

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 19th February 2019

in Lincoln City Hall, Committee Room 1 from 5.30 pm

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Gretchen Fixter, Gary Stimson and Kay Rowntree.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Carholme Road Flooding

Mike Reed of Lincolnshire County Council and Matt Moore of Anglian Water had come to answer questions from the Forum regarding the continuing flooding of Carholme Road.

Matt summarised where Anglian Water had reached with the issue up to now. He explained that there were four options available for how Anglian Water could tackle the issue. The preferred option was to put in a new surface water sewer line and block off the old ones. This would involve digging up the dentist's car park. There had also been issues relating to outflows near the Grandstand where City Council involvement was needed. Neil said he would chase this up.

The issue of Carholme flooding had dragged on for a long time so Rob Parker asked when it was likely that the problem would be solved. Matt said that that Anglian Water couldn't give an exact time because they didn't know what might crop up when they began digging up the car park but he was hoping that a team would be on site within a month and that work would progress quickly from there.

Action: Neil Murray/Rob Parker (to keep the Forum informed).

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Lincoln City Council was producing a leaflet around drug issues. Francesca Bell was not at the meeting so it was agreed that we would ask her to update the Forum at the next meeting.

Action: Francesca Bell

There was further discussion about the lane closures on Newland and Forum members asked questions of Mike Reed.

Rob Parker said that the traffic congestion did not seem too bad in the area although he had been observing this at half-term, when traffic is never as heavy.

Members expressed concerns about residents not being able to easily access the town centre from the West End. Heather Woodlock noted that some older residents she had spoken to were finding it particularly difficult.

Mike said that the lane closures were constantly under review and that any licence to contractors could be revoked. The area was constantly monitored by cameras. Sandra Lewis asked if the contractor's work was time limited and he said that it was. She noted that often the footpath which had been closed off to pedestrians wasn't being used by the contractors. Mike said that he was aware of this and that it was an imperfect system. She also noted that some of the signage being used was confusing and potentially dangerous - he said he would look at this. David Mitchell asked about the oversight of the process at the beginning of the project. Overall, Mike said that the priority was safety.

Action: County Council

Lucinda Preston said that the work on reducing the amount of dog fouling was ongoing. Additional sticker signage had been put up. It was suggested that a culprit for some of the fouling was a professional dog walker; Lucinda stressed the importance of evidence and how useful it would be if a culprit was caught.

Jon Davies reported that most tents near Long Leys had now been cleared but that one remained.

At the last meeting it was agreed that the residents association would look at the new transport plan. Sandra noted that the information stalls in the town centre had not been very useful. Lucinda commented that this was the feedback she'd received too. To help Forum members, Lucinda said that she would circulate the studies she had requested from Lincoln City Council. Rob noted that most cathedral cities had park and ride schemes.

Sandra explained that WERA had a meeting the night before but that the agenda was so packed there had not been time to discuss the plan but that this would be done another time. Jon noted that Long Leys had discussed the issue and he just needed to type up the notes. Jane Kilby had said that students hadn't really engaged with the issue as most of them were pedestrians but that it might be more of an issue for the many staff who travel into the university everyday. She suggested that the Forum e-mailed the university. Jane would send Lucinda the relevant e-mail address.

Action: Jane Kilby/Lucinda Preston

The issue of parking on Depot Street was discussed again. Lucinda, David and Sandra noted their concerns. Sandra made the suggestion that it should be a one way street. County are looking at the issue.

Action: Rob Parker

In the previous meeting, Sandra had enquired as to whether motorcycles required parking permit for resident parking spaces. Rob reported back that yes they did. It was asked whether traffic wardens knew this so Rob said he would ask about this.

Action: Rob Parker

Neil was looking into the issue of the exteriors of the Bond letting properties.

Action: Neil Murray

Neil explained that the Secretary of State had now approved the banning of 'To Let' signs in the area. This is excellent news for the area.

Robert informed the group that the first meeting of the year of the Gala committee had taken place with the next meeting already pencilled in. Julie said she had asked Rob if she could be put on the committee email list but that she hadn't received anything yet. Lucinda said that she would add her to the distribution list.

Action: Lucinda Preston

George had asked whether Forum members who use the car park could get a permit for meetings. Neil had enquired about this and the answer was no.

Sandra reported that the new bollard for the garages had finally been put up but it couldn't be used so far as it was clamped down. She noted that it didn't look much more substantial than the previous bollard.

Highways

Julie raised the issue of the state of Carholme Road and its potential damage from flooding. She noted that her house shook when vehicles went by - this was not just the case with heavy lorries but even with cars. She felt that the issue was with the length of road between the Common traffic lights and the Gresham Street lights.

George noted a reoccurring problem with the sinking manhole cover.

David was concerned because the box marking at the junction of West Parade/The Avenue needed repainting.

Action: Rob Parker

Long Leys

Jon explained that the County Council had said that LLRA could use posts for the machines but not lamp posts. When the posts were extended the SIDs could go up. The West End posts would be more problematic.

Lucinda and Jon had agreed the date of 6th April for the next Long Leys litter pick. Lucinda had agreed 17th March for the West End one, working in conjunction with the university.

Policing

The main discussion was the two robberies that had occurred in the West End. The first one had been in the shop the school end of West Parade. A man in a balaclava had demanded money at knife point. This had been near school finishing time. The second robbery had occurred at 6.30 pm at Dhindsa store on the corner of Hampton Street. The description was similar although there was a conflicting description of the voice compared to the other robbery. The shop assistant had seen the man run off with what seemed like the 'look out'.

The police had not yet been able to charge anyone for the burglaries although three men were being investigated.

Pete noted that there had been three burglaries in the area since the last meeting. There had been an increase in situations where people thought they were being burgled but in actual fact they had accidentally left their door open and drunken people had mistakenly wandered in.

There had been some bicycle thefts and a theft of a handbag from a motor vehicle on Rosebery Avenue.

Pete reported that no more graffiti had occurred in the area; similarly, very little had so far been recorded in other parts of the city this year.

There had been one or two drugs episodes in the area.

Heather and Susie reported two occasions when men had tried to get into Derek Miller Court. Neil noted that actions were being undertaken to improve security.

ASB

David, Susy and Heather commented that they had experienced a lot of issues with noise. Rob underlined the need to report noise issues.

Community issues

Jacqueline Mayer reminded everyone of the celebration of West End memories taking place on 13th April at the university and 14th April at church hall. WERA and the university were working together on this.

It was noted that the Students' Union had put plans in place for the 'Make a Difference week' with both Liquorice Park and the litter pick on that calendar.

Street Scene

The issue of bins taking up space on pavements and obstructions on pavements was raised. A woman had fallen off her scooter twice.

Voter registration

Lucinda reported that whilst voter registration had fallen in every part of the city, Carholme now had some of the lowest number of voter registration. Jane and Jacqueline said they would look at this. Laura McWilliams said that if people had ideas for what could be done then she would take them to policy scrutiny.

Action: Jacqueline Mayer

Date of next meetings:

Transport meeting: Monday 25th February 2019

Main Forum meeting: Tuesday 26th March 2019

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 19th February 2019

Present:

Sandra Lewis	WERA
George Woolfenden	WERA/Open Spaces
Jon Davies	LLRA
Pete Davies	Lincolnshire Police
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Jane Kilby	UoL Students Union
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Rev Julie Wearing	St. Faith's Church
Susie Parry	Derek Miller Court
Heather Woodlock	Derek Miller Court
Rob Parker	County Councillor/Chair
Neil Murray	City Councillor
Laura McWilliams	City Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary

plus Mike Reed (Lincolnshire County Council) and Matt Moore (Anglian Water)