

Allestree Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Wednesday 28 NOVEMBER 2007

Present:

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| Phillip Hickson | Allestree Councillor (CHAIR) |
| Mike Bickmore | Woodlands Tennis Club |
| Sarah Dosunmu | Allestree Neighbourhood Manager |
| Steve Willoughby | Allestree Councillor |
| Roy Webb | Allestree Councillor |
| Helen Watson | Minister, St John's Baptist Church |
| Sue Seward | COMEG, local resident |
| Margot Keats | School Governor Portway, local resident |
| Peter Mitchell | Local Youth Group |
| Peter Statham | Local Youth Group |
| Insp. M Bibbings | Derbyshire Police |
| Alan Brady | Headteacher, Woodlands School |
| Peter Steer | local resident |
| Rob Straw | Allestree Preservation group, local resident |
| Anne Wood | Friends of Markeaton Brook, local resident |

Items and Actions

| | Item | Notes | Actions |
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| 1 | Welcome, Introduction and Apologies | <p>Apologies – Jane Haresnape, Woodlands School (will normally attend in place of Alan Brady)</p> <p>The Board members introduced themselves to the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Hickson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance and commitment to Neighbourhood Working and the Board. He said he hoped the Board would promote issues for Allestree and be held accountable and ensure we deliver on issues that are of importance to residents.</p> | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest | <p>Cllr Hickson explained that Board members should declare an interest if there were any items on the agenda or discussions where they may have a personal/prejudicial/financial interest. This is a standard procedure adopted for council meetings.</p> | |
| 3 | Neighbourhood Board | <p>SD outlined the background to the development of Neighbourhood Boards and Forums and introduced members to the Summary Document of the Good Practice Guide.</p> | |
| 4 | Board Meetings | <p>An issue was raised as to whether Board meetings are public or in camera. It was agreed that this</p> | |

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| | <p>needed to be discussed and a position taken.</p> <p>Cllr Hickson stated that if members of the public attend Board meetings we would have to manage their expectations as the public would not be able to participate in the same way as they do at Neighbourhood Forums.</p> <p>A query was raised as to whether Neighbourhood Boards replace Area Panels. The response was No. The Neighbourhood Forums replace Area Panels. Neighbourhood Boards are a new structure and are intended to be a more streamlined, executive meeting.</p> <p>A member stated that the public could attend Council Cabinet meetings so it would be unfair if they were not allowed to attend Board meetings. In response it was noted that sometimes people feel disappointed when attending Cabinet meetings as they cannot input.</p> <p>It was said that if meetings were held in camera, those representing community groups should be able to publicise how they can make their points to the community reps on the Board.</p> <p>It was asked whether Board meeting minutes would be available to the public. The response was Yes. It was further stated that if Board meetings were public then it would be difficult to get on with business especially if members of the public wanted to ask questions.</p> <p>This was reiterated as a member stated that the public have the opportunity through the Forum to raise issues. The Neighbourhood Forums reflect the need for the public to have input. The Board is a business meeting and if held in public this will detract from business. In a small forum such as the Board, members will be able to voice views and thrash out issues.</p> <p>In response a member stated that the public can attend council meetings but cannot speak. In response another member stated that the public are not invited to attend shareholder meetings and felt that public meetings would inhibit people from saying things.</p> | |
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| | | The feeling of the meeting was that the Board does not become public but the Board can invite people to give presentations. | |
| 5 | Governance Arrangements | <p>A query was raised as to what the DCP is and what their priorities are for the city.</p> <p>In response it was outlined that DCP was Derby City Partnership, a local strategic partnership for the city. It brings together the Council, businesses, public agencies, local community and voluntary groups and residents to define a vision and priorities for the city. These priorities cover a range of issues from health to housing and the environment.</p> <p>Another member queried what structure was above the Board. In response it was stated that the Council was above the Board.</p> | |
| 6 | Membership | There was a general discussion on the membership of the Board. It was agreed that a representative from Derby University Students Union and Derby University should be invited to join the Board. A representative should also be sought from the School Council, Park Farm Management Committee and a single rep from the local churches. | <p>Action Agreed</p> <p>Neville Wells and a Student Union rep should be invited onto the Board (SD).</p> <p>To contact a youth worker to seek young peoples' reps and their involvement on the Board (SD).</p> <p>To contact groups of churches to seek a single representative (Steve Willoughby)</p> |
| 7 | Sub-Groups | It was agreed to discuss the establishment of sub-groups at a future meeting. | |
| 8 | Key Tasks of the Board | <p>SD outlined the key tasks of the Board (see Summary Document). The most pressing tasks is to define the priorities for Allestree Ward. Ideas put forward were as follows:</p> <p>Enforcement (police/trading/parking/waste management)</p> <p>Bleinham Parade</p> <p>Safe routes to schools</p> <p>Enforcement on litigation</p> <p>Markeaton and Allestree Park</p> | |

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| | | Bus Lanes | |
| 9 | Joint meetings with Darley | <p>It was noted that there were many common issues with Darley Ward so it would be prudent to hold joint meetings for issues such as Markeaton Park and Bus Lanes. The first joint meeting is proposed for December 5 2007 starting at 7pm at the University of Derby, Kedleston Road.</p> <p>Joint meetings will be purely issue-based and organised when required</p> | |
| 10 | Consultation on the 2008/9 Highways and Transport Programme | <p>The Board are required to identify three issues to put forward for consideration for possible inclusion in the '08-09 work programme. The meeting discussed Item 3 on the paper which forms part of the '07-08 work programme. The overall feeling of the meeting was that this was something that should be removed from the current work programme. Residents shared this concern at the recent Forum meeting and considered that there were issues of higher priority for the Ward and that the funding set aside for this work should be reallocated to a scheme in Allestree.</p> | <p>Action – Table a motion to Cabinet asking them to reconsider their decision.</p> <p>Raise the matter with the Cabinet member to reconsider the scheme.</p> <p>Move a Motion to Council.</p> |
| 11 | Highways and Transport Issues in Allestree | <p>There was a general discussion on Highways and Transport issues in Allestree:</p> <p>Unauthorised use of St John's church car park</p> <p>Proposed installation of a gate – church could seek funds from the Board to cover the costs</p> <p>Crossing to the rear of Park Farm as the crossing to the side is unsafe. This could be raised with the Park Farm Management Committee. Some difficulty with this as the management changes on a regular basis.</p> <p>The Board agreed the following 3 schemes in order of priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking on residential roads: Park Farm, Amber Road and Oakover Drive 2. Lawn primary School Safer Routes to Schools 3. Woodlands Road Parking around schools | <p>Action – Establish contact with Park Farm Management</p> |
| 12 | Policing Update | <p>Inspector Bibbings introduced the police report for Allestree. He stated that looking at the figures, Allestree is one of the safest places in Derby.</p> <p>The robbery that occurred was an isolated incident. There was an issue on Charterstone Drive relating to youths on Bleinham Parade going to a certain address. The police are in consultation with the CPS</p> | |

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| | | <p>on this issue. There have been problems at Bleinham Parade – youths sheltering under the eaves of the shops, hanging around Tesco Express attempting to buy alcohol. The police have been patrolling the area.</p> <p>In terms of staffing the vacant position at Allestree will be filled however the police are experiencing staff shortages across the county and Allestree is not the only area to suffer a loss of officers. For example, the City Centre unit currently has 3 vacancies.</p> <p>A member raised recent problems around properties being managed by Derwent Housing. Inspector Bibbings responded that PC Rainsford had been very diligent and done a very good job. Extra patrols have been mounted to tackle teenage drinking and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been isolated incidents involving young people in the area particularly on Friday and Saturday evenings and the Board could consider setting up a sub-group for Youth Provision as there is a severe lack of resources and facilities for young people in the area.</p> | |
| 13 | Community Safety Improvement | <p>SD asked the Board to identify any community and safety improvements in the Ward as there is a small amount of funding currently available. Schemes such as fencing and hedge-clipping would be considered. Issues raised....</p> <p>Top of Altsonfield Drive – cut back the shrubbery on the bank near the A38.</p> | |
| 14 | Neighbourhood Forum issues | <p>A summary of the issues raised at the last Neighbourhood Forum meeting was circulated to members. There was a discussion on the following issues:</p> <p>Bus Lanes – a motion was put forward to remove the bus lanes at a recent Council meeting but this was unsuccessful and the trial period for the bus lane has been extended to Summer 2008.</p> <p>Graffiti – No recent complaints although there is a small amount of graffiti on the post boxes. It was noted that we required the permission of the Post Office to remove the graffiti.</p> <p>Markeaton Park – vacant and derelict buildings on Markeaton Park (previously used for storage). Need to look at this to ensure we are making full use of the park.</p> <p>Sustainability of housing developments – Kingscroft</p> | Action – Investigate the use of handheld units to undertake speed checks |

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| | | will have an impact on the availability of school places and put pressure on parking in the area. Ford Lane – Look at the possibility of blocking off access to the A38. Alternatively install a footpath/cycle lane to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists as vehicles travel at very high speeds. | |
| 15 | Neighbourhood Profile and Plan | The draft Neighbourhood Plan was circulated to the meeting. It was agreed to circulate this at the next Forum meeting. | |
| 16 | Community Budget | Allestree has £5,589 left to allocate. The Board needs to decide priorities for funding and an application form process. It was agreed that this be discussed at the next meeting. A member asked about sources of funding for the voluntary sector. | Action – SD should provide information on funding sources to members. |
| 17 | Consultation on the Council budget | The Board were asked to agree five priorities on which they wished to receive Council budget information. The Board agreed the following five: Youth Service provision; Home Care for the elderly; Pavements and Highway Maintenance; Enforcement (including illegal parking and underage sales of alcohol); Planning and Land Grab policies/enforcement. | |
| 18 | Section 106 Funding | The Board agreed that there should be a rolling item on the agenda to keep abreast of section 106 funding in the Ward. Action – Investigate Section 106 funding at Miller Homes development at Brook Walk particularly in relation to flooding. Ascertain the amount secured for flood defence works. | |
| 19 | Any Other Business | None | |
| 20 | Date and Time of Next Meeting | Wednesday 16 January 2008. Cllr Webb suggested holding the meeting at the local Royal British Legion. | |