



Minutes of a meeting of the Hinckley Area Community Forum held at Holliers Walk Primary School, Holliers Walk, Hinckley on Thursday 25 June 2009

Present

Cllr. S. Bray	Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr. J. C. Bown	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Earl Shilton Town Council
Cllr. R. Camamile	Leicestershire County Council
Cllr. D. Inman	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Burbage Parish Council
Cllr. D. O. Wright CC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council

Officers

Ben Smith	Committee Officer, Leicestershire County Council
Juan Pardo	Community Engagement Officer.

Partner Agencies

Sgt Trott	Leicestershire Police
PCSO Emerson	Leicestershire Police
PCSO Wallace	Leicestershire Police
Edwina Grant	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Helen Harris	Leicestershire County Council

Residents/Groups/Organisations

G Carruthers	PAG
Geoff Denney	Hinckley Civic Society
John Groves	North Warwickshire and Hinckley College
Judy Handford	Age Concern, Hinckley and Bosworth
R Hurst	
Jan Kirby	Leicester Road Residents Group
Rebecca Knowles	Hinckley and Bosworth Sure Start Programme
Ken Ledson	
John Lewington	
Amy McCarthy-Jones	Hinckley and Bosworth Youth Council
Eric Neal	CTC
Jane Neale	St Francis Community Centre
Stuart Pemberton	Leicester Road Residents Group

Janet Rowe
Sue Spiby

Pensioners' Action Group
Hinckley and Bosworth Sure Start Programme

Denise Wood

Hinckley and Bosworth Pensioners Action Group

Apologies for absence were received from:

Pauline Cuttress (Pensioners' Action Group); Cllr. D. C. Bill (Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); PC Nick Davis; Cllr. D. Gould (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); Cllr J. Howard (Burbage Parish Council); Cllr A Hall (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); Terry Kirby (Resident); Cllr. K. W. P. Lynch (Leicestershire County Council and Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); Lindsay Short (Hinckley and Bosowrth Transport Scheme).

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the period until May 2011.

Members of the Forum were invited to put forward their nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Forum until May 2011.

Cllr. D. C. Bill was nominated and seconded as Chairman. No nominations were received for the post of Vice-Chairman.

AGREED:

- a) That Cllr. D. C. Bill be elected Chairman of the Hinckley Area Community Forum until May 2011;
- b) That the election of a Vice-Chairman be deferred until the next meeting of the Forum.

2. Election of Chairman for the meeting.

In the absence of Cllr. Bill, it was nominated, seconded and AGREED that Cllr. D. O. Wright be Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr. D. O. Wright CC – in the Chair

3. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Wright welcomed everyone to the fifth public meeting of the Forum. He looked forward to the presentations on North Warwickshire College and the Leicester Road Residents Group.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2009, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

5. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited those who wished to do so to declare any interest in respect of items on the agenda.

None were made.

6. Reports and Feedback

a) Election Update

Ben Smith of Leicestershire County Council gave a short presentation on the outcome of the County Council Elections held on 5 June 2009. A paper detailing an overview of the results was circulated to the Forum, a copy of which is filed with these minutes.

b) Participatory Budgeting Update

Edwina Grant of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council provided an update on Participatory Budgeting and how the Forum was to organise the way in which it spent its allocation of £20,000 from Leicestershire Together.

The Forum was reminded that Leicestershire County was a pilot for Participatory Budgeting which was one of the methods that the Government wished to introduce to bring decision making closer to the general public. Community Forums would decide how they wished to spend their allocated £20,000 (by March 2011 at the latest) and then present it to the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for approval.

In seeking approval, the Forum would need to show how their proposed project, or multiple projects (to be spent on either capital or revenue projects) linked in with local issues either by identifying priorities that were contained in the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Area Agreement, Community and Parish Plans, Priority Neighbourhoods, or issues that had emerged from meetings of the Community Forum.

A small Task and Finish Group had been established following the April meeting of the Forum in order to decide how to introduce measures for agreeing the spending of the funding allocation. Further advice on these measures would be issued prior to funding priority submissions being invited ahead of a Workshop that would take place on 24th September 2009.

This Workshop would be an opportunity for the Forum to vote on priorities for the area which would then be submitted to the LSP. The LSP would look at whether there was already mainstream funding be used for a particular priority or if there were any opportunities to better utilise monies through match funding or pooling of funding with one of the two other Hinckley and Bosworth Forum areas, should they have a similar proposal coming forward.

The proposals would then come back to a meeting of the Forum and voted on before the end of 2009 prior to its decision being submitted back to the Local Strategic Partnership for signing off.

AGREED

- a) That it be noted that the Participatory Budgeting Workshop would take place on 24 September 2009;
- b) That those members and residents of the Forum area who had taken part in the task and finish group in preparation for them be thanked for their helpful input and hard work.

7. Items requested by Forum Members

i) North Warwickshire and Hinckley College

John Groves, Learning Services Manager of North Warwickshire and Hinckley delivered a presentation on the priorities of, and availability of courses on offer to the public at the College. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

It was particularly noted that a recent OFSTED inspection had graded the College as 'Outstanding' and that it had received a number of awards including that of BEACON college status in recognition of its excellent teaching and learning provision.

The College provided 16-19, Higher Education, and other courses and initiatives for people of all ages to educate, further learning opportunities, and to help the unemployed back into work. Residents were invited to see what courses were on offer at the College and an information pack and prospectus was available for anyone who wished to take one away at the end of the meeting.

AGREED:

That North Warwickshire and Hinckley College be congratulated on their success to date and that John Groves be thanked for his presentation to the Forum.

ii) Leicester Road Residents' Group

Stuart Pemberton of Leicester Road Residents' Group delivered a presentation on the work the Group undertook on behalf of their local area. The Group had over 40 subscribers to their minutes and met once a month at Hinckley Golf Club and the police and local Councillors regularly attended.

The Group had been established in order that residents could feed their views through a like minded body of people rather than as individuals and therefore have a greater voice in decisions made that affected the local area.

A number of successful campaigns the Group had been involved with were reported, areas of which included reducing the impact of traffic in the area, reducing anti-social behaviour and becoming active in Community Speedwatch.

Mr Pemberton encouraged residents in other parts of the Hinckley area to the benefits of setting up their own residents' groups and welcomed anyone to attend a meeting of the Leicester Road Residents' Group to see what they did or, if they wished, to become involved in their activities.

AGREED

That Stuart Pemberton be thanked for an informative presentation.

8. Question Time

The Chairman invited all those present to submit any questions/s they wished to raise about the local area, which he would endeavour to either provide either orally or via a written response within 20 days.

A total of 4 questions were received which are detailed below:-

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1.	<p>'a) Why can't we establish bikeways? Most roads in Hinckley are wide enough to have bikeways on both sides (i.e. a narrow pavement on both sides and a bikeway, and road in the middle as in the Netherlands.</p> <p>b) Why can't we establish lasting pavements suitable and safe for all ages to walk on (mostly old people are affected) and then make it illegal for anyone to bike on pavements, with a serious fine as a deterrent? A fine should also be created for cycling down Castle</p>	Denise Wood, local resident.	Leicestershire Highways (County Council)	A response will be sought from Leicestershire Highways Team within 20 working days.

	Street, Hinckley.			
2.	Can we establish a ceiling rate for landlords to charge for property, especially for business premises so that Hinckley can regain the flourishing town we once had?	Denise Wood, local resident.	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	A response will be sought from Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council within 20 working days, although it should be noted that Business Rates are set at a national government level, rather than by local government.
3.	<p>a) The footpath "U74" from the Community Centre to Earl Shilton Road, Barwell requires tarmacing and lights.</p> <p>b) There are also problems with being able to park outside the community centre.</p> <p>Can something be done about these problems?</p>	Janet Rowe, Older Person's Forum	Leicestershire County Council	A response will be sought from Leicestershire County Council Community Services (Question a) and Highway Departments Question b) within 20 working days.

9. Items requested by Service Providers, Consultative items and updates on:

i) Local Policing Update and Questions

Sgt Trott presented to the Forum the main issues which had been affecting the Forum area recently. These included:-

- overnight burglaries, including that of high value motorcycles. These crimes had dropped off recently following suspects being taken into custody.
- Shed break-ins.

A recent success had been Operation Shippad which had put in place a number of measures recently to increase the management of local offenders. The main arterial routes of the nearby motorways had been targeted to deter cross county criminals with number plate recognition being used alongside high visibility policing. Officers were also being more intrusive in investigations, Seargents reviewing cases more often to see if further measures and investigations could yield results.

Efforts were also being made to address anti-social use of vehicles including that of drink driving. Through the Joint Action Quality of Life

Team, important deterrent measures could be utilised such as seizure and crushing of cars. The increasing use of Community Speedwatch speed guns by local residents were also acting as a deterrent for speeding motorists.

Emerging threats which needed to be managed included daytime burglaries as residents were leaving windows open during hot weather and when out of the house which consequently made their homes more vulnerable to intruders. With the school summer holidays due to start this also meant youths would not be at school, a minority of which tended to lead to more offending taking place as a result.

Arising from discussion, the issue of a crossing on Rugby Road (by Granby Road) which not remain long enough on green for pedestrians to cross and therefore was felt to be dangerous was raised.

AGREED:

- a) That Sgt Trott be thanked for his presentation;
- b) That it be noted that Cllr Bray would take up the issue of the crossing on Rugby Road with the County Council Highway Department.

ii) Community Plan and Corporate Plan Priorities

Edwina Grant handed out a questionnaire which sought residents views in order to inform the budget setting and Council Tax levels for 2010/2011. The questionnaire could either be handed directly back to Edwina at the end of meeting, posted back to the Council via the pre-paid envelope provided or completed online.

Residents were asked to respond via mid-July in order that their views could be fed into the budget setting process.

iii) Citizen of the Year

Edwina Grant circulated a leaflet inviting residents to nominate to Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council their 'Citizen of the Year'.

10. Date of Future Meetings

It was noted that the next meetings of the Forum would be held on:

- 24 September 2009 at 7.00 pm; (or possibly earlier to set aside more time for the Participatory Budgeting Workshop)
- 26 November 2009 at 7.00 pm.

Any venue suggestions were requested to be forwarded to Sabrina Malik on 0116 305 5951 or via email: samalik@leics.gov.uk.

41. Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

7.00 – 8.45 pm
25/06/2009

CHAIRMAN

Questions & Answers from the Forum

1) The footpath “U74” from the Community Centre to Earl Shilton Road, Barwell requires tarmac and lights. There are also problems with being able to park outside the community centre. Can something be done about these problems?

Leicestershire County Council, Highways

Footpath U74 is a public right of way and not public highway. There was a proposal to provide lighting on the section of U74 between Shilton Road and Chesterfield Way 2 years ago. However, objections from the landowners meant that this lighting proposal did not proceed. Due to these objections there are no longer any proposals to provide lighting on this section of the public right of way. Lighting was installed on the section of U74 between Chesterfield Way and Belle View Road 2 years ago.

2) Why can't we establish bikeways? Most roads in Hinckley are wide enough to have bikeways on both sides (i.e. a narrow pavement on both sides and a bikeway, and road in the middle as in the Netherlands).

Leicestershire County Council, Highways

Although much has already been achieved in expanding cycle networks in Central Leicestershire and Loughborough, where congestion is greatest, further Capital investment can complete a number of missing links and help us to realise the full value of the main individual sections of route constructed during the first Local Transport Plan and earlier. It is in these areas that there is the greatest potential to contribute to our transport objectives.

As such, the majority of Capital investments during 2006-2011 will be focussed on Central Leicestershire and Loughborough. However, consideration will also be

given to providing a small number of individual links elsewhere, if these will result in cycling at congested times of day. Such schemes are most likely to arise in association with workplace travel plans adopted by larger employers.

Your request to provide cycle routes in Hinckley will remain on file and, if opportunities arise to include facilities as part of other highway improvements such as the above, it will be taken into consideration.

Finally, the new Hinckley & Bosworth cycle map is now available.

http://website/index/environment/countryside/cycle_trails/hinckleycyclingmap.htm

3) Why can't we establish lasting pavements suitable and safe for all ages to walk on (mostly old people are affected) and then make it illegal for anyone to bike on pavements, with a serious fine as a deterrent? A fine should also be created for cycling down Castle Street, Hinckley.

Leicestershire Police Constabulary, Hinckley

Cycling on pavements is an offence contrary to Sec 72 Highways Act 1835, which is punishable by way of a £30 fixed penalty notice, which all Police Officers carry and can use at their discretion, although I would suggest giving people tickets without prior warning would be heavy handed. The actual fine is set by the government and I have no power to alter this.

Footpath (pavement) means a highway over which the public have a right of way on foot only, not being a footway.

I'm not sure what Castle Street is classified as and whether the local council have any local prohibitions to prevent cycling along this street.

If anyone has any particular issues with cyclists then residents can contact their local neighbourhood teams, which are advertised on the Leicester Police website.

Pc 1289 Clarke is the beat officer for Hinckley Town Centre which covers Castle Street. Alternatively, PCSO 6631 Petri and PCSO 6659 Hodgkinson will be holding a street surgery in the Hinckley Consultation vehicle between 10am and 2pm on Saturday, 10th August, 09 in Castle Street, Hinckley.

I am not aware of any particular initiatives along Castle Street which involve cyclists.

4) Can we establish a ceiling rate for landlords to charge for property, especially for business premises so that Hinckley can regain the flourishing town we once had?

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council

The short answer to this question is 'no' – as ceiling rates that landlords can charge cannot be set locally. However, Jonathan White (Business Development Manager) is aware of the issues of inflated rental rates and is working closely with local businesses and landlords to maintain appropriate rates for the current economic climate.

His contact telephone number is 01455 890 054 or 07707 526 006