

**Minutes of Long Leys Residents' Association (LLRA)  
Community Meeting  
7:30pm Tuesday 21 May 2019, Discovery Café, St George's**

**Purpose:** Opportunity for residents to feedback and raise issues regarding the Community

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**Present:** 34 residents (including 6 committee members) and 9 guests

**Apologies:** Emma Olivier-Townrow, Chris Taylor (committee member)

**Chair:** Gary Stimson

### 1. St George's Hospital Update

	<b>Action</b>
<p>Chris Higgins (Operations Director) gave an overview of existing challenges. With the closure of the Benbow Way access, the hospital was working on improving the internal signage as it was not totally clear how people circulated around the site. The planned major re-building of the hospital site did not get financial approval, so over the next 6 months alternative plans will be developed.</p> <p>Staff discarding cigarette butts at the entrances to the site was raised by a resident. Chris explained some of the challenges of managing staff who smoked on a non-smoking site.</p>	

### 2. Cloverleaf Care Home Update

<p>Julia Buck (Cloverleaf deputy manager) explained the current status of the home which is building up staff and residents with an ultimate capacity of 72 residents. Julia encouraged Long Leys residents to visit the home to see the facilities.</p>	
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### 3. Lincolnshire County Council Update

<p>Councillor Robert Parker ran through aspects of the county's transport activities from walking and cycling to buses and cars. For pedestrians, striking the balance between effective streetlighting and reducing carbon emissions was mentioned. It costs £300 per year for each streetlight to be on throughout the night. Councillor Parker has taken a keen interest in the Whitton Park footpath adoption being progressed by Tony Wass, which has now reached position 3 on the priorities for assessment by the Rights of Way team at the county council.</p> <p>On buses, the existing St George's service is under contract until June 2021 but could be vulnerable beyond that, as it currently requires a £30,000 subsidy per year to operate. Councillor Parker encouraged more Long Leys residents to consider using the bus rather than taking their cars into the city, which would also help reduce vehicle emissions. A resident pointed out that buses were too expensive and for two adult</p>	
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<p>passengers (£2.50 each on bus) it would be cheaper to drive and park in the city or take a taxi. The meeting broadly agreed it was a “chicken and egg” issue – if prices were lower (i.e. halved) then more people may use the bus but the overall income would be lower unless passenger numbers were doubled. It was further highlighted that Long Leys had no facilities (shop/GP surgery etc) and so was more reliant on public transport than other areas of the city. Councillor Parker asked the community if they could supply, possibly via a petition, evidence to him of potential demand with Transport Services. LLRA will discuss the request at the next LLRA Management Committee meeting.</p> <p>A resident queried why a double decker bus was used for the route. Surely a smaller bus would produce fewer pollutant emissions? It was explained that this was an operational choice of Stagecoach.</p>	<b>LLRA</b>
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#### 4. Neighbourhood Plan and Initial Survey Feedback

<p>An overview of the Neighbourhood Plan summary document was given (See Appendix A). Grant approval, to allow the plan to start, is anticipated by early July 2019.</p> <p>A route for horses from the riding school onto West Common without touching Long Leys Road was suggested by a resident.</p> <p>LLRA confirmed they would be challenging Veolia’s Vehicle Operating Licence renewal in February 2020, with the support of residents affected by early morning vehicle noise.</p>	
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#### 5. West Common / Commons Advisory Panel (CAP)

<p>Key developments on the Common over the last 12 months were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income from matchday parking on South Common is generating over £26,000 / year for use on improving the Commons.</li> <li>• This has funded maintenance of fencing and new gates including on the Mitchell Drive entrance.</li> <li>• A 12-metre-long fence extension by the West Parade entrance is designed to separate pedestrians from horses waiting by the feeding station on Roseberry Avenue. A resident confirmed that it appeared to be having a beneficial effect.</li> <li>• Further feeding stations are planned for Carholme Road (near the Grandstand) and Long Leys Road.</li> <li>• Reinstallation of benches on the path is on the maintenance plan for the end of 2019. New signage will appear in coming months.</li> <li>• The next CAP meeting is 1 July.</li> </ul> <p>Caroline Steel has offered to lead a West Common Nature Walk (Sat 1 June) <a href="http://long-leys.org/west-common-nature-walk-10-30am-saturday-1-june/">http://long-leys.org/west-common-nature-walk-10-30am-saturday-1-june/</a></p> <p>Councillor Preston advised she was trying to get the minutes for CAP made more accessible. These can be found at <a href="https://democratic.lincoln.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&amp;Year=0">https://democratic.lincoln.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=141&amp;Year=0</a></p>	
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## 6. Adoption of Footpath to Whitton Park

<p>Tony Wass confirmed the application was now number 3 in the queue for review. The Chair suggested this movement up the list from its previous position of 28 may have been influenced by our county councillor (although not by doing anything that was illegal). The next step was for the Rights of Way team to write to the two landowners to gain their agreement (City of Lincoln Council and Lincolnshire Trust for Nature Conservation Limited (part of Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust)).</p> <p>Tony thanked residents for keeping the path clear and usable throughout the winter.</p>	
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## 7. St George's Bus Service

<p>A meeting had been held between LLRA, Councillor Parker, WERA &amp; Transport Services in August 2018 but there was little prospect of any changes to the service. Many Lincolnshire villages had no regular bus service at all and used the CallConnect service at all times. For vulnerable users, the voluntary Lincoln DialaRide service was a good alternative to a taxi but was not free for bus pass users which put many people off (<a href="https://lincolndialaride.co.uk/">https://lincolndialaride.co.uk/</a>).</p> <p>Bus services are deregulated in the UK, meaning that anyone can run bus services in Long Leys if they consider it would be economic to do so. If any resident wanted to work with other bus operators to persuade them to run a competing service LLRA would welcome this. The reality appears to be that operators will currently only serve the area if supported by significant subsidy which equates to £20 per year per Long Leys resident, some five times the average subsidy paid for buses for other Lincolnshire residents. It was pointed out that the rest of Carholme also benefitted from the St George's service, although generally the West End is much closer to town and has shops / pubs and a GP surgery and has frequent bus services down Carholme Road so is less reliant on the 20 Service.</p> <p>Without a big switch in government policy towards bus services nationally, the position was not likely to change. A resident commented that bus operators should be charged more for use of the new bus station at the transport hub, as it was mainly benefitting those from outside the city rather than Lincoln council taxpayers. However, the Chair felt that this was starting to stray outside of the remit of the Resident Association and was more appropriate to consider as part of the wider Lincoln Transport Strategy.</p>	
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## 8. Carholme Community Forum (CCF)

<p>The activities of the forum were highlighted. CCF reviews policing priorities and addresses other concerns within Carholme ward.</p> <p>Recently these have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support for the individual who was rough sleeping on the West Common in the copse by Long Leys Road. He is now “in the system” and being assisted.</li><li>• There was a CCF input into the Lincoln Transport Strategy.</li><li>• Escalating the water leak at Curtis’ / Travis Perkins for attention</li><li>• Addressing the spate of graffiti / tagging (a city-wide issue)</li><li>• Speeding enforcement is one of the CCF’s policing priorities (that’s why the van’s on Long Leys Road).</li></ul> <p>Minutes for all CCF meetings can be seen at <a href="http://long-leys.org/carholme-community-forum/">http://long-leys.org/carholme-community-forum/</a></p>	
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## 9. Carols on the Green 21 December 2019

<p>This will be held next to the Lychgate opposite 210 Long Leys Road at 5pm on Saturday 21 December 2019. (the time may be put back 30 minutes if there is popular demand and Lincoln City are also playing at home).</p>	
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## 10. Open Forum

<p>Thanks were given to the resident who cleared away discarded electrical cables on the Long Leys Road / Albion Crescent footpath over Easter.</p> <p>Councillor Lucinda Preston advised the Autumn Litter Pick was planned for Sat 2 Nov, 10am-12 noon.</p> <p>A resident raised the issue of aggressive cyclists on the Long Leys Road pavements. Cycling on pavements for young and considerate cyclists was not felt to be a big issue but those traveling at high speed and cycling aggressively caused concerns. Likewise, cyclists on the roads did not always get given the room they needed when cars were overtaking. LLRA will consider the challenges of reconciling pedestrians / cyclists and cars as part of the Neighbourhood Plan considerations.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was given to the staff at the Discovery Café and at St George’s hospital for supporting the 2019 LLRA AGM</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8:45pm</p>	LLRA
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## 1. Why We Want A Long Leys Neighbourhood Plan for 2020-2040

A Neighbourhood Plan allows us to INFLUENCE developments that may occur in Long Leys. It is primarily concerned with land use; developers will need to ensure that any new developments are compatible with the Neighbourhood Plan. However, it cannot be used to stop all developments in an area and is NO GUARANTEE something will be built just because it is on the plan.

With its close proximity to the city centre, Long Leys is a highly attractive target for future housing development. For 2019-2024 Central Lincolnshire has an adequate land bank for housing (over 5 years), but this may change in the 2025-2030 period. Best advice from neighbours (Saxilby & Nettleham) is to prepare in advance and set the agenda for housing developers to follow rather than having to respond at planning applications stage; that way developments are more likely to enhance an area rather than detract from it. It also encourages early engagement by developers.

The Long Leys Neighbourhood Plan would be one of three main documents used by planners to help determine whether a planning application should be approved or rejected:

- National Planning Policy Framework 2018
- Central Lincolnshire Local Plan 2017 (currently under review)
- Long Leys Neighbourhood Plan (June 2021?)

EXAMPLE: If we have policies on the preferred location for a shop, a community centre, housing, a play area or a cycle path then there is no guarantee any of these would be built. However, if someone wanted to build them then the planning application would be assessed against the policies in the documents.

Each of these documents change over time – National Planning Policy changed in 2018. The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan is now being reviewed to make sure it is compatible with new National Policies.

## 2. How Will the Neighbourhood Plan Be Developed?

- The whole process is likely to take 18-24 months.
- LLRA have applied for grant funding to pay for the necessary planning consultancy support.
- Over the next 12 months the community will be consulted on a variety of different issues.
- Expert assessments will be undertaken (eg Area Character Assessment, Housing Needs Assessment, Site Assessment).
- The community feedback will be used, along with expert assessments, to create planning policies to determine land use in the area and which encourage developments supported by the community.
- The planning policies will be reviewed by the local planning authority and the Planning Inspector to check that they are in line with National Planning Policy Framework and the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (This is called Regulation 14 stage).
- The Long Leys community then vote in a referendum on whether to approve the plan.
- If approved the plan is then used as guidance by planners and developers (eg City of Lincoln Council / Lincolnshire County Council).
- The plan is being managed by the Long Leys Neighbourhood Planning Action Group (NPAG) which currently consists of Jon Davies, Jackie Ward, Laura McWilliams & Chris Taylor. Oversight of these activities is by the LLRA management committee.

### 3. Feedback from Initial Community Survey

57 responses were received on paper or online, around 9% of the 650 homes. We now have 18 pages of resident ideas and comments to refer to. This feedback will help set the agenda for the development of the plan.

Long Leys is generally considered a nice place to live. In residents own words *“A quiet residential area with open spaces but in close proximity to Lincoln city centre via lovely picturesque walk through the common. Quiet but easy access to A46. Friendly neighbourhood, it’s like living in a country village but with the convenience of being right next to the city. A feeling of space and green areas. I like the Green spaces including West Common and Whitton Park. Feels a safe place to bring up my family. I like the sense of community, the tranquillity, the footpaths.”*

#### a) Land Use & Planning to 2040

Lack of facilities is the primary planning issue raised by residents. With a relatively small population (circa 1,500 people), Long Leys has little in the way of nearby facilities without traveling outside the area. Feedback on planning aspects included:

- Any housing or industrial development should preserve the “green look” of the area
- Adding a local shop (convenience store)
- Adding a community meeting place
- Considering the future of the industrial area in a residential location
- Better care and protection for green spaces and wildlife (community woodland)
- Improving footpaths and cycleways into city centre and consider ways of reducing/calming traffic
- Better infrastructure (doctor / dentist surgery)

#### b) Non-Planning Related (Operational) Issues

A number of operational issues were raised which, although not directly related to land use and planning, will be used by LLRA to better inform discussions with the community and outside organisations:

- Better bus services
- Better play area and equipment at Whitton Park. Recognised walking/running routes on West Common
- Better maintained paths and better lighting at Higson Steps
- Pedestrian crossing on Long Leys Road
- Seats on West Common and by Whitton Park bus stop
- Weight limit on HGV’s except for access
- Less vehicle speeding (especially off Long Leys Road)
- Maintain quiet nature of area
- No dog fouling and clean streets
- Bins off street quicker
- Better garden maintenance to stop bushes encroaching pavements.
- No parking on pavements and close to junctions
- More community events

**The initial feedback is an excellent place to start the process.** Surveys have also been sent to local businesses with a 1 June closing date and there will be extensive consultations with the community on issues over the next 12 months.