

Minutes of a meeting of the Loughborough North West Area Forum held at Knightthorpe Road Methodist Church, Loughborough on Monday, 11th February 2008.

PRESENT

Members

Councillor M J Hunt (Chair)	Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
Councillor R Campsall	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor D Green	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor C Harris	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor M E Newton	Leicestershire County Council
Councillor P Youell	Charnwood Borough Council

Officers

Mr W Blanche	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr A Hitchcock	Leicestershire County Council
Dr J Jones	Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust
PC Moss	Leicestershire Constabulary
Mr H Miah	Charnwood Borough Council
Ms P Pugh	Leicestershire County Council
Mr T Purnell	Leicestershire County Council
Mr N Strong	Charnwood Borough Council
Ms K Sullivan	Charnwood Borough Council

Councillor D Snartt, Cabinet Lead Member for Community Safety & Customer Services and the Climate Change Champion attended the meeting.

Local Residents attended the meeting and took part in discussions.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chair introduced the Councillors and Officers in attendance and welcomed the local residents to the meeting.

1. Disclosures of Personal Interest

No Disclosures of Personal Interest were made.

2. Items Requested by Forum Members

(i) Priority Neighbourhood Forums

A report in respect of the Loughborough West Priority Neighbourhood, which covered all areas of the Loughborough North West Area Forum was submitted. The full Neighbourhood profile could be accessed at:

http://www.lsr-online.org/reports/charnwood_priority_neighbourhood_profile_loughborough_west

H. Miah, the Community Strategy Support Officer attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item. He stated that Priority Neighbourhoods was one of seven strands within the Sustainable Community Strategy and worked in the area to address issues of deprivation, access to services, crime and health issues. The Council worked with other Partner Agencies to address those issues.

Different areas of concern, for example street litter, fly-tipping and graffiti were dealt with, at the present time, by separate services within the Council. The Street Management Team had been tasked with developing a policy to co-ordinate all of that work.

The Neighbourhood Action Team had been restructured and would be holding its next meeting on 25th February 2008. The same Service Providers dealt with both the Loughborough East and Loughborough West Priority Neighbourhoods, therefore it was sensible to hold one meeting, but tailor services for the two communities needs individually.

The following particular points were made from the subsequent discussion:

- (a) Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing had taken responsibility to manage the Councils housing stock.
- (b) Partner Agencies were working to encourage youths away from the streets. The Youth Zone, at the Hut on Old Ashby Road had Police and Council funding to run activities. Further facilities in other areas were being sought.
- (c) The PCSOs did not work in the early hours of the morning and any problems reported at that time were dealt with by patrol officers.
- (d) Wendy Brown, the Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator at the Council maintained a database of reported incidents, to which the Police had access. Joined up working was helping to resolve issues.
- (e) There were a minimum of five Police officers to cover the Shephed Hathern and Dishley areas.
- (f) Concern was expressed in respect of vandalism in the Knightthorpe Road area late at night.

- (g) Youths were causing a nuisance on the Buckingham Drive Play area, in some instances until 5.00am.
- (h) Neighbourhood Watch were not provided with updates by the police.

It was AGREED:

- (i) That the information be noted;
- (ii) that Community Safety be considered at a future meeting of the Forum.

(ii) Youth Services

A briefing Paper in respect of Youth Services was submitted by the Head of Arts, Culture, Heritage and Leisure Services at Charnwood Borough Council. W. Blanch and N. Strong attended the meeting to assist with the consideration of the item.

A. Hitchcock, Area Youth Officer (North) at Leicestershire County Council and P. Pugh, Loughborough Youth Development Worker based at Moira Youth and Community Centre gave an overview of Youth work, both at County and Borough level. Youth Services worked with young people in the 13 to 19 year old age group, together with young people aged 11 to 25 with Special Needs.

The following documents were made available at the meeting:

- A Youth Work Curriculum Framework for Leicestershire
- The North Area Team Youth Work Team
- Youth Service News – issue 6

‘The Jitty’ was a website covering the Charnwood and Melton areas set up by the Youth Services and was run by young people with the support of adults. The site, which could be found at <http://www.thejitty.com> was successful, with an average of 12,000 hits per month.

The following particular points were made from the subsequent discussion:

- (a) There were proactive youth teams in the area who would follow up any hot spots identified by local councillors or residents.
- (b) Nationally, Youth Services had a good record of delivering health information to young people, for example the prevention of testicular cancer among teenage males and sexual health. Teenage

pregnancy was on the national agenda and youth workers were able to offer access to condoms and pregnancy testing.

- (c) All Youth Service staff had received tier one drugs information training, they were able to give advice in respect of reducing the harms of drug taking and making young people aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol misuse. Young people with specific problems could be referred to the Leicestershire Community Projects Trust or Turning Point.
- (d) The Service was not funded to work directly with parents, although parents were often involved with the discussions and outcomes of the young people.
- (e) In respect of the group of young people who had been involved with a project in Mozambique, the project had not been funded through the Youth Services core funding. The students had successfully applied for funding from the Youth Opportunities Fund and had raised further financing themselves. It was expected that the Group would return to the area motivated and work in the local area by giving presentations at local schools. The project had been viewed as a significant piece of work.
- (f) Detached Youth Workers targeted areas where students truanted from school, with partnership working with officers from Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire Constabulary.
- (g) While working with Youths on the streets it was difficult to determine age ranges. Initially youth workers would not segregate if some of a group were under 11 years of age. However, there were groups of seven/eight year olds on the streets and Youth Service officers were unable to work with them.
- (h) In respect of specific work in the Loughborough North West Area Forum area, work was prioritised and there was partnership support, for example at the Hut on Old Ashby Road. Gaps in service in the area had to be identified.
- (i) In respect of the Knightthorpe Road, Thorpe Acre shopping area, detached Youth Workers were in the area one evening each week.
- (j) A mapping exercise of work undertaken by other services, for example local church groups, would assist with identifying gaps in service. Youth Services had some information in that area and would pass that information to councillors.

It was AGREED that the information be noted.

3. Question Time

The following questions had been tabled by Residents and connecting issues raised:

(i) Grass Cutting

There were four areas of grass to be cut in the Cothelstone Avenue area. The machinery used was not appropriate for the job and the cut grass was left on paths and driveways. Will the service be improved?

It was AGREED that officers submit the question to the relevant officers at Leicestershire County Council and a response be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Forum.

(ii) Traffic Problems on Knightthorpe Road

How can issues relating to speeding traffic along Knightthorpe Road be addressed?

A resident had had a car written off and a cat killed by cars speeding along Knightthorpe Road. The road was perceived as a rat run by drivers going to and from work and the problem was exacerbated by cars parked on both sides of the road.

The Knightthorpe Road Methodist Church had a car park, but it did not appear to be regularly used.

Should additional housing be built on Shelley Street there would be a greater volume of traffic on the road.

Speed cameras would be of greater use on Knightthorpe Road than Alan Moss Road.

Two student houses had up to seven cars, all of which remained on the road all day as they were not allowed on the University campus.

Some of the 30 MPH signs in the area were missing.

It was AGREED:

(i) That Councillor Newton arrange a site visit with relevant officers from Leicestershire County Council and invite residents to attend.

(ii) that officers be requested to undertake a traffic survey to note the number of accidents on the road.

(iii) that officers write to the Knightthorpe Road Methodist Church in respect of the use of its car park.

(iii) Street Cleansing

The amount of litter and rubbish on the streets in the area was of great concern as where there was litter and rubbish more was attracted. Black bags left with wheelie bins that were not collected made the situation worse.

There was fly-tipped rubbish in hedgerows in the area.

More vandal proof bins should be included within new developments.

In response Councillors stated that areas with large numbers of students were cleared at the end of each term, such an arrangement could be considered for the Knightthorpe Road area. Any further incidents should be reported to the Cleansing Department at Charnwood Borough Council either by phone 01509 634563 or <http://exhibeo.charnwood.gov.uk/AF3/an/default.aspx/RenderForm/?F.Name=OldAKRhiCTS>

It was AGREED that the question be referred to the relevant Cabinet Lead member.

The Chair stated that should residents have any other questions they wished to raise to contact him directly at cllr.max.hunt@charnwood.gov.uk

A further question was submitted at the end of the meeting “What are the Police doing about the drug dealers?” The matter would be addressed by officers and a response submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

All questions and answers when available would be published on the Leicestershire Area Forums web site at <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lboronw>

4. Items requested by Service Providers

(i) Capital Grants

There were no applications for Capital Grants.

(ii) Draft Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy and Leicestershire County Council Sustainable Community Strategy

Charnwood Together was the Local Strategic Partnership for the Borough. It brought together representatives from local authorities the

Police, the Primary Care Trust and the business and voluntary sectors to co-ordinate how they worked together. Further information about Charnwood Together was available at www.charnwoodtogether.com

A briefing paper about the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy, a document produced by Charnwood Together, was submitted to the meeting to give prior notice in respect of the development of that strategy, the timescale and the context in which the strategy would be developed and how it linked into the Leicestershire Together Sustainable Community Strategy.

Tom Purnell, Leicestershire County Council gave a presentation in respect of the Draft Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy. The presentation gave background information in respect of the Draft Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy and its current position, together with draft priorities for Loughborough and the timescale for the completion of the document.

The following particular points were made from the subsequent discussion in respect of the draft Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy:

- (a) Further details in respect of health and well-being and links with public safety and joined up working should be included within the document.
- (b) Traffic congestion from Birstall into Leicester during the morning rush hour was of concern.
- (c) By converting grass verges into cycleways, for example along Blackbrook Way, the problems relating to grass cutting and cyclist on footpaths would be removed.
- (d) Additional problems in respect of flooding would occur as more and more people concreted or block paved driveways.
- (e) Concern was expressed in respect of cars parking on grass verges.
- (f) Cyclists needed further education in respect of not riding on pavements and indicating. The problem was of particular concern in the Ashby Road area of Loughborough.
- (g) Further information was required in respect of public access to the sports facilities at the University.

It was AGREED:

- (i) That the information in respect of the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy be noted;

(ii) that the comments made above be received as part of the consultation process and be referred as appropriate to the relevant officers.

(iii) Leicestershire County and Rutland Primary Care Trust Local Delivery Plan

Information in respect of the Local Delivery Plan was submitted and included a questionnaire in respect of the local health priorities in Leicestershire and Rutland, which the Forum had been invited to complete, responses to be received by the PCT by 14th February 2008.

Dr Judy Jones, Interim Director of Public Health at Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT gave a presentation in respect of the PCT Priorities for 2008/09, including background information, the PCT's Vision, its operating Plan for 2008/09, National 'must dos' and local priorities.

The following documents were made available at the meeting:

- Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT 'Developing Community Health Services' – Issue 4, January 2008
- Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT NHS – 'We'd Love to Hear from You' – January 2008

The following particular points were made from the subsequent discussion:

- (a) When local priorities were set by the PCT, consideration should be given to partnership working, for example with the GP referrals scheme, Leicestershire County Council, Social Services and the voluntary sector to ensure its involvement.
- (b) The Social Model should be included.
- (c) Further information was required in respect of the number of incidents of CDif, MRSA and other hospital based viruses in proportion to the head of population.

It was AGREED:

- (i) That the presentation be noted;
- (ii) that details of incidences of C Dif, MRSA and other hospital based viruses be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

5. Issues for Future Forum Meetings

The following issues had been identified during the course of the meeting for consideration at a future Forum meeting:

- (i) Health;
- (ii) Community Safety.

6. Summary of Actions from the Meeting

- A Charnwood Borough Council officer write to the Knightthorpe Road Methodist Church in respect of the use of its car park.
- Youth Service officers provide councillors with information in respect of youth work undertaken by other agencies in the area.
- Leicestershire County Council officers submit question in respect of grass cutting to the relevant officer and a response be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.
- Councillor Newton arrange for a site visit with Leicestershire County Council Officers and local residents of Knightthorpe Road to consider the traffic problems on that road raised at the meeting.
- Leicestershire County Council officers be requested to undertake a traffic survey in the Knightthorpe Road area.
- Street Cleansing – the questions raised be submitted by a Charnwood Borough Council officer to the relevant Borough Cabinet Lead Member and a response be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.
- Comments in respect of the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy and the draft Leicestershire Sustainable Community Strategy be referred as appropriate to relevant officers as part of the consultation processes.
- A representative from the PCT submit figures in respect of numbers of incidences of C Dif, MRSA and other hospital viruses to the next meeting of the Forum.
- Leicestershire County Council officers encourage wider public participation by further consideration of appropriate publicity.
- The police submit information in respect of addressing the issue of drug dealers to the next meeting of the Forum

7. Other Business

Membership Co-option

The Chair proposed that the following local representatives be invited to become co-opted members of the Core Membership of the Forum:

Sandie Gough – Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing Board Member
Isa Hogan – Student and Local Resident
Robert Jones – Magistrate and ex Head of Stonebow Primary School
Val Watts – Adult Learning

It was AGREED:

- (i) That the four named above be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum as co-opted members;
- (ii) that nominations for other interested parties who wished to be co-opted onto the Core membership of the Forum be welcomed.