

**Minutes of the Loughborough North West Area Forum held at
All Saints' Church Hall, Thorpe Acre Road, Loughborough on
Wednesday, 11th June 2008.**

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Max Hunt (Chair)	Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
Councillor Roy Campsall	Charnwood Borough Council
Mrs Sandie Gough	Co-opted Member
Councillor Debbie Green	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor Christine Harris	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Rob Jones	Co-opted Member
Councillor Betty Newton	Leicestershire County Council
Ms Val Watts	Co-opted Member
Councillor Patrick Youell	Charnwood Borough Council

Officers

Mr Colin Bailey	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Richard Downing	Leicestershire County Council
PC Anna Fowell	Leicestershire Police
Mr Andy Hitchcock	Leicestershire County Council
PC C. Hughes	Leicestershire Police
Mr Hiron Miah	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Ashley Russell	Charnwood Borough Council
Ms Karen Sullivan	Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Derk van der Wardt	Leicestershire County Council

APOLOGIES: None

In addition to the neighbourhood representatives attending as Forum Members, nine further local residents and representatives of community groups attended the meeting and took part in discussions.

I. Welcome from Chair

The Chair of the Forum, Councillor M. Hunt, welcomed all in attendance.

2. Making North West Loughborough Greener

The Forum received a presentation from Colin Bailey, Green Spaces Development Manager, in which he detailed the types of work undertaken by Charnwood Borough Council in their efforts to make Loughborough greener. Groundworks UK had been invited to send a representative to discuss their input into works in the area but were unable to attend.

Mr Bailey provided attendees with plans showing the areas within North West Loughborough managed by Charnwood Borough Council. The importance of promoting area individuality and uniqueness was stressed and the Forum was invited to give their interpretations of what it meant to make their area greener.

Issues raised included the problem of vandalism at Stapleford Park, the lack of publicity given to local green areas, the need for signage to both promote and link green trails, the availability of funding and means of obtaining it, and the responsibility for maintenance.

With regard to obtaining funding, forming constituted groups was recommended as the most likely way to succeed. It was suggested that anyone wishing to form such a group liaise with their local Ward Members, the Outwoods Management Committee or Voluntary Action Charnwood.

It was AGREED that:

- (i) it be recommended that the relevant bodies promote local green areas through:
 - the installation of signage in appropriate areas providing contact details to report incidences of vandalism;
 - the installation of direction fingerposts on lampposts and other suitable areas;
 - better signage to highlight and link green trails;
 - interpretation boards indicating heritage sites and wildlife areas;
 - articles in Charnwood News;
 - improved information on the Council's website;
 - leaflets;
- (ii) the Forum consider ways to improve Shortcliffe Park at a future meeting;
- (iii) Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Development Manager investigate potential Section 106 monies available for the development of green spaces and youth facilities within North West Loughborough;
- (iv) Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Development Manager investigate potential voluntary organisation funding available and liaise with local Ward Members.

3. Burleigh Community College Trust Status Consultation

John Smith, Principal, and Lisa Fish, Assistant Principal, Burleigh Community College, consulted the Forum on the possibility of the college adopting Trust Status and becoming a Foundation School.

They stated that the college's objectives were to work towards raising the standard of secondary education within Loughborough and ensuring that Every Child Matters criteria was met.

Geoff Gay, speaking in his capacity as President of the Leicestershire Teachers' Association, the Leicestershire branch of the National Union of Teachers', stated that whilst he appreciated that both teachers and parents alike want the best education possible for children, Every Child Matters affects all schools and all children and that he believed that Comprehensive education was the best way to achieve its aims. Mr Gay also made NUT information and policy statements available to those present.

A number of matters were then discussed by Forum attendees including:

- The methods of consultation adopted;
- The National Code of Practice and the safeguards in place to prevent a future change to admissions policies;
- How Trust Status could improve educational attainment levels;
- The benefits to partner organisations;
- The adult education programme.

Mr Smith closed by stating that further information could be found on the College website at www.burleigh.org.uk by following the 'Trust Status Documents' link and by encouraging people to attend at open evening to discuss the matter on 17th June 2008 at 7 pm at Burleigh Community College.

It was AGREED that the consultation item and issues discussed be noted.

4. Public Question Time and Feedback

Members of the public and community group representatives were invited to pose questions and comments to the elected members and agency representatives present:

(i) Councillor Christine Harris

Councillor Harris said that schools should promote free-thinking within young people and expressed concerns of conflicts of interests should Burleigh Community College achieve Trust Status.

(ii) Stuart Mitchell

Concern was expressed regarding the dangers of cycling on pavements and the need for plans to counter it to be in place prior to the new intake of students to the area in September.

Councillor Betty Newton responded that Leicestershire County Council were aware of the problem.

It was AGREED that Cllr Newton request that a report regarding cycling on pavements be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum.

(iii) Question received in advance of the meeting

Shortcliffe Park: Why is this area so poorly maintained and what can be done about it? Where does this lie in Charnwood's Priorities?

Julie Robinson, Head of Leisure Services, Charnwood Borough Council, provided the following response in advance of the meeting:

"There have been a number of issues raised in the past couple of months in relation to litter, glass, graffiti, goal posts and overgrown shrubbery at Shortcliffe Park. These issues have been raised with grounds maintenance and over the past couple of months improvements have been made at the site;

- litter picking and glass checking frequencies have been increased;*
- graffiti is an ongoing problem and is cleaned as promptly as it can be following a report being received – some further graffiti removal is being undertaken this week;*
- the goal posts have been removed for repair and some reseeding has been undertaken;*
- pruning and cutting back – there were some works that were not undertaken last year which has created a back log, some pruning and cutting back has been undertaken at the site recently, but due to time of year and nesting season there is only a limited amount that can be done and further work will be undertaken in the winter;*

Shortcliffe Park is seen as an important part of the overall provision of green space provision in Loughborough. The play area at the site was identified as one of the priorities as part of the Council's Play Area Improvement Scheme and following local public consultation saw £65,000 of investment in a completely revamped play area which was completed in 2007. The park was also used as a venue for one of the Council's National Play Day Events."

(iv) Question received in advance of the meeting

It seems that the Grants system is biased towards Parishes because we have no officers or resources to work up schemes. What can be done to assist this?

Rowena Hilton, Director of Change Management, Charnwood Borough Council, provided the following response in advance of the meeting:

“The scheme is not biased towards Parishes as there is a range of assistance available to all groups and this is listed in the application guidance.

All things being equal a small community based organisation with good volunteer input and demonstrable need is likely to score higher than a Parish when a scheme is assessed.”

(v) What activities have Youth Services organised since the last meeting in Loughborough Ashby Ward? What activities have other services organised for youth in Ashby Ward since the last meeting?

Andy Hitchcock, Area Youth Officer – North, Leicestershire County Council, reported that the sexual health services offered were proving to be very successful. In addition, youth club provisions were being looked into with a focus on engaging community groups and formalising partnership arrangements. In areas in which funding wasn't readily available there were efforts to provide expertise such as training and CRB checks.

Mr Hitchcock highlighted Leicestershire County Council's desire for Charnwood Borough Council to have a single officer contact that could deal with cross-cutting youth issues.

It was AGREED that all Charnwood Borough Councillors receive the same regular Youth Service updates as Leicestershire County Councillors.

(vi) Stuart Mitchell

Concern was expressed regarding the misuse of Cumberland Road playing fields, with barbeques being held and vehicles being driven on it.

Colin Bailey, Green Spaces Development Manager, Charnwood Borough Council, stated that he had discussed use of the fields with Leicestershire County Council officers last year and that he would investigate the current position.

It was AGREED that Colin Bailey request that Leicestershire County Council provide a report to the next meeting of the Forum detailing plans for Cumberland Road playing fields.

It was AGREED that the issues raised be noted and that the relevant officers investigate matters and provide responses as appropriate.

5. Short Break

The Chair invited attendees to take a short break for refreshments and the opportunity to talk personally with Councillors and officials prior to consideration of the Forum's formal business.

6. Report from Priority Neighbourhood Team

Hiron Miah, Community Strategy Support Officer, Charnwood Borough Council, updated the Forum on the work of the Priority Neighbourhood Team:

- Ashley Russell had been appointed as new CSSO and would be responsible to Loughborough West Priority Neighbourhood.
- Mr Russell would be the main contact for The HUT.
- Ward Walks, an opportunity for local residents to walk around their area with representatives from the County Council, the Borough Council, the Town Council, the Police and other local organisations and discuss their ideas and concerns, had already taken place in Syston and Mountsorrel. Warwick Way Ward Walk would take place on 24th November 2008, starting off at the Methodist Church at 2.30pm.
- Partnership Action Week, encouraging local residents to join forces with local agencies to say no to crime: including robbery, burglary and antisocial behaviour, alcohol & drug misuse, had already taken place in Syston. Warwick Way Action Week would take place towards the end of June 2008.
- The Places Survey had been carried out in Priority Neighbourhoods in Charnwood. Analysis would illustrate how people living in those Neighbourhoods felt. Feedback could be provided to a future Forum meeting when analysis is complete.
- The Neighbourhood Management Team were currently producing a bi-monthly electronic newsletter. Attendees were invited to provide Mr Miah with their email addresses if they wished to receive a copy.

It was AGREED that the update report be noted.

7. Consultation Items – Charnwood Borough Council Corporate Plan and Charnwood Borough Council Sustainable Community Strategy

Karen Sullivan, Director of Risk Management, Charnwood Borough Council, gave the Forum a presentation on the consultation process for the Charnwood Corporate Plan 2008-2015, a copy of which is attached as an Appendix. The consultation document could be accessed at the Council's website <http://www.charnwood.gov.uk/democracy/corporateplanconsultation.html> or hard

copies could be obtained via Telephone on 01509 632516 or email community.strategy@charnwood.gov.uk.

Following the presentation Ms Sullivan added that Charnwood Together had recently published a draft document entitled the Charnwood Sustainable Community Strategy for consultation. Copies of a leaflet requesting feedback on the draft document were distributed to all attendees.

It was AGREED that the presentation and consultation periods be noted.

8. Issues for Future Forum Meetings

The following issue was identified for consideration at a future Forum meeting:

- Community Health Agenda

9. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 11th February 2008 were confirmed as a true record.

The Forum was then updated on the actions taken as a result of the decisions made at the previous meeting:

- Grass cutting – the issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum preceded the season, which runs from March to October, and the contractors had since purchased new equipment to rectify the problem of cuttings blowing onto footpaths. Councillor Harris suggested that rather than cutting all grass verges, ‘meadow’ verges would increase biodiversity in some areas.
- Traffic problems on Knightthorpe Road – Councillor Newton responded to residents and indicated that she was continuing to follow this through. Knightthorpe Road Methodist Church car park – prior to the meeting, the Church stated that their regular congregation did use the car park but when larger events, such as fetes, were held they simply did not have the capacity.
- Street cleansing – Charnwood Borough Council had provided a detailed response prior to the meeting.
- Drug dealing – it was expected that the Police would provide a response to the next meeting of the Forum.
- Incidences of hospital viruses – the PCT would provide a response to the next meeting of the Forum.

10. Election of vice-Chair

Nominations were sought for the position of Forum Vice-Chair for the remainder of 2008/2009.

It was AGREED that Mr R. Jones be appointed Vice-Chair of Loughborough North West Area Forum for the remainder of the Council's Municipal Year 2008/2009.

11. Summary of Actions from the Meeting

Minute No	Matter	For Action By
2(i)	Promotion of green areas	Colin Bailey
2(ii)	Improving Shortcliffe Park	Colin Bailey, Mike Hooper
2(iii)	Section 106 monies	Colin Bailey
2(iv)	Voluntary organisation funding	Colin Bailey
4(ii)	Cycling on pavements	Cllr Newton
4(v)	Youth Service information	Andy Hitchcock, Mike Hooper
4(vi)	Cumberland Road playing fields	Colin Bailey
8	Community Health Agenda	Mike Hooper, Richard Downing, PCT rep
9	Grass cutting	Richard Downing
9	Traffic problems on Knightthorpe Road	Cllr Newton
9	Drug dealing	Police rep
9	Incidences of hospital viruses	Richard Downing, PCT rep

12. Close

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking all those present for their attendance and ensuring that any actions arising would be acted upon.

The meeting started at 6.30 pm and concluded at 9.00 pm.