



**BRAUNSTONE PARK & ROWLEY FIELDS, WESTCOTES AND WESTERN PARK  
AREA COMMITTEE**

**1 JUNE 2006**

**A. QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE MEETING ON 23 MARCH 2006- FEEDBACK &  
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**

At the meeting of the Area Committee on 23 March responses were considered to questions asked at previous meetings. Some supplementary questions were asked and further discussions took place. These are set out below.

92	<p>A question was asked at the 19 January meeting regarding maintenance of trees in council properties The following follow-up question was asked: A lot of the trees were put in by the Housing Department and tenants don't know where to find the money to sort them out. Some trees are dangerous and could fall. We would like the Housing Department to look into this.</p> <p><i>Answer</i> As stated previously, where a tree is in a dangerous condition or where it is causing structural damage, the cost of any work necessary will be met by the Housing Department.</p> <p>Conditions of Tenancy, Clause 27, Gardens and Garages clearly states that tenants are responsible for the trees in their gardens including the maintenance and upkeep of them. There is no budgetary provision for the funding of general work such as lopping and pruning as all housing resources are needed to meet the Decent Homes standard, which is in line with both the Government and our tenants wishes and priorities. Therefore, nothing else can be considered at this time.</p> <p>Any tree that is believed to be in a dangerous condition or causing structural damage should be reported to the Neighbourhood Housing Office who will arrange for a tree specialist to carry out an inspection and recommend any necessary work.</p>	Martin Clewlow, Landlord Services Manager 2526856
93	<p>At the 19 January meeting a question was asked about the upkeep of Rancliffe Gardens. A follow-up question was asked: Could Braunstone Home and Garden Care be contacted to arrange for them to help with this site?</p>	Stewart Doughty, Parks Manager 2333020

	<p><i>Answer</i> All the Council's landscape work is all done in-house. We encourage involvement from within community groups on a voluntary basis but we don't contract out this type of works on a commercial basis at present.</p>	
100	<p>At the 19 January meeting a question was asked regarding the proposed changes to the City Centre bus arrangements. The following follow up question was asked: Access to the market etc will be a big problem for many people who would not be able to carry large amounts of shopping to the new bus stops. Could some sort of mini train be set up to transport people from the bus stops to the market? This could be sponsored by the Shires. Also there are concerns about the safety of walking along Churchgate at certain times of the day. Can this be addressed?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> We agree that that some people may struggle to carry large amounts of shopping to the bus stops on the new route, but these buses also stop on Charles Street or at the Haymarket bus station.</p> <p>The shopmobility scheme that provides free mobility scooters for people who need them operates from the Haymarket bus station and the shires car park. People who want to use this service can do their shopping and when they finish back at the shopmobility centre, are in easy walking distance of both the new bus routes and the existing stops on Charles Street.</p> <p>Churchgate can feel unsafe at some times of the day, particularly as there are a large number of vehicles currently using it who shouldn't. Between 7.30am and 6.00pm only taxis, disabled badge holders and delivery vehicles should be using the street because at the moment Churchgate is a convenient short cut to the Shires and Vaughan Way. With the alterations to the road layout and traffic management we propose as part of the Shires redevelopment, this short cut will be removed, and we are confident that only legitimate vehicles will be using Churchgate in future.</p>	Steve Warwick, Transport Development Officer 2232131
104	<p>At the 19 January meeting a question was asked regarding CCTV on Great Central Way. The following follow up question was asked: Have the cameras on Braunstone Gate been funded out of the Great Central Way camera budget, instead of more cameras being put on Great Central Way?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> The decision to install cameras in particular locations is normally based on local intelligence, police crime statistics and also the finance which is available. The finance available for the two schemes was from completely separate budgets. In the case of</p>	Malcolm Teear, Senior Technician 2526139

	<p>the Great Central Way the finance will allow 4 No cameras to be installed and also the infrastructure to support additional cameras.</p> <p>My colleagues in Community Safety are making every effort to secure the finance required to enable the scheme to be completed to its full compliment of 13No cameras.</p> <p>Copies of drawings showing the locations of cameras on the Great Central Way will be available to view at the Area Committee meeting.</p>	
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**B. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED AT THE MEETING ON 23 MARCH 2006**

At the last meeting of the Area Committee on 23 March the following questions were asked or submitted via a questions sheet. These were passed onto the relevant officers after the meeting and the responses are below. The right hand column shows who answered the question. The numbering of the questions follow on from the previous meeting.

108	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Answer</i> We will bring a report to the next User Group for Western Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2006 at 2.00pm at the Bowls Pavilion on Western Park.</p> <p>It will include details of work we plan for the park and ask for the views of the groups and park users.</p>	Stewart Doughty, Parks Manager 2333020
109	<p>How are parents of pre-school children consulted on play provision in their area?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> At the moment we do not consult parents or children on the level of play provision in an area. What play provision we can provide is dependent on both the availability of suitable sites and the resources we have available so that there would be little we could do with the results of any such consultation. However, we do carry out consultation when we refurbish existing play areas or when we plan new play areas. This consultation is held primarily children themselves through appropriate local groups (such as parent and toddler groups) and schools. We also consult local elected members and will consult with area committees where they exist.</p>	Ray Tunks, Play & Youth Services Manager 2527357
110	<p>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?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> The City Council's finance department charges depreciation as a sensible accounting practice, but this does not generate actual funds to replace equipment. Play area equipment is replaced when we have capital funds agreed in the council's capital programme. We update our play areas and equipment replacement priority lists on a regular basis, but our ability to carry out that replacement is dependant on the funds available in any particular financial year.</p>	Ray Tunks, Play & Youth Services Manager 2527357

111	<p>Doesn't the City Rooms belong to the people? Why has it been turned into an hotel?</p> <p><i>Answered at meeting by Councillor Blackmore</i>  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.</p>	
112	<p>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?</p> <p><i>Answer</i>  Leicester City Council, in conjunction with the Police, has regular meetings with Leicester City Football Club to discuss a whole range of issues, including traffic management.</p> <p>We'll take your suggestion to the Football Club, but we think that the most effective contribution that the Football Club could make to reducing parking around their stadium would be to operate one or more Park &amp; Ride services. The club would have to meet cost of providing the service and they do not currently have the funding available to do so.</p> <p>Any additional events staged at the Walkers Stadium need separate planning permission, and require the Football Club to have a satisfactory traffic management plan in place.</p>	Julian Heubeck, Public Transport Co-ordinator 2232111
113	<p>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.</p> <p><i>Answered at meeting</i>  £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.</p>	Adrian Russell, Service Director, Community Protection and Well Being 2527295
114	<p>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.</p>	John Garratt, Head of Planning and Property, 25527766

	<p><i>Answer</i></p> <p>The answer to your question is no, the admissions policy has not had any political factors built in, and parents are entitled to apply for the school they wish for their child.</p> <p>Each year the allocation of secondary school places is made according to the policy as published in the booklet, which is decided by Cabinet the year before. The published policy for allocation of places in 2006 was agreed by Cabinet in April 2005 and allows for the meeting of all parental preferences unless a school is filled by applicants having higher priority. This is a legal obligation.</p> <p>The priority order for places has 8 categories. Full details can be found on our website <a href="http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=5681">http://www.leicester.gov.uk/index.asp?pgid=5681</a> under 'Which secondary school?' or in the booklet of the same name. On national offer day, March 1<sup>st</sup>, the results showed that Fullhurst was very much more popular than the other two schools. Fullhurst had more applications than places so some had to be turned down, whereas both Riverside and New College were undersubscribed and there were some places left. Some places at these two schools were offered to parents on the basis of nearest school because they had been unsuccessful with their stated preferences.</p> <p>Parents always have the option to apply to whichever school they like but at this stage in the year 8 of the 14 schools that the Council admits children to are full for year 7 next September. Admission staff are always happy to help a parent find a school place to suit them and have up to date information on where the vacancies are.</p> <p>If you require any further information, the admissions website above contains all the relevant contact information.</p>	
115	<p>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.</p> <p>a) What is the reason for this closure?  b) Will the City Council please review the situation?</p> <p><i>Answer</i></p> <p>The reason we do not staff the service over the holiday period is not solely down to cost. We cannot, generally take statutory action in relation to noise nuisances over the holiday period, because the perpetrator will invariably claim that the noise was the result of a one-off special celebration. Our experience shows that there is little demand for the service from most of Leicester's residents over this period and, as far as the majority of cases are</p>	Adrian Russell, Service Director, Community Protection and Well Being 2527295

	<p>concerned, noise nuisances occurring at these times will also occur at other times, so we have alternative opportunities to obtain evidence of nuisance.</p> <p>We are currently undertaking a general review of the nature and hours of operation of the out-of-hours environmental health service; I consider your comments as part of that review but, I would not like to raise any expectations at this stage that we can radically change the service we deliver.</p>	
116	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Would the City Council say that this is the most cost effective working practice?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> In October 2005 we carried out work to lower the footways and kerbs at the pedestrian crossing points around the Fosse Road/Upperton Road junction. As part of that work, we laid drainage channels in the carriageway at the crossing points to ensure that the carriageway levels would remain stable.</p> <p>Following completion of the works, despite the protection we had put on the drainage channels, some traffic drove over the channels before the surrounding concrete had set properly.</p> <p>We identified the damage on a follow up inspection and ordered work to reset the drainage channels, including replacing any damaged, to ensure that all levels were consistent.</p>	<p>Martin Hayes, Team Leader, Transport Systems 2995660</p>
117	<p>How does the City Council ensure that all existing off-licences register in compliance with the Licensing Act?</p> <p><i>Answer</i> When responsibility for licensing of off-licences transferred from the Magistrates, the City Council was given a list of all existing licence holders. In the lead up to the transfer, we wrote to licensees on an number of occasions with information about the need to transfer, and how to go about it. An enforcement officer visited any premises that did not make an application before the transfer deadline and, if necessary, that officer visited them again after the deadline to check that they were not trading illegally. We can take sanctions against any offenders including action to suspend their trading and prosecution.</p>	<p>Mike Broster, Head of Environmental Health &amp; Licensing 2526408</p>

	<p>The City Council will continue to detect and take action against premises that do not comply with the law. An Enforcement Coordination Group, involving all enforcement agencies including licensing enforcement, the police, fire authority, pollution control and trading standards, now meets regularly to coordinate enforcement, share intelligence and identify problem premises. If anyone has concerns that a specific premise may be selling alcohol without a licence, we would be grateful if you could inform the City Council's Licensing Team on 252 8555</p>	
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