



charnwoodtogether
making life better

**PEOPLE AND PLACES DELIVERY GROUP
21ST JANUARY 2010**

PRESENT: Councillor M. Preston (Chair) (Charnwood Borough Council)
R. Downing (Leicestershire County Council)
V. Graham (Charnwood Borough Council)
T. Kiernan (Charnwood Borough Council)
Inspector T. McCabe (Leicestershire Constabulary)
H. Miah (Charnwood Borough Council)
N. Lambert (Voluntary Action Charnwood)
A. Russell (Charnwood Borough Council)
Inspector D. Southall (Leicestershire Constabulary)

APOLOGY: M. Madhani

Prior to the start of the meeting, members of the Group inspected the Warwick Way Estate to view the changes that had taken place in that area during the previous year.

I. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the People and Places Group held on 19th November 2009 were agreed.

2. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Minute 6 – Loughborough LPU

T. Kiernan stated that it had not been necessary to write to Mr Sparson, as the Rushcliffe Care Home had been demolished. In respect of general complaints with liaising with Social Services, the matter had been raised as part of the ASB review.

AGREED that the information be noted.

(ii) Minute 9 – Leicestershire County Council

T. Kiernan stated that in respect of the outcomes of the last round of Area Forum meetings, the process had not been completed and Richard Downing would report back to the next meeting.

R. Downing stated that two task groups had been established, one for the rural Area Forums and one for Loughborough Area Forums. Each group had met twice to consider grant proposals and would be meeting again in the near future.

AGREED that the information be noted.

(iii) Minute 11 – Community Houses

Two applications had been made for University Grants to support the Community Houses. Contact had also been made with the Students' Union in respect of involving Student Action with practical support.

AGREED that the information be noted.

3. 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 stated that a new round of Ward Walks and Action Weeks had commenced. Those that had taken place at the beginning of 2010 had been affected by the adverse weather conditions, however, postcards and other contacts had been received by officers following those events.

The number of Ward and Parish Councillors who had attended the Ward Walks had been disappointing. The Chair requested written details of Councillor attendance and would speak to his Group and the Leaders of the other political parties.

The Chair proposed that the Ward Walks and Action Weeks be promoted through the relevant Area Forums to raise the profile of the events.

V. Graham made reference to future Action Weeks and reported that a portable sports facility for the events would be an attraction. Leisure Services had shown an interest in one, but did not have the capital in the current financial year. The Chair suggested that funding for such a facility could be applied for through the Charnwood Partnership for Children and Families and requested that he be made officially aware of the proposal.

AGREED

I. that the information be noted;

2. that information in respect of the number of Parish and Ward Councillors who attended Ward Walks and Action Weeks during the current cycle be submitted to the Group;
3. that officers formally advise the Chair of proposals to use a portable sports facilities at future Ward Walks and Action Weeks.

4. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT (LOUGHBOROUGH)

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

A. Russell made reference to the walk around the Warwick Way Estate prior to the meeting, which had illustrated the visible changes made to the area and looked to build on further work with Voluntary Action Charnwood.

Reference was made to the Planning application that had been submitted to make 72 Warwick Way a Community house. Two objections had been submitted, one from the Highways Department, which had been addressed and one from a resident whose home backed on to the property. A. Russell intended to arrange to meet those residents to discuss the matter further.

H. Miah made reference to the Ward Walk which had taken place in the Peel Drive area on 20th January 2010. The area looked and felt better, with residents more relaxed.

Much of the change had been due to the impact of the Community flat (MTC), more agencies were showing an interest, however, the successes achieved had to be managed. Following the success of MTC the Loughborough East Management Association had become a much stronger local partner. The MTC is currently in the process of becoming a charitable company limited by guarantee and take on management of the centre.

Inspector McCabe made reference to a joint funding application between the Police and the Council to the Home Office. T. Kiernan stated that within the application reference should be made to the fact that although Loughborough was a relatively wealthy Market Town, there were pockets of deprivation and Council Officers were close to establishing a Neighbourhood Forum in the Hastings Ward which would also serve as a Police and Community Together Group.

The Chair stated that there was a great deal happening in the area and officers should ensure that it was publicised. The review of the Communications and Consultations team would be completed shortly, after which time further consideration could be given to publicising successes and achievements. T.Kiernan and Inspector McCabe confirmed that they were meeting to discuss a joint communications strategy.

Reference was made to the Crave survey and information in respect of Fear of Crime figures. Work was still required to ensure that people's fear of crime was not greater than the reality of crime.

AGREED that the information be noted.

5. STRONGER COMMUNITIES

There was nothing to report in respect of Stronger Communities.

6. CHARNWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING

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

There was no one in attendance from CNH to assist with the consideration of the report.

AGREED that the report be noted.

7. LOUGHBOROUGH LPU

A report covering hotspot areas from meetings of the JAG was submitted. Inspector McCabe stated that the reduction in crime and ASB in the area continued to fall. There had been a number of burglaries prior to Christmas 2009 from student accommodation, some of which were unsecured properties. That caused frustration to officers as time had been spent through Operation Umbel advising students of home security. At a recent partnership meeting, there appeared to be a gap in the definition of partnership working between the different partners. A further six burglaries had taken place the evening before the meeting.

Consideration would need to be given to the impact the Olympics 2012 would have on the area, both in terms of during the Games and the build up to it.

In response to a question, Inspector McCabe stated that there were no other University Towns which were comparable to Loughborough, to compare crime figures and crime reduction. Student crime was threatening the success of the CDRP and to address that there was a requirement for proper partnership engagement.

In order to address the issues raised in respect of the University, it was proposed that a joint meeting of the People and Places Group and the Community Safety Partnership Board be arranged with the University.

AGREED

I. that the information be noted;

2. that consideration be given to officers arranging a joint meeting of the Group and the Community Safety Partnership with the University. T. Kiernan to discuss with Councillor Snartt (Chair of CSP);
3. that officers write to Councillor Preston, to formally raise issues in respect of student anti social behaviour, for him to discuss the matter further with the representatives of the University.

8. CHARNWOOD LPU

A report covering hotspot areas from meetings of the JAG was submitted. Inspector Southall stated that there was a raft of measures in place to address the issues in Birstall, with limited resources.

In response to questions, Inspector Southall stated:

- (a) He had fortnightly meetings with representatives of Parish Councils in the LPU. Those meetings were well received and he was able to share information and take the representatives out on ASB patrols. The meetings provided an opportunity to develop a relationship with those Parish Councillors who wished to engage.
- (b) A meeting would be held on 22nd January 2010 to firm up arrangements in respect of changes to beats in the LPU. The beats would be reduced from ten to six, but with no reduction in staff.

The Chair made reference to the use of local Parish magazines to publicise events and successes and how best to handle public relations.

AGREED

1. that the information be noted.
2. that issues relating to Public Relations be submitted to the next meeting of the Group.

9. PREVENT

A report detailing programme preparation and delivery of Prevent Violent Extremism in Charnwood was submitted.

H. Miah stated that it would be proposed at the next meeting of the Local Strategic Group meeting in February that he be seconded to the Prevent programme.

AGREED that the information be noted.

10. LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

An update report from Leicestershire County Council was tabled at the meeting (copy filed with the agenda).

R. Downing made reference to the Wheels2Work project, which supported people between the ages of 16 and 24 to assist with transport issues to get to work.

AGREED that the information be noted.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates for future meetings had been agreed as follows:

18th March 2010
20th May 2010

Proposed dates for 2010/11 were submitted as follows:

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

AGREED

1. that the dates for meetings for the current Council year be noted;
2. that the proposed dates for the Council Year 2010/11 be agreed.