

**Minutes of the Loughborough South West Area Forum held at
Mountfields Lodge Primary School, Epinal Way, Loughborough
on Tuesday, 24th February 2009**

PRESENT

Members

Michael Pearson (Chair)	Co-opted Member
Rachel Hughes	Co-opted Member
Councillor Jane Hunt	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor Ron Jukes	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor Peter Lewis	Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
Adrian McInnes	Co-opted Member
Councillor Graeme Smith	Charnwood Borough Council
Theta Taylor	Co-opted Member
Councillor Jill Vincent	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor David Walker	Charnwood Borough Council
John Walker	Co-opted Member

Officers

PCSO 6663 Shaheen Abdulla	Leicestershire Constabulary Police
PC 732 Pete Colgate	Leicestershire Constabulary Police
Richard Downing	Community Engagement Manager (Charnwood & Melton) Leicestershire County Council
PC 4430 Anna Fowell	Dishley, Gorse Covert and Thorpe Acre Beat
James Fox	Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council
PCSO 6136 Julie Gadsby	Leicestershire Constabulary Police
Paul Goodman	Community Engagement Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Brian Hayes	Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council
Mike Hooper	Committee Services Officer, Charnwood Borough Council
Tom Kiernan	Head of Communities and Partnerships, Charnwood Borough Council
Simon McIntosh	Leicestershire Together
Sgt 292 John Simpson	Leicestershire Police
Karl Simkin	Director of Finance, NHS Leicestershire County & Rutland

APOLOGIES: PC 2062 Nathaniel Lockley, Outwoods Beat, Adrian McInnes, Cllr
Neville Stork, Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council,
Chris Taylor, Head of Legal Services, Charnwood Borough Council

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

I. Welcome from Chair

The Chair of the Forum, Michael Pearson, welcomed all in attendance. Richard Downing, Community Engagement Manager, Leicestershire County Council, said to attendees that Forums play an important role in ensuring that the services provided in their area matched the needs and wants of the local community and provided the public with the opportunity to discuss local services with County and Borough Councillors and representatives from other agencies such as the National Health Service and the Police.

Councillor Lewis took the opportunity to thank the Press for helping to publicise Area Forums.

2. Feedback, Public Question Time and Information Items

A paper detailing actions arising from issues raised at previous meetings of the Area Forum were circulated. This is attached as an Appendix to these minutes. In addition, Richard Downing reported that Leicestershire County Council aimed to clear drains in Storer ward on an annual basis around June/July.

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

Parking on Pavements and Grass Verges

Prior to the Forum Mrs P Dyson had submitted the following concern; *“My neighbour runs his own business from home and parks his vehicles on the grass verges on either side of the road. This not only causes obstructions but also blocks the view from the front of my house”* A Charnwood Borough Council Street Management Officer had attempted to speak to Mrs Dyson via the telephone, as had been requested, but had been unable to make contact. Mrs Dyson had therefore been provided with a written response.

Upon discussing the matter with the Forum Councillor Lewis suggested that if there were no laws to prevent parking on grass verges a campaign to encourage public goodwill could be conducive to alleviating the problem.

Councillor Walker stated that there were laws regarding trading from home and that Borough Council Enforcement Officers should be made aware of the issues to allow them to investigate the matter. Councillor Walker offered to speak to Mrs Dyson outside of the Forum.

Councillor Vincent encouraged the public to get in touch with their local Ward Members if such issues were affecting them.

Sergeant Simpson said that there were a number of traffic regulations that were potentially being broken and that he would ensure that PC Lockley contacted Mrs Dyson.

Another member of the public asked what was stated within legislation prohibiting parking on pavements. Councillor Smith said that he believed that pavements were required to have a minimum unobstructed width of 1.5 metres and he urged the public to inform the County Council whenever they came across an obstructed pathway.

At the close of the item Richard Downing reminded the public that they could submit questions via either the question cards that had been circulated ahead of the meeting or <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lborosw/>.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that Sergeant Simpson ensure that a Police officer make contact with Mrs Dyson outside of the Area Forum;**
- (ii) the Leicestershire County Council telephone number to report parking offences be added to the Leicestershire Forums website.**

3. Sustainable Community Strategy / Local Area Agreement

Simon McIntosh reported that the results of the Sustainable Community Strategy / Local Area Agreement presentation given during the last round of Forum meetings had been analysed and a report was due to be considered by the County Council's Cabinet with a view to it influencing the budget process. Based upon the responses given at Area Forums across the county, the top priorities were tackling anti-social behaviour and making Leicestershire a safer and more attractive place in which to live and work.

It was AGREED that consultation item be noted.

4. Loughborough Special Rate

Brian Hayes, Chief Executive, Charnwood Borough Council, gave the Area Forum a brief outline of what the Loughborough Special Rate (LSR) was. Included within Council Tax bills and basically the equivalent of a Parish Precept, the Loughborough Special Expenses were established when the Council was created in 1974. The principle had always been to seek to charge Loughborough with the type of expenses it would normally bear if it had a town council which bore the usual expenses

charged on a town or parish council. A list of the services benefiting from it could be viewed at:

<http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lborosw/additional-papers-for-loughborough1.html>.

Charnwood Borough Council had recently set up a Panel to monitor and make recommendations on the services included within the LSR. Councillor Walker, a member of the Panel, hoped that it would prove to be very effective and said that the public should inform their local Ward Member of any comments or suggestions regarding the LSR.

It was AGREED that the report be noted.

5. Community Safety / Priority Neighbourhood Update / Police Update

James Fox, Community Safety Manager, Leicestershire County Council, introduced the item by informing people of the work of the Community Safety Partnership, comprised of members from Charnwood Borough Council, Leicestershire County Council, the Leicestershire Constabulary, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland and the Fire Service. Other agencies involved included Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing, Leicestershire & Rutland Probation Area, Leicestershire Drug & Alcohol Action Team, Leicestershire Youth Offending Service, Loughborough Women's Aid, Loughborough Chamber of Trade and Commerce, CREC, Turning Point, Loughborough University and Voluntary Action Charnwood.

Tom Kiernan, Head of Communities and Partnerships, Charnwood Borough Council, announced that local residents and businesses in Charnwood would have the chance to discuss their concerns about community safety related issues with the Charnwood Community Safety Partnership at two public information question and answer events. The first event would be held on Tuesday 17th March 2009 between 7.00pm and 9.00pm at John Storer House, Loughborough. The second event would be held on 16th April at the Rothley Centre, 12 Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley LE7 7PR.

James Fox informed the Forum of another public meeting to be held on Thursday 19th March 2009. Leicestershire's Safer Communities Strategy Board would be discussing 'Community Safety the Big Picture' between 5.30 pm and 7 pm at County Hall. This would provide the opportunity for members of the public to find out more about the big decisions on community safety in Leicestershire and to put their questions to senior representatives from all of the organisations working to make communities safer.

Sergeant 292 John Simpson, University Beat, introduced to the Area Forum himself and local Beat Officers PCSO 6663 Shaheen Abdulla, University Beat, PC 732 Pete Colgate and PCSO 6136 Julie Gadsby, Town Centre Beat, and PC 4430 Anna Fowell, Dishley, Gorse Covert and Thorpe Acre Beat.

Tom Kiernan expressed the value of the public reporting incidences of anti-social behaviour. This allowed the authorities to make appropriate early interventions which could prevent problems escalating. Tom then stressed the importance of partnership working between authorities, a view which was reinforced by Sgt Simpson who added that the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, which promoted the practice of partnership working to reduce crime and disorder, had provided much greater powers and that successful charges had been brought through both the Criminal and Civil Courts.

Questions were requested from the floor. No questions were forthcoming so Sergeant Simpson invited questions to be submitted outside of the meeting.

The Chair thanked everyone for their input and encouraged any further questions to be submitted via the cards provided. James Fox stressed the need for the authorities and the public to work together to improve communities. Sgt Simpson closed the item by reiterating the key message that to tackle anti-social behaviour the public needed to report it.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that a list detailing Beat Officers for Outwoods, Loughborough University and the town centre be circulated with the minutes of the meeting;**
- (ii) that Borough and County Council Officers and the Police be thanked for updating the Forum.**

6. NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland Operating Plan

Karl Simkins, Director of Finance, NHS Leicestershire County and Rutland (formerly the Primary Care Trust) NHS LCR, gave the Forum a presentation on local priorities for 2009/10, a copy of which can be viewed at <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lborosw/meetings.html>.

Questions and comments were opened up to the floor and Karl provided the following responses:

- Only around 50% of 84 GP's had taken up the National Priority option of improving access to GP surgeries, including evenings and weekends.
- The full requirements of the new dementia strategy were as yet uncertain.
- Regarding the relocation of the Walk-in Centre to Epinal Way, all issues raised through consultation had been considered and a suitable transport plan would be an important part of provisions. Many issues still needed to be resolved regarding the current Pinfold Gate site and these would be looked within the wider context of the Town Centre Plan.

- It was recognised that both GP opening hours and the inability to book appointments in advance created problems for people in full-time employment. It was hoped that the commissioning of a new GP facility in Oadby and Wigston would spark a new approach towards bringing new entrants to the market. The public needed to recognise that GP's were independent professionals who wanted to make profits like any other business. With this in mind the NHS LCR were working towards encouraging more timely services.
- There were no GP's on the Board of the NHS LCR that could be considered to have vested interests. The majority of Board Members were HR professionals.
- The NHS Care Records Services had experienced 'teething problems' but as NHS LCR had yet to adopt the system this had had minimal effect locally.
- The public were urged to report any experiences of poor NHS services.
- The Prevention Agenda work carried out within schools on a daily basis, e.g. facilitating and removing barriers, needed to be better promoted. Were a member database initiated it could prove to be very successful.

Karl closed the item by thanking those present for their questions.

It was AGREED that Karl Simkin be thanked for his presentation.

7. Collection of Rubbish from Houses in Multiple Occupation

At the Forum held on 3rd July 2008 it was agreed that property owner bye-laws relating to rubbish be looked into and the viability of clauses stating landlord responsibility for rubbish on their property be investigated. As Chris Taylor, Head of Legal Services, Charnwood Borough Council, was unable to attend it was suggested that the information be circulated to Forum members and made available on the leicestershireforums.com website.

It was AGREED that a report detailing property owner bye-laws relating to rubbish and the viability of clauses stating landlord responsibility for rubbish on their property be circulated to Forum members and made available at www.leicestershireforums.com.

FORMAL SESSION

8. Minutes and Actions Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Forum held on 1st October 2008 were confirmed as a true record.

9. Capital Grants

An application for £30,000 towards the redevelopment of Trinity Methodist Church Centre, Loughborough was considered.

It was AGREED that the Borough Council's Grants Panel be informed that the Forum feels that the application requires more details of proposed works and that advice should be sought from Council officers.

10. Issues for Future Forum Meetings

The Chair invited suggestions from the floor on items to be considered at future meetings of the Area Forum.

It was AGREED that 'Regeneration in Loughborough' and 'Education Issues' be considered at future meetings of the Area Forum.

11. Date and Venue of Next Meeting

In accordance with the Area Forum Operating Arrangements it had been intended that Round of Area Forum meetings would take place during late May/June 2009. However, as County and European elections were due to be held on 4th June 2009, Forum Chairs had agreed that it would not be appropriate to hold Forum meetings at this time as publicity for them, if not the meetings themselves, would fall within the 'purdah' period.

It was therefore agreed that the next meeting of the Area Forum would be held on Thursday 15th October 2009 at 6.30 pm. Forum members agreed that the preferred venue would be Mountfields Lodge Primary School.

12. Any Other Business

Area Forum members discussed ways in which to increase public attendance.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that posters advertising the Area Forum should only contain the time and venue of the meeting and a list of service providers expected to attend, not subjects to be considered;**
- (ii) that posters advertising the Area Forum should be produced and circulated to Area Forum members six weeks in advance of meetings.**
- (iii) that suggestions for places in which to advertise the Forum be proposed to Richard Downing on 0116 305 5823 or rpdowning@leics.gov.uk.**

13. Summary of Actions from the Meeting

Minute No	Matter	For Action By
2(i)	Feedback, Public Question Time and Information Items - Parking on Pavements and Grass Verges	Sgt John Simpson, Police
2(ii)	Feedback, Public Question Time and Information Items	Richard Downing, LCC
5(i)	Community Safety / Priority Neighbourhood Update / Police Update	Mike Hooper, CBC
7	Collection of Rubbish from Houses in Multiple Occupation	Chris Taylor, CBC
9	Capital Grants	Mike Hooper, CBC
10	Issues for Future Forum Meetings	Mike Hooper, CBC
11	Date and Venue of Next Meeting	Mike Hooper, CBC
12(i) & 12(ii)	Any Other Business	Richard Downing, LCC

13. 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 8:13 pm.

Should you wish to submit questions to a future Forum meeting or if you require copies of any of the presentations detailed within the minutes please contact Mike Hooper, Committee Services Officer, Charnwood Borough Council on michael.hooper@charnwood.gov.uk or 01509 634502.

Actions arising from previous Forum meetings

- **Loughborough In Bloom**
 - Rachel Hughes contacted the University's Student Action Group – they are already heavily involved with the scheme.
 - Peter Blitz, Team Leader – Development Control, Charnwood Borough Council, response regarding S106 monies:
'I can't think of any Section 106 agreements that I have been involved with that would sanction the use of money from landscape obligations to be used for this purpose. In fact, normally, there aren't any obligations that involve commuted sums for landscaping as such, unless it is related to open space maintenance. Money secured for general recreation provision could/should not be used, in my view. I think it would always be difficult to demonstrate the essential link between an "in bloom" type initiative and the essential need for community facilities generated specifically by an individual development.'
 - Update on initiative from Andy Rush, Editor of the Loughborough Echo – We are still looking for keen volunteers and if anybody has any ideas for a project ideas of their own please contact me on andy_rush@mrn.co.uk or 01509 635 802. I will be trying to contact anyone who expressed an interest in getting involved over the next month and call upon their kind generosity.
- **Jettys** – Responsibility for jettys is divided between Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council. The County Council are responsible for True Lovers walk. John Clarke, Grounds Maintenance Officer, Charnwood Borough Council, inspected the site and reported to the County Council an uneven footpath in part and overhanging shrubs. There were also overhanging shrubs in Radmoor Road, which were the responsibility of the Borough Council and were cut back immediately.
- **Drains** – Issue reported to Leicestershire County Council. Richard Downing to update the Area Forum.
- **120 bus service** – As reported to the Leicestershire County Council Highways Forum on 21st October 2008:

As part of the budget process for 2006/7 financial year, a number of out-of-policy bus services were identified for analysis and review to reduce costs by service consolidation and withdrawal. Service 120 between Loughborough and Leicester was included with this process.

Service 120 provided services for villages and settlements not on the hourly network; these were Newtown Linford and Markfield Court. A similar service was provided for Stanton under Bardon on a demand-responsive basis into Coalville with connections to Leicester provided in Markfield. The review and analysis of these two services concluded that a two hourly service between Leicester and Coalville could be provided with one vehicle providing the essential travel requirements for Newtown Linford, Markfield and Stanton under Bardon.

Broken links were identified between Loughborough and Glenfield General Hospital and between Nanpantan and Loughborough town centre. A demand-responsive service

between Nanpantan and Loughborough was introduced, but this was subsequently replaced by diverting service 129 operated by Cresswells between Ashby and Loughborough on a two-hourly basis Monday to Saturday. The connection to the hospital can be made via Leicester city centre or at Beaumont Leys.

- **Charnwood Borough Council Corporate Style** – The corporate style no longer incorporates the multi-coloured bars.
- **Promotion of the Forum** – The two Councils are currently discussing ways in which to improve Area Forum publicity on their websites.
- **Collection of rubbish from student houses – By-laws and landlord Clauses** – As Chris Taylor, Head of Legal Services, Charnwood Borough Council was unable to attend the Area Forum, a report will be circulated to all Forum members and added to www.leicestershireforums.com.