



**Minutes of a meeting of the Hinckley Area Community Forum held at
Hinckley Rugby Club, Leicester Road, Hinckley on
Thursday 26 November 2009**

Present

Cllr. D. C. Bill (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and
Leicestershire County Council) - Chairman

Cllr. J. Bannister	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Cllr. J. C. Bown	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Earl Shilton Town Council
Cllr. J. Cullinane	Barwell Parish Council
Cllr. F. Tipper	Earl Shilton Town Council
Cllr. D. O. Wright CC	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council

Officers

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

Partner Agencies

Edwina Grant	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Ron Grantham	Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Helen McNulty	Leicestershire Youth Offending Service
Sally Penney	Leicestershire Youth Offending Service
Sergeant Steve Durrant	Leicestershire Police
Inspector Rich Ward	Leicestershire Police

Residents/Groups/Organisations

Shirley Dudfield	Resident
Kate O'Farrell	Connexions Leicestershire
Jake Gibbs	Hilltop Radio
Mr. N. W. Green	Leicester Road Residents Group and Swallows Green, Hinckley
Ann Harris	Meadows Community Group
Dave kingdom	Friends of Hollycroft Park
Sian Mitchell	Voluntary Action, Hinckley and Bosworth
Colin Markley	Leicester Road Residents Group and Swallows

B. Mason	Green, Hinckley
Jeremy Morris	B. S. Band
Rod Parker	Resident
Patricia Sykes	Friends of Hollycroft Park
Nancy Tipper	Age Concern
Sue Tombs	Hilltop Radio
Iolande Vettese	Connexions Leicestershire
Claire Weddle	North Warwickshire and Hinckley College
Carole Woodward	Womens Aid Leicestershire
	Age Concern

Apologies for absence were received from:

Karen Ambrose (Women's Aid); Irene Ashton (Leicestershire Mind); Mrs. R. Camamile CC (Leicestershire County Council); Graham Davis (Burbage Neighbourhood Watch); Cllr. Roger Ellis (Earl Shilton Parish Council); Cllr. Ann Hall (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); Cllr. John Howard (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council); Jan Kirby (Women's Aid); Eric Neale (Cyclist Touring Club).

10. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr David Bill welcomed everyone to the sixth public meeting of the Forum. He looked forward to the feedback from the participatory budget workshop held on 24th September and the presentations to be made in respect of the Community Safety Partnership.

11. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2009, having previously been circulated, were agreed as a correct record.

12. 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.

13. Reports and Feedback

a) Have Your Say on County Council Budget Priorities

Ben Smith of Leicestershire County Council gave a short presentation on the County Council's Budget Consultation Exercise which was taking place until 7th December 2009. Residents were invited to complete an on-line budget consultation questionnaire (at www.leics.gov.uk) which asked, in the face of record levels of public borrowing and the need to reduce public spending,

which services should be reduced, which should be protected and whether residents were in favour of the Council's proposals on council tax.

b) Participatory Budgeting Update

Edwina Grant of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and Juan Pardo of Leicestershire County Council provided an update on the outcome of the Participatory Budgeting Workshop which had taken place on 24th September 2009. The Workshop had looked into how the Forum was to organise the way in which it spent its allocation of £20,000 from Leicestershire Together.

It was proposed that the £20,000 be shared amongst the following 9 priorities agreed at the 24th September Workshop in the following way:-

Priority Number	Organisation	Allocation
1.	Bear Grill's Barbeque for Scouts/Mobile Hospitality	£1,150
2.	Women's Aid Safe Homes	£2,000
3. =	Friends of Hollycroft Park – Park Event	£5,789.51
3. =	Age Concern – Senior Citizen Safer Seating	£3,375
5.	Hilltop Radio – Outside Broadcasting Equipment	£3,000

It was proposed that the remaining money be divided into four equal parts of £1,171.37 for the projects that came joint 5th including 'Internet Café', 'Cricket Club', 'Roller Skate (Skat8 House)' and 'Indoor Roller Skate' or, should 'Roller Skate (Skat8 House)' and 'Indoor Roller Skate' were compatible projects to divide the it into three equal parts of £1,561.83.

AGREED

- a) That the top 9 priorities should be recommended to the Hinckley and Bosworth Local Strategic Partnership to receive the respective allocations, as outlined above, which comprises the £20,000 participatory budget allocated to the area;
- b) That officers be requested to recommend to the LSP the exact level of funding the four priorities ranked equal fifth should be allocated, as outlined above and dependent on whether the Roller Skate and Indoor Roller Skate projects are compatible.

14. Items requested by Forum Members

i) Community Safety Partnership

Ron Grantham, Community Safety Manager at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, Inspector Rich Ward of Hinckley Local Policing Unit, Sally Penney and Helen McNulty of Leicestershire Youth Offending delivered a joint presentation on Community Safety Partnership priorities, police crime

figures, and work to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area. A copy of the presentation is filed with these minutes.

The following principal points were noted:

- i) The latest crime figures had risen overall but this had followed the previous year of exceptional reductions in crime numbers. In terms of a trend over the last four years however, crime levels were still falling;
- ii) The programme of using restorative justice rather than the criminal justice system for low level crime was being used where appropriate with positive feedback from both offenders and victims;
- iii) An important current police and partnership target was to reduce the level of anti social behaviour and the number of Anti-Social Behaviour Orders that needed to be issued in the area, by engaging and working with local youths;
- iv) In order to tackle anti-social behaviour a tiered approach was used with the majority of cases being successfully dealt with at the initial stage following parents being informed of misbehaviour:

Advice letter sent to parents;

Further incidents – warning letter to parents about the consequences of further misbehaviour and incident documented;

Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) offered for a six month period. If signed up to, support then provided by Leicestershire Youth Offending looking at interventions and positive activities to prevent re-offending. With a review being undertaken each month, the conditions of the contract would be increased or decreased depending on the behaviour of the individual;

Where an ABC had failed, although such instances were rare, the Police and Council would then seek an Anti Social Behaviour Order from Court.

- v) Views were sought from the public for Local police Units neighbourhood priorities for 2010.

AGREED:

That the presentations and the work being undertaken in the Forum area to reduce anti-social behaviour and improve the lives of youths and the wider residential population be noted.

15. 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 8 questions were received which are detailed below:-

	<u>Question</u>	<u>Submitted by</u>	<u>Question to</u>	<u>Answer</u>
1.	Is it acceptable for a Parish councillor to be part of the Forum, even if they are not the chose representative of their Council, for the purpose of just being 'involved'?	John Cullinane	All	<p>Answer from clerk to the meeting:-</p> <p>All members of the community are actively encouraged to attend and participate in Forum meetings and you do not need to be the representative of a particular body to do so.</p> <p>A core membership exists for each Forum of County and District Councillors, and a representative from each Parish Council which reflects of their role as elected representatives and community champions for the area. This allows representative views from the community to be taken into account at meetings.</p>
2.	<p>a) With the various stages of intervention in attempting to change anti-social behaviour, will there be any degrees of differentiation in when the trigger points for the different stages are reached?</p> <p>b)With respect to how the anti-social behaviour is affecting the victim will there be a conscious effort to</p>	John Cullinane	County Council/ District Council/ Police	<p>Answer from Ron Grantham:-</p> <p>a) The first part of the question refers to the 4 trigger points in dealing with anti-social behaviour, ranging from an advice letter to parents to requesting the courts to impose an Anti Social Behaviour Order, as discussed earlier in the meeting. The point at which these triggers are used vary to some extent on a case by case basis.</p> <p>b) A lot of work has been, and</p>

	discuss whether e.g. harassment is deemed to be what a reasonable person may discern it and/or how a vulnerable person with mental health issues may perceive it?			continues to be, undertaken on Anti-social behaviour on a cross partnership basis with the Police, Borough and County Councils. Lessons have been learnt from the tragic circumstances arising in Barwell that we need to concentrate on the victims and not just the offenders who perpetuate anti-social behaviour.
3.	When police representatives give reports to individual areas/parishes – is it possible to give statistics that relate directly to that geographical area as opposed to a beat area that may cover a different area, either including or excluding data that might be either relevant or irrelevant respectively, e.g. Barwell's report is included in Earl Shilton's report and vice versa. This would be more useful in reporting back to the electorate.	John Cullinane	Police	<p>Answer from Inspector Rich Ward:</p> <p>Crime data is available on a street by street basis so we could change the collation of information from beat area to ensure that only information specific to the Forum area is included when reporting on crime figures in future.</p>
4.	Will the Community Forum support the building of a new public toilet in Earl Shilton?	Anonymous	All	A response will be sought from the Borough Council within 20 working days.
5.	<p>a) Recent press reports/tv programmes indicate that the police are not sending enough criminals before the courts! Is this true?</p> <p>b) Can you confirm that</p>	Stuart Pemberton	Police	<p>Answer from Inspector Rich Ward:</p> <p>a) Where appropriate, criminals are put before the Courts when they have committed offences. However it is also true that it was considered that too many minor offences were causing</p>

	just before it happened the man who murdered the girl in Barwell last week was released by the magistrates against police wishes?			<p>congestion in the courts. Police were given more scope to use fixed penalty notices and restorative justice measures as an alternative way of addressing low level criminal activity.</p> <p>b) It would be inappropriate to discuss in a formal setting an ongoing case, however I can confirm that in accordance with policy the Independent Police Complaints Commission were informed and found the police had followed correct procedures in the way in which this case was handled.</p>
6.	Why is there resistance to a controlled junction (island/traffic lights) at the Barwell Lane and Ashby Road junction? Can consideration be given to an island at the junction of Leicester Road/Stoneygate Drive?	Colin Markley	County Council Highways Dept.	<p>Interim answer from Mr. D. O. Wright CC:</p> <p>County Council Highways Engineers have been requested to investigate the Ashby Road and Leicester Road/Stoneygate Drive areas before and their opinion was that there was insufficient traffic movements to justify a set of traffic lights or a traffic island but, as over time vehicle movements fluctuate over time and residents feel there is an issue it is worth asking Highways engineers to look into this again.</p> <p>A formal response will be sought from the County Council Highways Department within 20 working days.</p>
7.	When is the footpath in the Ashby Road Cemetery (behind the big pit) going to be restored back to good useable condition allowing elderly	Mr Green	County Council/ District Council	A formal response will be sought from the County Council/District Council, as appropriate, within 20 working days.

	persons to use it safely?			
8.	When the Council offices are demolished what will replace it? Could some old people's housing be built?	Jan Kirby	District Council	<p>Answer from Mr. D. C. Bill CC:</p> <p>The Argents Mead offices are due to become vacant in the autumn of 2010 and then be demolished. Council staff will then work predominantly from the Atkins Building.</p> <p>There will be a public consultation as to how the land should be put to best use. Ideas which have been received already are the addition of Older People's Accommodation on part of the site and also the expansion and enhancement of Argents Mead Park.</p>

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

i) Credit Union

Edwina Grant drew to the Forum's attention the setting up of a credit union arrangement for Hinckley & Bosworth which was being undertaken in conjunction with 'Clockwise', an existing credit union. This would provide services to both staff of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council and residents in the form of a financial co-operative offering savings and loans owned and controlled by its members.

It was explained that volunteers would need to be recruited and trained to work alongside a General Manager. If anyone wished to volunteer there would be a training event on 3rd December 2009 at the Council Offices from 6.00 – 8.00 pm.

17. Date and time of Future Meetings

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

11th February 2010 at 7.00 pm.

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

18. Close

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

7.00 – 8.50 pm
26/11/2009

CHAIRMAN