed by all Members that this would be passed to Cabinet for approval.

### Braunstone Adventure Playground Lighting – response from Education and Youth Services

The Committee agreed to fund the installation of a sensor light on the path of Braunstone Adventure Playground at an estimate of £300-400.

### Play equipment

It was discussed that more information was needed on the play equipment and that Ray Tunks could be invited to the next committee.

### Underpass

A request was received from Les Clark from Braunstone Local Policing Unit for a contribution towards the cost of replacing panelling in underpasses in Braunstone. A number of agencies had been contacted to try to raise the money required. It was stated that these improvements would cost a minimum of £10,000. The Committee asked for further details to be provided to the next meeting, including costings, other agencies which had been approached and details of any money already raised.

### Calorie Killers/ Score 4 Sport

Dean Tams from NACRO gave an update of their proposal. He explained that Score 4 Sport is about involving young people and promoting better health. The project would work with the young people for 12 months and would include items such as cooking skills, nutrition knowledge and food in the family environment. The young people would then attend a residential school. He stated that another organisation were contributing funding, which would be joined to the money from the Area Committee.

The adult members of Calorie Killers would share their experiences with the young people.

The Committee asked for further information to be brought to the next meeting of the Committee on exactly what parts of the proposal the Committee should fund, and details of the funding provided by other organisations.

## **53. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

The following questions were either asked at the meeting or submitted on question forms during the meeting. Discussions that took place about these questions are outlined alongside the questions 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.

- 108) Could a full report on proposals for Western Park be submitted to the next meeting of the Western Park User Group? This should include proposed fencing, clearing and landscaping which has not already been carried out.
- 109) How are parents of pre-school children consulted on play provision in their area?

- 110) Why is play equipment not shown depreciating within the council budget thereby allowing funds to be available to put in decent replacement equipment when the current equipment is no longer safe to use?

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Coley agreed to look into budget issues on this matter.

- 111) Doesn't the City Rooms belong to the people? Why has it been turned into an hotel?

*Comments at meeting*

Councillor Coley agreed to look into budget issues on this matter. (You may want to liaise with him on a response to this question.)

*Answered at meeting by Cllr Blackmore*

The City Rooms was originally designed as an hotel. It has been brought back into its intended use. It still belongs to the people of Leicester as it has been leased. The building was in such a state that someone was needed to restore it properly. The current lessee has done this and is happy for anyone interested to take a tour. The building will have disabled access and is in a good position for wedding celebrations now the Register Office has been moved to the Town Hall.

- 112) Is it worth suggesting to Leicester City Football Club that they should come to some arrangement with one of the City bus services to supply low cost local travel to LCFC supporters on match days as a way of reducing parking problems?

- 113) The graffiti on Wilberforce Road is a disgrace and has been on buildings for years. What is the Council going to do about it? All corner houses in the area should be provided with railings to stop graffiti.

*Answered at meeting*

£3000 has been allocated from Area Committee money to help with this. We are looking at ways of using this most effectively. It is agreed by officers and Councillors that this area is one of the worst in the city for graffiti. We can't say that fencing is the answer in all cases and that the Council could fund their installation— each should be looked at on its own merits.

- 114) Is there any political agenda in the allocation of secondary educational places to year 7 children to the 3 secondary schools in the area? Fullhurst is oversubscribed by 100%, Riverside is undersubscribed by 100% and people whose children have been allocated to New College have been told they have no other options.

- 115) DOMESTIC NOISE MONITORING SERVICE

We had reason to access the City Council's domestic noise monitoring service in late December. We were most disappointed to hear a recorded message telling us that the service is closed from 20 December to 9 January. I see no justification to close this service during the height of hell merry season.

- a) What is the reason for this closure?
- b) Will the City Council please review the situation?

#### 116) CITY HIGHWAYS

Eight ramps for pedestrian crossings at the junction of Fosse Road and Upperton Road were improved. The improvement involved lowering of existing ramps to meet the kerbside drainage channels. This, I was informed, was to comply with EU regulations.

Then came a second gang to raise the kerb side drainage channels to meet the newly laid ramps. We are now waiting for double yellow lines to be reinstated.

Would the City Council say that this is the most cost effective working practice?

#### 117) LICENSING ACT 2003

How does the City Council ensure that all existing off-licences register in compliance with the Licensing Act?

### **54. SUGGESTED TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

People were invited to suggest further topics and the following were raised:

Play equipment – Ray Tunks  
Leicester Olympics (Sport and Schools at the local level).

The following topics were suggested at previous meetings:

People's Panel  
Narborough Road Changing Rooms  
Worklessness  
A review of the successes of the Area Committee  
Local Area Agreements

### **55. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27 July 2006 at 7.00pm.

**56. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

