

**Minutes of the Loughborough North West Area Forum held at
All Saints' Church Hall, Thorpe Acre Road, Loughborough on
Thursday, 13th October 2008.**

PRESENT

Members

Councillor Max Hunt (Chair)	Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council
Councillor Roy Campsall	Charnwood Borough Council
Councillor David Goss	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
Mrs Val Watts	Co-opted Member
Councillor Patrick Youell	Charnwood Borough Council

Officers

Mr Richard Bennett	Head of Planning Policy, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Peter Blitz	Team Leader (DC) North, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Richard Brown	Principal Planning Officer, Charnwood Borough Council
Ms Sue Cavill	Associate Director Communications and Engagement, Leicestershire & Rutland Primary Care Trust
Ms Clare Clarke	Principal Planning Officer, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Richard Downing	Community Engagement Manager (Charnwood and Melton) Leicestershire County Council
Mr Dave Hankin	Director of Development, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Tony Herrington	Transport Policy Co-ordinator, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Michael Hooper	Committee Services Officer, Charnwood Borough Council
PC Christopher Hughes	Beat Officer for Willowbrook, Leicestershire Police
Mr Keith Ireland	Interim Director of Programmes and Resources, Charnwood Borough Council
Mr Simon McIntosh	Leicestershire Together
Mr Ashley Russell	Community Strategy Support Officer, Charnwood Borough Council

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Charnwood Borough Councillors Richard Shepherd,
David Slater, David Snartt

APOLOGIES: Charnwood Borough Councillor Christine Harris, Mrs Isa Hogan and
Leicestershire County Councillor Betty Newton

In addition to the neighbourhood representatives attending as Forum Members, 16
further residents and representatives of community groups attended the meeting and
took part in discussions.

1. Welcome from Chair

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

2. Community Health Agenda

Sue Cavill, Associate Director, Communications and Engagement, Leicestershire &
Rutland Primary Care Trust, gave a presentation which provided a snapshot of health
in the Borough of Charnwood.

Subjects covered included areas of deprivation, life expectancy, and how local health
compared to national trends. It was hoped that the profile would act as a form of
social marketing and enable funds to be targeted towards specific problems i.e. high
rates of particular health problems.

Upon opening up discussion from the floor attendees stated that the Walk-in Centre
was more accessible at it's current Pinfold Gate location than it would be at Epinal
Way. It was also felt that it was a more suitable location to deal with alcohol-related
incidents, most of which took place in the town centre.

Sue Cavill then undertook to investigate the following issues raised by attendees and
report back to the next meeting:

- Measures taken to identify risk in advance of accidents and falls occurring;
- Enabling adults with learning difficulties to live independently;
- Respite care.

A copy of the Charnwood Health Profile 2008 handout which was circulated at the
meeting could be found at: <http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=52303>.

It was AGREED:

- (i) **that Sue Cavill provide feedback on the following issues to the next
meeting of the Forum:**

- **Measures taken to identify risk in advance of accidents and falls occurring;**
- **Enabling adults with learning difficulties;**
- **Respite care;**

(ii) that the consultation item be noted.

3. Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation

As Councillor Hilary Fryer, Charnwood Borough Council Cabinet Lead Member for Development and Planning, was unable to attend the meeting Councillor Richard Shepherd introduced the speakers on her behalf, stating that the aim was to raise awareness of the consultation period, which would begin on 24th October 2008, and to provide the public with information on how they could take part.

Richard Bennett, Head of Planning Policy, Charnwood Borough Council, gave a presentation on the Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation, a copy of which is available at <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lboronw/additional-papers-for-loughborou.html>. It was stressed that the consultation document set out all possible alternative sites, explaining their advantages and disadvantages, and that all of the evidence used to inform the consultation document was available for the public to view.

Richard then led a quiz in which attendees were asked how much they know about the Borough.

Upon opening up discussion from the floor, the following comments were made and responses received:

- Residents asked if it could be stated categorically that Garendon Park would not be built upon.

Richard Bennett clarified that the Garendon Estate covered the entire area north of A512 and east of M1 Motorway up to and beyond the Hathern/Shephed road. Housing development would not take place within the Registered Historic Park and Garden area but was proposed to the north within the Estate. It was likely that an access road would be required through the Registered Historic Park and Garden area though no detailed route had yet been identified;

- Residents suggested that the impact upon Garendon Historic Park and Garden had not been clearly explained and that the presentation lacked transparency;
- A resident asked how the future economic prosperity of Loughborough could be ensured.

Richard Bennett replied that locating large scale developments close to Loughborough's services and facilities should aid the economic development of

the town centre. However, the Council couldn't tell people where to spend their money and it was essential that the market responds to new demands;

- Residents asked whether Wymeswold Airfield had been considered as a location for development and suggested that there were a number of advantages to the site, including it being a brownfield development site and having good access into Nottingham.

Richard Bennett confirmed that the site had been considered but highlighted fundamental problems concerning its remoteness from services and facilities in Loughborough, it being contrary to the 'urban concentration' principles in the Regional Spatial Strategy, and problems of highway access across the river valley which was partial to flooding;

- Residents asked if brownfield sites been considered as locations for concentrations of housing developments. Particularly the route from the train station to the town centre which could have communities developed around it.

Richard Bennett replied that the Council had identified potential brownfield housing sites but very few sites were available. The council was considering preparing an Area Action Plan for this part of Loughborough to guide its regeneration and views were sought on this;

- Residents suggested it was difficult for them to comment on the proposals without knowing the finer detail of each site and their access arrangements.

Richard Bennett said that the Council had focused on the broad principles of where sites should go and the finer detail would need to be worked up later. All the options had been presented with a consistent level of detail to enable a fair and reasonable conclusion to be reached;

- Residents pointed out that many traffic problems existed in Loughborough, particularly along Epinal Way. It was further stated that decisions that led to the building of houses in the north of Loughborough were very poor as this had prevented Epinal Way to be linked with the A6 north of Loughborough and that even if an Eastern Distributor Road was built, it would not be sufficient to solve Loughborough's transport problems. They questioned whether Leicestershire County Council had been involved in discussions on highway works.

Richard Bennett said that all options for future growth would involve traffic issues which could not be fully mitigated. He confirmed there was on-going dialogue with the Highway Authority throughout the planning process. Tony Herrington made the point that some of Leicestershire County Council's revised advice on transportation to the East Midlands Regional Plan Examination in Public had not been supported by the inspector;

- Residents asked if Garendon Historic Park and Garden had been given by De Lisle in exchange for planning permission.

Richard Bennett stated that this was not the case. Dave Hankin added that for any of the options, the Council would be seeking to secure significant 'green infrastructure' as part of development proposals;

- Residents asked if there were any health and safety issues (including noise pollution) with regards to locating housing and schools close to the M1 motorway. Residents suggested there had been new advice from the Health and Safety Commission which prevented or limited development in such locations.

Richard Bennett said that he was not aware of any new advice and confirmed that he would look into the matter;

- A number of people enquired how a final decision would be made on where development would be located.

Richard Bennett said that whilst the Council would vote on a preferred location, the Core Strategy would ultimately be examined by an independent planning inspector whose report would be binding on the Council. Dave Hankin clarified that an inspector would not decide on the location of development as such, but would assess whether the proposals put forward by the Council were sound against the Inspectorate's tests of 'soundness'. If the proposals were not considered to be sound then the plan would not be adopted and the Council would have to prepare the plan again. He said it was important that the public help the Council to prepare sound proposals. If they didn't think that the proposals being put forward were sound they should submit their comments, giving evidence for their reasons;

- Residents asked if the increase in student accommodation been taken into account?

Richard Bennett replied that students were included in the 2001 census and that he understood that the net change in student numbers had therefore been taken into account in the 2004 household projections.

The Chair closed the item by encouraging people to take part in the consultation and to ensure that they have their say.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the issues put forward by attendees be taken into account and investigated where appropriate;**
- (ii) that the consultation item be noted.**

Note: Aside from the LDF discussions, There was concern expressed about the way the housing site at Pear Tree, Lane in Loughborough had been allocated through the Borough of Charnwood Local Plan process.

Dave Hankin explained the history of the site and how the site had come forward to meet a shortfall in the housing requirement for the Borough. The site had been recommended by the Inspector in his report and was effectively not within the Council's powers to reverse his decision.

4. Sustainable Community Strategy / Local Area Agreement

Simon McIntosh, representing the partners of Leicestershire Together, reported that the Leicestershire Together partnership had agreed the following set of priority outcomes for Leicestershire for the next 5 years:

1. Improved Life Chances for Vulnerable people & places
2. Stronger, more Cohesive Communities
3. A safe and attractive place to live and work
4. A more effective response to Climate Change
5. A prosperous, innovative and dynamic economy
6. A Healthier Leicestershire
7. More effective and efficient service delivery

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAA) would build on these priorities. The SCS outlined high level outcomes across the seven themes whilst the LAA detailed how, in partnership, the priorities would be achieved.

Simon then led the Forum in an interactive presentation on the Sustainable Community Strategy. The presentation would be given at all seven Charnwood Area Forums and the results, which can be viewed at <http://www.leicestershireforums.org/lboronw/additional-papers-for-loughborou.html>, would be analysed and fed back to Leicestershire Together partners to help them prioritise resources according to local need.

Attendees were thanked for taking part in the interactive presentation.

It was AGREED:

- (i) **that updates on the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement be received at future meetings of the Forum;**
- (ii) **the presentation be noted.**

5. Loughborough In Bloom / Making North West Loughborough Greener

At their last meeting the Forum had received a presentation from Colin Bailey, Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Development Manager, in which he detailed the types of work undertaken by the Council in their efforts to make Loughborough greener. The Forum made a number of recommendations and requests and Colin Bailey's responses are included within the attached **Schedule**.

Andy Rush, Editor of the Loughborough Echo, introduced the Loughborough In Bloom initiative. In recent years much dissatisfaction had been expressed about the standard of floral displays and grass cutting within the town and the project had been set up with the intention of rectifying the situation. Both Charnwood Borough Council and Leicestershire County Council had pledged to commit officer support for the bid, preparatory work and support in kind with regard to planting.

A Loughborough In Bloom project board had been set up with various representatives including The Loughborough Echo, the County Council and the Borough Council. It was through this committee that the In Bloom application would be submitted in April 2009.

Andy Rush then urged the public not to view the initiative as a way for the Councils to neglect their duties, but as a way in which local communities could come together to improve the aesthetics of their local communities and create a sustainable project that was not reliant upon Council funding.

In line with the ethos of the competition, there would be a lot of emphasis around community involvement and Andy Rush said that he would be contacting local residents associations to discuss how they could participate in the scheme.

Ahead of the meeting the Chair had requested that the Forum receive a statement regarding Council involvement in Loughborough In Bloom. Chris Traill, Director of Leisure and Environment, Charnwood Borough Council, had provided the following statement which was read out by Keith Ireland:

'Loughborough Echo has set up a Loughborough In Bloom project committee/board, with representatives from across the community and from both County and Borough Council. The application will be made through the Echo and this board/committee next year (entry April '09).

Both Councils will be committing officer support to the preparatory work and support "in kind" in terms of planting.

The public can expect to see regular features in The Loughborough Echo.

There will of course be a lot of emphasis around community involvement, in line with the ethos of the competition.

With regard to involving Groundworks, this is something the project board/committee will be discussing when it meets.'

Upon opening up discussion from the floor, the following points were made:

- It was hoped that there would be more floral displays and that Queen's Park would be restored to its former glory;

- The project was required to specify a route through Loughborough for the judges. The Forum suggested that the route should take in North West Loughborough.

Residents raised the question of sponsorship of roundabouts. The Chair said that revenue from the sponsorship monies from roundabout advertisements went to Leicestershire County Council. He understood that not all of the monies had been spent and suggested that some could be put towards the Loughborough In Bloom project. The Chair also stated that the Campaign to Protect Rural England did not support such roundabout advertisements. Andy Rush said that the matter had been reported in the Loughborough Echo.

Andy Rush finished by again encouraging support for the campaign and saying that the public could expect to see regular features in the Loughborough Echo.

The Chair closed the item by urging attendees to participate in and promote the Loughborough In Bloom initiative as much as possible.

It was AGREED:

- (i) **that the Loughborough North West Area Forum formally request that the proposed Loughborough In Bloom route pass through North West Loughborough;**
- (ii) **that the item be noted.**

6. 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) Horror Nights Event

A 'haunted house event for Halloween' was due to run from 16th to 31st October 2008 on the Rosebery School site. It was queried whether or not Charnwood Borough Council had granted a change of use license for the event.

It was AGREED that the matter be investigated by Charnwood Borough Council and a Loughborough North West Area Forum statement subsequently be agreed with the Chair.

(ii) Rubbish

Despite Charnwood Borough Council officers previously taking action to rectify the problem, there was still an issue with the amount of rubbish in the Derby Road, Station Street to Regent Street, area.

It was also suggested that new residents were ignoring recycling guidance but their rubbish was still being removed by the council.

Concern was also expressed that the method of recycling removal adopted by the Council may lead to cross-contamination. The Chair responded that although all bags were thrown into the same container upon collection only air was expelled from them. They were then separated following delivery to the depot.

It was AGREED that the issues of rubbish in streets and residents ignoring recycling guidance be referred to Charnwood Borough Council's Director of Leisure and Environment.

(iii) Maxwell Drive

The estate was suffering from littering under hedges and, as a result of overgrown hedges and trees, grass was being killed. It was felt that both a clear-up and a change in behaviour patterns was required.

It was AGREED that the matter be referred to Charnwood Borough Council's Director of Leisure and Environment.

(iv) Gorse Covert

There was a problem with underage drinking and bonfires in the area. A litter bin had been requested but had yet to be installed.

It was AGREED that the matters be referred to Charnwood Borough Council's Director of Partnerships and Customer Services and Director of Leisure and Environment.

(v) Burleigh Way Extension – Cycle Path

The following matter had been submitted in writing by a local resident via the Leicestershire Forums website:

'Local residents have grave concerns about the proposal. Are people in the area aware of the Leicestershire County Council proposals to change the area in such an obtrusive manner and install lighting that, in my opinion, will attract further anti-social behaviour to the area?'

The Chair understood that the matter was already under active consultation with Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department and that a report would be made at the end of the consultation period.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that the correspondence on the matter be passed to Leicestershire County Council's Highways Department;
- (ii) that the outcome be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.

7. Actions Arising

Updates on all actions arising from the Forum's last meeting were circulated. These are attached as a **Schedule**. Richard Downing added that there had been an improvement in the grass cutting issues discussed at the last meeting.

It was AGREED:

- (i) that a report from Charnwood Borough Council's Green Spaces Manager detailing green spaces issues be considered at the next meeting of the Forum;
- (ii) that the Cabinet Lead Member for green spaces issues be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum. It was understood that this would be prior to the setting of the 2009/10 budget.

FORMAL SESSION

8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Area Forum members were asked to propose a Chair and Vice-Chair for a two year period.

It was AGREED that Councillor Max Hunt and Robert Jones be re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair for a two year period.

9. Minutes

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

10. Capital Grants

Guidance on the role of the Forum in considering the Charnwood Capital Grant Application had been included with the agenda. In summary, the Forum was being asked to comment on the application and consider whether or not it was in support of it. That position would be considered by the Borough Council's Grants Panel when it decided the application.

The Hut, Ashby Road

An application for 50% towards the acquisition and purchase of premises at Boothwood School, Loughborough was considered.

It was AGREED that the Borough Council's Grants Panel be informed that the Forum supports the application.

11. Report from Priority Neighbourhood Team

Ashley Russell, Community Strategy Support Officer, Charnwood Borough Council, updated the Forum on the work of the Priority Neighbourhood Team

The Warwick Way Partnership Action Week had been held during the week commencing 23rd June 2008 and had incorporated the following:

- Environmental Action Day where 14 Tons of rubbish and white goods were removed.
- The Fire Service had installed smoke detectors and delivered fire prevention advice.
- Communities and Partnerships Team (together with the Police) provided Crime Prevention Advice throughout the week.
- Library Service – book reading.
- Street Management – Fly Tipping – Final Warning Notices issued together with advice on bulky item removal. Remote Deployable CCTV installed and lighting improved along Lewis Road.
- Brick walls were repaired and to date remain undamaged.
- Young people were active during the week.
- Increased visibility of Street Wardens.
- A significant amount of graffiti was removed – some returned along Durham Rd Footpath and was subsequently removed again.
- General enforcement, monitoring and rapid response to environmental issues, all of which were ongoing.

People were encouraged to join the next Ward Walk, scheduled to take place on 24th November 2008 and commencing with a drop in session 2 pm at Knightthorpe Methodist Church.

Ashley closed by reporting that the Communities and Partnerships Team were working with colleagues from Charnwood Borough Council and the Police to lessen the impact of students returning to Loughborough. Through various freshers and returning student events they were promoting campaigns that raise awareness of being considerate to neighbours and their vulnerability to crime.

It was AGREED that the update report be noted.

12. Issues for Future Forum Meetings

Shortcliffe Park was identified for consideration at a future Forum meeting:

13. Summary of Actions from the Meeting

Minute No	Matter	For Action By
2(i)	Community Health Agenda	S Cavill, PCT
3(i)	Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation	R Bennett, CBC
4(i)	Sustainable Community Strategy / Local Area Agreement	R Downing, LCC
5(i)	Loughborough In Bloom / Making North West Loughborough Greener	H Gretton, CBC
6(i)	Horror Nights Event	Various CBC officers / Chair
6(ii)	Rubbish	C Traill, CBC
6(iii)	Maxwell Drive	C Traill, CBC
6(iv)	Gorse Covert	C Traill / S Phipps, CBC
6(v)(i)	Burleigh Way Extension – Cycle Path	R Downing, LCC
6(v)(ii)	Burleigh Way Extension – Cycle Path	R Downing, LCC
7(i)	Actions Arising (Green Spaces)	C Bailey, CBC
7(ii)	Actions Arising (Green Spaces)	M Hooper / Cabinet Member, CBC
10	Capital Grants	M Hopkins, CBC
12	Shortcliffe Park	C Traill / M Hooper, CBC

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 9.08 pm.

Actions arising from 11th June Area Forum

- **Promotion of Green Areas** (Minute No 2(i))

Colin Bailey, Green Spaces Development Manager, Charnwood Borough Council, provided the following responses:

- Funds are not available to provide the installation of signage providing contact details to report incidences of vandalism.
 - Funds are not available for the installation of direction fingerposts. Permission would also need to be obtained from Leicestershire County Council Highways Department.
 - Funds are not available for the installation of better signage to highlight and link green trails.
 - Local green areas could be promoted through articles in Charnwood news.
 - Information available on the council's website is to be reviewed and improved by December.
 - There are no funds available to produce additional leaflets. Leaflets are already produced for The Outwoods (the Council's Green Flag wildlife park) and Queen's Park (the Council's Green Flag park).
 - On 11th September Steven Waters, Green Spaces Development Officer, and I attended a meeting of Ashby Road Estate Community Association [ARECA] to discuss improvements to Shortcliffe Park. It was decided that ARECA would send a questionnaire out to residents with its newsletter at the end of September. Evaluation should be completed in October. It is anticipated that ARECA will apply to Big Lottery for community funding.
 - Potential Section 106 monies available for the development of green spaces and youth facilities within North West Loughborough are still being investigated.
 - Potential voluntary organisation funding was investigated and details were emailed to Ward Members on 29th September.
- **Cycling on Pavements** (Minute No 4(ii)) – Cllr Newton reported that the Police are cracking down on cycling on pavements on the Ashby Road.
 - **Youth Service Information** (Minute No 4(v)) – Andrew Hitchcock was to ensure that all Borough Councillors receive the same Youth Service information as Leicestershire County Councillors. Andy to confirm if this has been done.
 - **Cumberland Road Playing Fields** (Minute No 4(vi)) – Colin Bailey's request that the land be transferred to Charnwood Borough Council was turned down by Leicestershire County Council.
 - **Grass Cutting** (Minute No 9) – Richard Downing to provide an update.

- **Traffic problems on Knightthorpe Road** (Minute No 9) – Cllr Newton received the following update from Leicestershire County Council Highways Department:

The RIOT assessment has recently been completed for this road and the average 85%ile reading recorded at 30.8mph demonstrating reasonable compliance with the existing 30mph limit on this road.

As part of our investigations the accident data for this road was also checked but again a scheme could not be justified. There have been only 4 recorded slight personal injury accidents over the previous 5 year period.

- **Drug Dealing** (Minute No 9) – No response received.
- **Incidences of Hospital Viruses** (Minute No 9) – Richard Downing to provide an update.