



charnwoodtogether
making life better

**PEOPLE AND PLACES DELIVERY GROUP
18TH MARCH 2010**

PRESENT: N. Lambert (Chair) (Voluntary Action Charnwood)
R. Downing (Leicestershire County Council)
V. Graham (Charnwood Borough Council)
Inspector T. McCabe (Leicestershire Constabulary)
H. Miah (Charnwood Borough Council)
I. Rickard (Charnwood Neighbourhood Housing)
A. Russell (Charnwood Borough Council)
Inspector D. Southall (Leicestershire Constabulary)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Preston, T. Kiernan, M. Madhani

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the People and Places Delivery Group held on 21st January 2010 were agreed, subject to the amendment of the spelling of Mr Sprason to read Mr Sprason.

2. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT (TOWNS AND VILLAGES)

A report detailing issues and activities across the South of the Borough, arising from Neighbourhood Management meetings and work in the area was submitted.

V. Graham made reference to the Mountsorrel Partnership Action Week, highlighting the following points:

- There had been positive and active resident engagement;
- In respect of litter picking, the new street cleansing contract with SERCO had led to a significant improvement;
- The residents raised significant issues in respect of dog fouling. Officers continued to work with residents, had circulated information in the form of leaflets and had reported the matter to the Council's Environmental Health department;

In response to issues raised and questions, officers stated:

- (a) The SERCO Street Cleanisng contract did not include clearing dog fouling.
- (b) Much of the dog fouling was the result of owners not picking up fouling left by dogs they were walking on leads or discarding bags in the hedges.
- (c) There were signs in the area re dog fouling.
- (d) Some Parish Councils had contracts to clear dog fouling and empty bins.
- (e) I. Rickard would liaise with officers after the meeting in respect of services CNH had engaged to support street clean ups and could possibly assist with the clearing up of dog fouling at future Action Weeks.
- (f) In respect of the Community Event, officers had experienced difficulties in attracting the media to the event, hard to reach families had attended the event, through Sure Start and there had been good participation in the event of partner agencies.

Local businesses had provided prizes for a prize draw for people to enter, who had attended the Community Event.

- (g) The Health Clinic had not been well attended. That could have been due to the venue. In the future officers were looking to work with North West Leicestershire District Council on those events.
- (h) Following on from the Action Week, there were projects that were on-going.

The Chair referred to the successes of the Action Week and suggested that the event be publicised as a positive event, that would support building safer, stronger and more confident communities.

The next Partnership Action Week would take place in the Peel Drive area on 12th April 2010.

Reference was made to the Bradgate, Rothley, Mountsorrel and Birstall Area Forum, held on 17th March 2010, where issues in respect of dog fouling had been raised as a serious problem in Mountsorrel, together with issues relating to the Youth Club.

It was reported that progress was being made with Virgin Media in respect of the removal of graffiti from its boxes.

AGREED that the information be noted.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT (LOUGHBOROUGH)

A report detailing issues and activities across Loughborough, arising from regular Neighbourhood Management meetings and work in the area was submitted.

A. Russell stated that planning permission for the Community House on Warwick Way had been granted and highlighted the following points:

- A four week programme to convert the property would begin, with a soft opening expected during May 2010;
- Two local owner occupiers had submitted objections to the planning application and one would be invited to sit on the Management Group;
- A tenants' group would be formed, including the involvement of young people;
- To build confidence in the area, there would also be regular officer meetings involving a small group of tenants and the Police;
- Officers were liaising with partner agencies to develop and use a booking system. Partners using the Russell Street facility had requested time at the new Community House when it opened.

A. Russell made reference to issues in respect of anti-social behaviour raised at a recent meeting of the JAG. Youths were causing concerns in the Warwick Court, Gorse Covert, The Ville and Charteris Close areas and a meeting to address those issues had been arranged for 25th March 2010 at 2.30pm.

Officers had recently given a presentation to the Safer Communities Strategy Board in respect of Community Houses, which had been well received. The model used in the Hastings Ward was seen to be successful and the CRAVE survey for the area had shown a significant rise in confidence. Reference was made to the model used at Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, which had established a mini council office in Earl Shilton, officers considered that a local feel had been lost, while the Community House in Loughborough was perceived as being part of the community.

In response to a question, T. McCabe stated that the new beat Sergeant expected to have a close working relationship with Borough Council officers, with joint strategies to address issues relating to safer and confident communities. Further meetings would be held with T. Kiernan on the matter.

Loughborough East

H. Miah made reference to the Partnership Action Week which had been deferred to 12th April 2010, at the request of the residents and would now form part of the Partner in the Community Together. A planning meeting would be held on 24th March 2010.

Reference was made to the Area Forum meeting held on 11th March 2010, where local residents had:

- Welcomed the fact that the Building Schools for the Future programme funding had not been successful and they now expected that Limehurst School would not be closed. However, R. Downing noted that the County Council continued to look at a through school model, which left the future of Limehurst school still in doubt.

- Welcomed the decision of the NHS LCR to retain the Walk-in Centre in its current location.
- Welcomed an application for funding for the Chapman Street Gardening Association was one step further forward.
- Stated that crime and drugs were no longer perceived to be big issues in their area.

The Chair stated that at a Neighbourhoods Management team meeting held on 17th March 2010, P. Goodman had reported the disappointment of the County Council that it had been unsuccessful in its application for Building Schools for the Future programme funding. The County Council should be made aware of the fact that some local residents were pleased with that outcome. In respect of the Walk-in Centre, while acknowledging that for equalities in health the Walk-in Centre would have been better based at Loughborough hospital, it was more accessible for many local people by remaining at its current location.

Reference was made to the fact that litter bins could be used as receptacles for dog fouling.

AGREED that the information be noted.

4. STRONGER COMMUNITIES

A report detailing the initial informal meeting of the Stronger Communities Group held on 15th February 2010, including its proposed work plan for 2010/11 was submitted. The Group was requested to consider and approve the work plan.

The Chair made reference to the proposed work programme, highlighting the first area of work be based around 'older people'.

AGREED

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the work plan be accepted.
3. that the Group receive regular update reports from the Stronger Communities Group.

5. CHARNWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING

A report detailing issues impacting on community engagement/involvement was submitted.

I. Rickard made reference to the report and status surveys referred to in the report and the largest concerns of tenants being parking and litter.

A Tenant Participation officer post had been deleted and been made into an equality and diversity specialist post. In the future it was expected that the post would also include customer care. The team was expected to grow, looking to meet the needs of the community, with a restructure being submitted to the CNH Board at the end of March 2010.

In response to issues raised and questions, I. Rickard, T. McCabe and D. Southall stated:

- (a) There were 6,000 tenants and leaseholders in Charnwood. All received the surveys and officers expected to receive a 25% return.
- (b) Concerns in respect of parking were received from areas where officers perceived there not to be a problem.
- (c) Many of the streets were not meant to take the number of cars and often grass verges were used to park cars.
- (d) Parking was not a Police issue, unless there was a dangerous obstruction.
- (e) CNH had a similar initiative to the Police in respect of proposed target reductions for hate crime. There were concerns that the targets would be difficult to achieve as people were being encouraged to report such incidents. N. Lambert stated that the reduction in figures did not match with the County Group he chaired, where targets in the Strategic Assessment 2009 was to increase reporting over two years by 10%.
- (f) Loughborough Women's Aid could no longer cope with the number of referrals it was receiving; its caseload was 50% above where it should be. T. Kiernan would be meeting with officers to address the short and long term effects, to be able to support those responding to the advertising campaign in respect of violence against women.

AGREED

1. that the information be noted;
2. that R. Downing speak to Anita Chavda in respect of the conflict of targets in respect of reducing and reporting hate crimes;
3. that the report and analysis for the status survey referred to in the report be circulated to members of the Group.

6. LOUGHBOROUGH LPU

A report detailing hotspot areas arising from meetings of the JAG was submitted.

T. McCabe stated that the Hastings Ward project was moving from strength to strength and the Ward now had a confidence rating of 75%. The latest crime figures

showed a reduction in crime, burglary and ASB, showing that integrated neighbourhood management was a success. Further work in respect of confidence was being undertaken in Shepshed East, as a result of CRAVE figures published for that area.

Partnership working had proved to be a success during the year and there were challenging targets for the next year.

AGREED that the information be noted.

7. CHARNWOOD LPU

A report detailing hotspot areas arising from meetings of the JAG was submitted.

D. Southall made reference to the submitted report, with the following summary:

- Crime was down;
- ASB was down;
- Hotspots were slightly up, which he considered was a knock on effect following the Pilkington case.

In response to issues raised and questions, D. Southall stated:

- (a) At the recent Quorn, Barrow, Sileby and The Wolds Area Forum, reference was made to an increase in crime figures, those actual figures were very small and it was not perceived to be a problem in that area. The highest area of dissatisfaction was in the Forest Gate area, where there was no ASB and little crime, but expectations were high. The real areas of concern were Birstall, Thurmaston and Mountsorrel.
- (b) There were seasonal changes to figures in respect of ASB. The Police had a calendar to plot across school holidays and planned for hotspots. However, during the previous half term there had been fewer problems with ASB. Historically officers were aware that there were increased issues in respect of ASB and burglary during the summer months.

AGREED that the information be noted.

8. PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

A report detailing programme preparation and delivery of the Prevent Violent Extremism agenda was submitted.

H. Miah made reference to the submitted report and highlighted the following issues:

- Future training sessions in respect of Islam Awareness would be held during the year at St Phillips Centre. There would be no charge for those sessions and members were recommended to attend.

- He had attended Train the Trainer sessions and once he had received his tool kit he would commence delivery of training.
- A Steering Group and Reference Group would be formed. Reports from those bodies would be submitted to future meetings of the Group.
- There would be a budget of £100,000 for a year. Therefore, there would be no long term project plans, rather there would be support for two commissioned projects, HREC's South Asian's Woman's project and an Independent Youth Action project to support new arrivals. Regular updates of both projects would be submitted to future meetings of the Group.

In response to a question, H. Miah stated that research showed there were no profiles or stereotypes for terrorists. Potentially everyone was vulnerable.

AGREED that the information be noted.

9. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

A report detailing issues relating to Leicestershire County Council was submitted.

R. Downing made reference to the recent meeting of the Charnwood Together Executive, stating that the Executive had received a report in respect of proposed spending of Area Forum funding. Some proposals had been approved and others required further work. Three Forums still had to meet to consider its proposals, that information would be submitted to the next meeting of the Executive for its consideration.

The Chair requested that at the end of the participatory budgeting process, a report in respect of feedback and outcomes be produced. That would show how local residents had been empowered and provide an opportunity for officers to work with those groups whose applications had been unsuccessful, to support them in applying for funding from other areas, to consider how the process could be improved and ensure no overlaps.

AGREED that the information be noted.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

(i) Community Profiles

The Chair made reference to Leicestershire County Council's Community Strategy Refresh and noted that it would provide an opportunity for Charnwood to influence its future content.

In response to a question, the Chair stated that there were specific targets in respect of the timescale for the refresh.

I. Rickard stated the CNH was in the process of building up profiles and local pictures for its estates. At the present time that information did not link into Leicestershire County Council data, but it would be possible for that to happen.

AGREED that R. Downing follow up with the Research Manager the possibility of Leicestershire County Council using CNH data as part of the refresh for the Community Strategy.

(ii) Warwick Way CCTV

A. Russell stated that in conjunction with CNH, officers were submitting an application for CCTV in the Warwick Way area. Helen Dawson had undertaken some analytical work.

AGREED that the information be noted.

(iii) Joint Meeting between the Community Safety Partnership and the University

In response to a question, V. Graham stated that following the last meeting of the Group, a workshop had been held in respect of burglaries affecting student accommodation, hosted by the Home Office. Further discussions had taken place and working groups established.

AGREED that the information be noted.

(iv) Cherie Tinenti

I. Rickard reported that Mrs Tinenti had been nominated as one of six people nationally for the National Housing Heroes Award.

While acknowledging that the nomination was very prestigious, A. Russell stated that there were tensions within the local community that Mrs Tinenti was receiving all the acknowledgements for the improvements to the area, when in fact many residents had been involved. Those residents did not understand the strategic impact of the awards. Therefore, officers should be mindful of how the successes of Mrs Tinenti were perceived locally and how that success was communicated.

AGREED that the information be noted.

II. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates for future meetings had been arranged as follows:

20th May 2010

Dates for the 2010/11 Council Year had been agreed as follows:

20th May 2010

15th July 2010
16th September 2010
18th November 2010
20th January 2011
17th March 2011
19th May 2011

AGREED that the dates for future meetings of the Group be noted.