

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 30th August 2018

in Lincoln City Hall, Committee Room 1, from 5.30 pm

Apologies

Pete Davies and Julie Wearing had sent their apologies. Kay Rowntree was attending in Pete's place.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on Tuesday 26th June were accepted.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Neil Murray reported that the Hampton Street garage issue had been fixed. However, Sandra reported that the post was inadequate and had broken

Action: Neil Murray

Neil noted that the Head of Planning had told councillors that an application for the filtration system required for the new Winning Post garage carwash had been submitted. AWA and the Environment Agency had said the plan was adequate. It was not felt that the car wash would add to the flooding on Carholme Road.

With winter approaching, there was still no sign that the problem with flooding on Carholme Road would soon be fixed. Rob Parker said that he would ask Dave Underwood from Lincolnshire County Council plus an officer from Anglian Water to attend the Forum again.

Action: Rob Parker

There were discussions around the damaged sign at the bottom of York Avenue. It was noted that the 'give way' sign at the bottom of York Avenue and Hampton Street had not been replaced though it had been reported.

Action: Neil Murray/Robert Parker

George Woolfenden reported that there had not been any recent problems with 86 Hewson Road: everything had gone quiet. Neil noted that the property was not a student let.

There was further discussion of the Long Leys bus service. The Forum was reminded that since the service had been re-contracted, some parts of the area were not now covered, namely Burton Road. This was mainly affecting just five or six residents. Part of the problem is that the number of potential customers for an extended bus service is still too small. Dial-a-ride exists for older people with mobility issues. Jon Davies noted that it costs just 45p each way to Burton Road but that people with free bus passes don't want to pay that money. Jon said he would keep the Forum informed of the situation.

In the previous meeting, the Forum had discussed the problem of weeds around the West End. The Forum was reminded by Rob Parker that there were two sprays every year: May/June time and then a break followed by a spray at the end of July/beginning of August. It was felt that the West End had not seen much spraying this year; however, it was noted that one contactor had been seen not paying attention and spraying a street properly so it was suggested that this was part of the problem. Rob Parker said he would contact the relevant department about it.

Action: Rob Parker

The issue of the parking around the hospital was mentioned again; it was agreed that the discussion was to be carried forward to the next meeting.

Action: Jon Davies

End of term rubbish disposal

Lucinda Preston reported that there had been an issue with students leaving rubbish outside their houses at the end of the academic year. This was a problem both environmentally and aesthetically. Lucinda had organised a meeting with the cleansing department at the City Council; she and Laura McWilliams had attended and it had been positive. Following that, Emma Carter, a city council officer and Lucinda and Laura had met with Jacqueline Mayer and the President of the Students Union regarding the issue.

A strategy had been agreed as follows: soft messaging via Freshers week, the 'Living leaflet' and stickers provided by the Council; 'training' of students in university accommodation before they moved out into private accommodation; harder messaging nearer to the end of the academic year; the council and university writing to landlords of properties where there was a problem this year; the university writing to accredited landlords. Lucinda commented that ultimately it was the responsibility of landlords for their properties to be tidy.

Lucinda has written to the university requesting £1800 for an additional bin collection near to the end of the academic year. The university understandably is concerned that should they agree, that it is an effective use of money; the university obviously wants to consider the timing of any such collection. It was agreed that Lucinda, Laura, Francesca Bell, Sandra Lewis and Jacqueline Mayer would meet to discuss the practical details of such a collection.

Action: Jacqueline Mayer/Lucinda Preston

David Mitchell raised the issue of obstructions on pavements (such as bins and advertising boards being left out). Sandra noted that the street wardens do check for this. Rob Parker commented that enforcement with regard to boards was not regarded as a priority unless there was an accident. The law is clear about obstruction but unfortunately there was no appetite for enforcement.

Jon Davies said that some of the replacement bus signs in the Long Leys area had been moved back, thus reducing the clutter on the pavements. Francesca said if her team was informed then they would deal with obstructions.

West End noise

Jacqueline discussed the preparations being put in place this year for Freshers Week. There would be the usual education blogs and publicity around 'myth busting'. She reminded the Forum that the university was working closely with Francesca's council team. She said that the university would respond as soon as they received a complaint from Francesca's team. She also informed the Forum that there had been a change in the university's regulations, namely a change in the disciplinary procedure for students. There was a reference to noise: if it got to the stage in which a complaint is referred up to the Head of School then Jacqueline's team would now be involved in order for there to be consistent outcomes across departments/schools in the university.

Francesca informed the Forum that as in previous years there would be patrols during Freshers Week. However this time there would be more foot patrols. These patrols would focus on the hours of 10-midnight and 2-4 in the morning. The dates chosen were 18th, 19th, 21st, 22nd, 26th and 28th September. The team would also be standing next to the Fever/Boutique stand outside House of Fraser in order to chat to students.

Jacqueline reminded everyone of the importance of residents reporting ASB to the university.

Kay Rowntree said that the police numbers during Freshers Week would be identical to the previous year.

David asked about special police. Kay replied that there wouldn't be many involved as there weren't many specials in the area because many of the previous volunteers had since started training to be full police officers.

Policing

Kay updated the Forum about staffing changes. She reminded everyone that Mark Wrigley was now in Carholme and that Pete Davies was part-time. Kay commented on how supportive Pete had been towards her.

The issue of fast cycling was discussed. Rob noted that at the highest level of the police force there was no real interest in enforcement. Kay noted how hard it was to apprehend offenders given the speed in which they ride. She commented that the signage for bicycles on Foss Bank/Henry Street was difficult to understand. Rob reminded her that cycling was a cited policing priority for Carholme.

There was some discussion around rough sleepers and also around drug taking. Kay reported that the man rough sleeping on St. Faith's Street had now gone. Laura mentioned that she'd seen someone taking drugs near the entrance to the West Common and noted the concern that caused her given that she walks along there with her young daughter. Lucinda noted similar issues she and friends had witnessed in the Brayford area, again, where children were passing. Francesca reminded the Forum that there is now a tactical response team for the city centre although it was agreed by everyone that this was pushing problems out to other areas of the city.

Jon asked for advice for people if they saw someone who appeared to be under the effects of drugs but they weren't dealing or actually taking them at that point. Kay suggested that the best action would be to ring for an ambulance but that this was just her personal view/advice. Rob Parker suggested that she liaise with a senior officer for 'official' advice regarding this issue.

Action: Kay Rowntree

Kay reported crime figures for the period since the last Forum meeting. There had been two burglaries, six incidences of criminal damage and three thefts including cycle theft. The cricket pavilion had been damaged. Kay had recently seen some people hanging around it again and had spoken to them.

Brayford environment

Lucinda reported to the Forum that local residents had raised concerns about an application by the university to chop down three trees as part of the ongoing development of the campus. There are general concerns regarding the preservation of the Brayford environment, concerns shared by the Carholme councillors.

The City Council planning department had e-mailed concerned residents as well as the councillors regarding the latest application, giving reasons why the trees were not subject to a tree preservation order. Neil had arranged a meeting with Kieran Manning, the Head of Planning, and this was also attended by Lucinda and Laura.

The trees in question don't meet the 'matrix' used by the Council to ascertain whether trees should be subject to a tree preservation order and there are therefore few, if any, grounds to challenge the university's removal of them. The trees are not growing particularly well. Kieran had suggested that the university might want to do some PR around this type of work given residents' interest in the ecology of the Brayford but evidently no one at the university had taken up this suggestion.

During the meeting with Kieran Lucinda raised the point that not all applications regarding tree surgery were added to the 'White List' (the list of planning applications which is regularly circulated to councillors) and asked that in future such applications were circulated.

Lucinda suggested to the Forum that it would be worthwhile arranging a meeting with the university, along with other councillors, in order to express concerns to the university and to seek a way forward. It would be preferable if the university was more mindful of the ecology of the Brayford Pool area and residents' views. Jacqueline said that she would take concerns back to the university and ask that someone from Estates got in touch directly.

Actions: Lucinda Preston and Jacqueline Mayer

Community issues

George reported back from the recent inspection of the West Common by members of the Commons Advisory Panel. Members were supportive of work on the entrances to the Common as many people felt intimidated by the presence of horses near the entrances and there was also a danger of accidents/injury. Lucinda agreed to draft a letter to the City Council around work on the entrances to the West Commons.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Carholme Gala

Neil reported that there was to be a meeting of the Carholme Gala on Monday 3rd September. Sandra informed the Forum that she had written to the Lottery fund explaining that they had erroneously paid lottery funds to WERA for the gala but that WERA didn't need the money this year. Sandra had requested that the Lottery fund either arranged for the money to be returned or that WERA keep the money for the gala the next year. So far she hadn't heard anything back.

Highways

The issue of vehicles parking on the pavements was raised. Laura noted that she had seen traffic wardens in the West End. Rob Parker commented that traffic wardens wouldn't enforce.

The issue would be raised at the forthcoming Residents meeting. David said he thought that parking restrictions could be enforced if vehicles parked near double yellow lines.

Any Other Business

Jon noted that Jackie Ward was looking at the location of SID machines in the WERA area. The machines only fire at 30 mph and the locations being looked at had speed limits of 20 mph. However, the consensus was that this probably wouldn't be a problem as residents were most concerned about the higher speeds anyway.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 16th October 2018

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 30th August 2018

Present:

Sandra Lewis	WERA
George Woolfenden	WERA/Open Spaces
Jon Davies	LLRA
Gary Stimson	LLRA
Kay Rowntree	Lincolnshire Police
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
David Mitchell	WERA/Small Business Action Group
Rob Parker	County Councillor
Laura McWilliams	City Councillor
Neil Murray	City Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary

