

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 15th December 2020

via Zoom at 5.30pm

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Laura McWilliam, Kayleigh Teague and, Kay Rowntree.

Policing

The first part of the meeting was focused on policing and the recent crime wave in the West End. PC Mark Wrigley had kindly joined the Forum in his own time. The Forum expressed thanks for this.

Mark reported that the time around Halloween had been extremely busy and he and Kay had been run off their feet. The main points he made were:

- Kay Rowntree had tracked down the three people responsible for the ASB (people on mopeds)
- There had been two burglaries: two people had been arrested and were now on bail. There had been a fingerprint match for one.
- Two people had been arrested for the recent robbery and had been charged for it.

Statistics:

- ASB - 7 incidences of items being thrown (2019 - 1) One incident had involved a rock being thrown through a window - this was classed as criminal damage. There had been a 27% increase in crime from last year.
- 92% increase in LP. 27 cases had been reported last year (2019 - 14)
- Burglaries were up 33% - no one was sure why.
- Public Order offences were up 11% - this was mainly related to Halloween.

Sandra Lewis noted that The Lincolnite needed to be corrected on its reporting of gatherings. It was noted that a large fine had recently been issued to a student.

Rob Parker asked about the messages given to students. Jacqueline Mayer said the university continued to work carefully with the SU and there continues to be an official university process for students not complying with COVID rules etc. She said that the code of conduct would also be re-issued in January.

Gary James asked about drug dealing. Mark responded saying that there had been a huge increase in drug trafficking this year. There had been trafficking in Liquorice Park and he had been given leads and issued warrants. He had also received information re: properties on Newland St. West and Arthur Taylor Street.

Lucinda Preston asked about crime across the city. Mark replied that there had been an increase across the city. He emphasised that a large proportion of his work was now focused on problem solving. Lucinda asked about speeding on Yarborough Road and the bus initiative undertaken by the police which had been reported in The Lincolnite. Mark did not have specific details on this but agreed it had had positive outcomes and that it would be useful if this could happen again. He would look into formal patrols.

Action: Mark Wrigley

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Hannah said that there was going to a meeting with Cllr Laura McWilliams regarding streetlighting issues in the new year.

Action: Hannah/Laura McWilliams

Lucinda was going to look at what was happening with 136 West Parade.

Action: Lucinda Preston

There had been a positive meeting regarding of the Commons Advisory Panel. There was now a sub-group that would meet in the New Year.

There continued to be difficulties with the Golf Club and access to that part of the West Common. Neil Murray had written to the Golf Club and had said he expected an apology. He had organised a meeting on Thursday 17th December (car park). The Golf Club needed to be more aware of environmental impact on the Common too.

Action: Neil Murray

The tap at Liquorice Park had been established. Lucinda Preston was continuing to chase issues in relation to one of the allotments near to the Park.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Lucinda had had some communications with City Council officers regarding the neglected allotment next to Liquorice Park. There was some movement on this issue and she would update with any next steps.

There had previously been some discussion about the ongoing issue of fly tipping near Long Leys. Robert had tried to get the County Council involved but the County Council had said it was a district council issue.

Jon Davies asked if the City Council could request for the entrance to be blocked off. Francesca Bell said she wasn't sure: given the City Council's financial situation at the moment she was concerned about the danger of the City Council having to pick up the bill. In response, it was suggested that there would be 'payback' in terms of fewer rubbish collections etc in the future.

Action: Francesca Bell

The situation with noise/traffic early in the morning at the Rudgard Lane development site seemed to have settled down. It was reported that Lindum was more careful in terms of its suppliers and its instructions to them lately and that things had therefore improved.

It was reported that work on the West Parade gate would commence in the Spring following a successful planning application.

Rob had said he would write and ask for official statistics from Lincolnshire Police. Neil had spoken to Phil Baker who had offered to send the information.

Lucinda had not been able to progress the Hedgehog project due to the lockdown. She would update the Forum when she had more information.

The problems with bins on streets was still ongoing. Jacqueline noted that the university remained hampered by the pandemic restrictions e.g. they couldn't do leaflet drops. Jacqueline said she would have a conversation with Lucy Krogdahl regarding a joint university/SU initiative (social media etc).

Action: Jacqueline Mayer/Lucy Krogdahl

It was reported by Sandra that the large skip on Carholme Road was still there. She highlighted the point that landlords should be made responsible for this situation. Neil arranged a meeting on 17th December to look at this issue.

Action: Neil Murray

Lucinda and Rob would aim to meet with the headteacher of St. Faith's regarding road safety around the school.

Action: Rob Parker

Blocked drains on Hewson Road was still an issue. Neil said residents needed to be asked to move their cars so that the drains could be attended to.

Action: Neil Murray

The repair work on Alexander Terrace had still not been carried out. Rob had been in touch with the engineer in charge but had received no reply. He would further investigate this.

Action: Rob Parker

Francesca had seen a reduction in the number of tents in the city. The one in the grounds of The Lawn had gone. She asked local people to report tents if they saw them.

Lucinda had circulated a survey re: electric points/a survey.

Long Leys

Jon noted that the application had been turned down but that the decision had been appealed based on new evidence.

Community Issues

David Mitchell raised his concerns about student parties but Jacqueline reiterated that there was a robust university disciplinary process for dealing with poor behaviour.

Sandra raised the issue of bonfires. Francesca confirmed that people were allowed bonfires but that it was good practice to tell neighbours. If there were continuous problems with a property and bonfires then that could be looked at as a 'statutory nuisance'.

Street Scene

There was some discussion regarding the police redevelopment. There would be a planning application. Neil had said there was to be no move-on accommodation.

There was some discussion around the difficulties with turning it into offices.

Neil said he would look at arranging a pre-application meeting: probably in March or April.

Action: Neil Murray

Any Other Business

There was discussion around streetlighting. One on Tennyson Street had been out since February. Robert said he would investigate this issue.

Action: Rob Parker

There was some discussion around when City Hall would be open. There were difficulties in any concrete date being set as the COVID situation was ongoing.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 26th January at 5.30 pm via Zoom

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 15th December 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Francesca Bell	Lincoln City Council
Sandra Lewis	WERA
Rob Lewis	WERA
David Mitchell	WERA
Jon Davies	LLRA
Gary Stimson	LLRA
PC Mark Wrigley	Lincolnshire Police (first half)
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Hannah Coleman	UoL Union
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Gary James	West End resident
Rob Parker	County Councillor
Neil Murray	City Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary