

## Lemington Ward Committee

28 May 2009

(6.45 - 8.30 pm)

Meeting held in the Lemington Centre, Tyne View, Lemington

### Present:

Councillor: Hunter (Chair)

Councillors: Park and Langfield

### IN ATTENDANCE

C Mason - Ward Co-ordinator  
L Couch - Democratic Services  
D Hepworth - Neighbourhood Response Manager  
R Hibbert }  
S Jefferson } - Planning and Transportation  
L Emmerson }

Approximately 11 local residents and representatives of local organisations.

#### 1 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE 2009/10 MUNICIPAL YEAR

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Hunter be appointed Chair of the Ward Committee for 2009/10 Municipal Year.

#### 2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE 2009/10 MUNICIPAL YEAR

**RESOLVED** – That Councillor Park be appointed Vice Chair for the 2009/10 Municipal Year.

#### 3 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillors and officers.

#### 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

## 5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2009 were approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment at minute 86 on the last line from 'she' to 'he'.

### **Matters Arising:-**

#### **(a) Neighbourhood Response Manager Update**

(Minute no. 78 refers).

The section of work to be completed this year had now been finished subject to a small amount of painting to be completed.

#### **(b) Eco School Signage Project**

(Minute no. 81 (b) refers).

Councillor Park gave an update on the current position, indicating that posters had been chosen and an event and presentation were to be arranged.

## 6 CRIME AND COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

PC John Campbell was introduced as the new Neighbourhood Beat Manager. He made reference to his previous experience of the issues of anti-social behaviour affecting areas in the Ward. He identified a particular issue in relation to Waverley Park and Crossway and the tackling of underage drinking, anti-social behaviour issues in that area. Generally, other crime was fairly minimal however, he was fully aware of the ongoing areas of concern which would continue to be tackled to improve the quality of life of local residents.

The following points raised by residents, were responded to as indicated:-

- Anti-social behaviour in Sugley Dene and concerns relating to the former school building (Lemington Middle) – the Chair indicated that the former school was covered by CCTV. PC Campbell confirmed that there was a need to work with Councillors and youth workers on long term solutions to the youth disorder issues and highlighted that not all young people should be implicated in wrong doing.
- Provision of a skate park on waste land? The Chair indicated that portable ramps were available and efforts were being made to put these to use.
- Mini motos – the need to educate young people in the dangers of the use of such bikes was highlighted and the need for positive and constructive solutions was recognised.

- In response to a comment as to whether young people had been asked for their views, Councillor Langfield responded, giving an example of her recent discussions with young people. She had spoken to the youth team and was meeting with officers of the Play and Youth Service to discuss provision in the local area further. She would aim to keep local residents informed and also made reference to the work done by Councillor Park.
- Councillor Park made reference to new funding available for improvements to the Valley View Park and to work done with the detached youth team. The need to build relationships with young people was stressed and it was recognised that this would be a slow gradual process. PC Campbell also made reference to work with community support officers and young people around football training.

The Chair thanked PC Campbell for his attendance.

## 7 WEST ROAD TRANSIT CORRIDOR - CONSULTATION

R Hibbert, Head of Transport Planning, introduced the item making reference to the plans displayed during the earlier part of the meeting. He highlighted aspects of the scheme which related to the West Road corridor from the A69 Western Bypass junction to the City Centre (Big Lamp). The aim of the proposed changes was to provide a reliable, quick, high quality bus service which improved bus travel times to the City Centre. No proposals for road widening were included in the scheme, but improvements to the existing road to make better use of the available space, including traffic light improvements with bus approach priority equipment, improvements for parking in the area of between Westgate College and Newcastle General Hospital, improving crossing places for pedestrians and making improvements to the shopping centre generally. Provision of loading bays would also be included and meetings were to be held with traders to discuss their needs. Any observations would be welcomed. Discussion were ongoing with Stagecoach and improvements to the journey times on this route could free up buses for other key routes. He made reference to comment sheets available and any comments or details supplied would be reported to Executive at its September 2009 meeting when a decision would be made on the submission of a bid.

Residents comments and concerns were expressed and responded to as follows:-

- A resident suggested that Stanhope Street was in greater need than the West Road for improvements and that there were better alternatives available to spend the money – the funds were only available for this type of scheme, although it was acknowledged that there may be other priorities, the external funding was not available for those improvements.
- R Hibbert confirmed that members of his team did use the public transport on the routes concerned to ensure that they had the experience to appreciate the issues.
- A resident commented in relation to the removal of the train tracks to Lemington making the extension of the Metro line unavailable and suggested

traffic should be directed to Scotswood Road. R Hibbert commented that signing to the City Centre would be reviewed to make greater use of Scotswood Road, although the traffic generated following the regeneration of the Benwell and Scotswood area would mostly impact on that route.

- In response to a comment from a member regarding the availability of cycle routes, R Hibbert explained proposals for the A69/A1 junction and the introduction of traffic lights to improve the A69 access to the West Road and A1. The earlier proposals which had included a park and ride scheme were not to be progressed and no park and ride scheme was proposed.

The Chair was happy to see the inclusion of pedestrian phasing in the traffic lights for the A69/A1 junction to ensure that safer crossing places were available for mobility scooter users.

- R Hibbert responded to further points raised in relation to park and ride schemes; no bus priority measures were proposed for the A69 and he confirmed the south north route was the A1/Denton Road.

Councillor Langfield reiterated that very early proposals had included a park and ride scheme which had been objected to early in the process and following further consideration such a scheme had not been included in the current proposals.

The Chair expressed thanks to R Hibbert and his team for their attendance and report and responses.

## 8 CITYLIFE CONSULTATION AND VIEWS

The Ward Co-ordinator took details of responses to the feedback questions circulated with the agenda. These would be reported back to officers. Any detailed further comments could be made using the questionnaire included in the current issue of Citylife.

## 9 NEW EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Submitted: Report of the Director of Neighbourhood Services enclosing a report produced for Constitutional Committee on 3 March 2009 (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes).

Councillor Langfield gave a brief explanation of the revised proposals explaining the current position and the new options available. A further summary was included on page 27 of the current edition of Citylife and any responses were required by the following day.

Comments from residents included the suggestion that the opportunity should have been given for residents to vote for a referendum on whether or not an elected Major should be the preferred choice. A further comment suggested that the current

democratic processes allowed for dissent from the opposition and the current system gave greater protection and was more democratic than the alternative.

## 10 NEIGHBOURHOOD RESPONSE MANAGER - ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

The Neighbourhood Response Manager (NRM) gave a brief introduction to his role within the Ward and expressed thanks to all those involved in the planting event which had taken place that Tuesday. He made reference to work undertaken in Sugley Dene and to weed spraying which would take place in the near future. He asked for any reports regarding weed issues to be reported to him for action. Further issues raised by residents and responded to by the NRM included the following:-

- Availability of brown recycling bins - the process of introducing the bins was continuing. He could provide contact details to establish when individuals might receive them, although there were issues in providing the facility in all areas.
- Neptune Road – trees – pruning – he would arrange for the trees to be inspected.
- Blocked drains – he indicated that all drains were now well maintained.
- West Denton Road overhanging trees – arrangements would be made for these to be inspected.
- Pedestrian drain, Lesbury Street – arrangements would be made for this to be inspected.
- A resident expressed thanks to D Hepworth and his team for all the hard work undertaken in relation to the planting event which had taken place that week.

## 11 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Submitted: Report of the Director of Environment and Regeneration (previously circulated and copy attached to Official Minutes) stating that details of the 2008/09 year end summary were also included with the report.

The Ward Co-ordinator introduced the report making reference to the funds available for the current financial year of £31,120. Details of any carryover from the 2008/09 financial year would be included on the next statement. It was proposed that an initial allocation of £10,000 be made to grant aid and £3,500 be retained in the ward support allocation for administration and facilitation.

He responded to comments relating to a number of issues and made reference to the availability of detached youth workers in the Ward.

Councillor Langfield explained the current position in relation to the Lemington Centenary Festival in that leaflets and posters would be available the following

week. She also made reference to support of partner groups and organisations involved in the event.

In relation to funding provided for the street games programme, reference KN0996 of £500, it was indicated that the programme had been cancelled and further information would be sought on the current position.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given to an allocation of £10,000 to be made to the grant aid budget and £3,500 to be allocated to ward support administration and facilitation.

## 12 **GRANT AID APPLICATIONS**

The following applications were considered and decisions made as indicated (copies attached to Official Minutes):-

### (a) **Lemington Community Association - £800**

A representative of the centre was in attendance and gave brief details of the background to the application. This was an annual event however, transport costs were becoming excessive and it may not be possible to fund the outing in future years. It was noted that the application met the current criteria and those present were supportive of the application.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given to a contribution of £800 towards the project involving an outing to Flamingo Land.

### (b) **Newburn Recreational Centre Association (Newburn/Outer West Festival) - £750**

A representative of the group was in attendance. The application was introduced by the Ward Co-ordinator.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given for a contribution of £750 towards the community marquees at the Outer West Festival.

## 13 **WARD SUPPORT FUND APPLICATION**

The following report was considered and a decision made as indicated (copy attached to Official Minutes):-

### (a) **Play Service - Summer Provision - £2000**

The Ward Co-ordinator gave a brief introduction to the report which set out the 2009 Keep on Bouncing project of summer activities for the Lemington, Newburn, Denton and Westerhope Wards.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given to a contribution of £2,000 towards the project.

14 **MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN (NOT RAISED AT THE EARLIER CAROUSEL MEETING).**

No further issues were raised.

15 **INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The following items were received for information:-

- (a) **Play and Youth Engagement Update Report**
- (b) **Civic Centre Customer Service Centre**
- (c) **Elders Council - Parks and Recreational Areas**

16 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Ward Committee would be held on Thursday 23 July 2009 at 6.45 pm at the Lemington Centre. The informal carousel meeting would begin at 6.00 pm.

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