

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 16th March 2021

via Zoom at 5.30pm

Apologies

Laura McWilliams and Kay Rowntree

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Laura had been unable to arrange a meeting regarding streetlighting yet but it was in the pipeline.

Lucinda was going to look at what was happening with 136 West Parade. This was forwarded to the next meeting.

Action: Lucinda Preston

There were ongoing issues with the Golf Club. Neil explained how he was trying to develop a new relationship with the club. He was being supported in this by City Council Executive member, Bob Bushell. He wanted more of an environmental focus.

Action: Neil Murray

There had previously been some discussion about the ongoing issue of fly tipping near Long Leys and the blocking off of the entrance. Francesca Bell had looked into this issue and had asked for a steer from the Assistant Director. She had now liaised with the County Council and was awaiting for a response from one of their officers, Joe Phillips.

Action: Francesca Bell

There had been a meeting with officers regarding the ongoing problems with student bins. There had been issues with: 39, West Parade, 14 and 16 Yarborough Road and 23/25 Gresham Street.

Lucinda would speak to Francesca about possible action with regard to landlords and about procedures for dealing with this issue.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Neil reported that, unfortunately, the large skip on Carholme Road was legal.

There are ongoing discussions about road safety around St. Faith's Infant School. Rob Parker hoped that the school could be part of a County Council project (the SMOTS project - Sustainable Method of Transport to School, being run jointly by the County Council Highways Department and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership). Rob would be writing to Graham Baxter at the Council plus the leads of the local schools - St. Faith's Infants School and St. Faith's and St. Martin's Junior School. Jon Davies noted that he would be putting in an application for a SID on Hampton Street, near St. Faith's and St. Martin's School.

Action: Rob Parker and Jon Davies

There was finally a start date for the repair work on Alexander Terrace. It would be either 14th April or 19th April though Rob was not yet convinced it would happen. The information on the start of the work had not yet been conveyed to residents.

Action: Rob Parker

After complaints around the repair of street lights, Rob noted that the County Council was going to look at the effectiveness of the 'Fix my Street' website. He would report anything back.

Action: Rob Parker

Rob was very pleased to report that a 'No Entry' sign would be painted at the bottom of York Avenue.

It was reported that the estimated date for the completion of the Rudgard Lane Development was now the end of May. David Mitchell commented on ongoing noise issues.

Policing

Key statistics for Carholme from the police was as follows:

- There had been a decrease in Drunk and Disorderly offences.
- 16 cases of Begging

- No commercial burglaries
- 3 Residential Burglaries - thankfully the police had suspects (2 burglaries were actually committed and 1 was an attempted burglary)
- 2 Drug offences
- 5 Criminal Damage offences
- 1 offence of vehicle damage

Overall, there had been a large decrease in offences in the area; however, there had been an increase in Drug Trafficking - 32 incidents compared to 15 last year. This may have been because of the looser lockdown this year. On a more positive note, violent crime was down 20%.

As always, the Forum was grateful for the information and support from the police.

Following the tragic case of Sarah Everard, Jacqueline Mayer reported that many students were feeling distressed and concerned. She said that the university was working with Mark and his team on this issue. The university was running online events to support them and was encouraging students to talk about their feelings. She also noted that many graduates had contacted the university about this issue.

Sandra Lewis asked how students could be supported going forward. Lucy Krogdahl said that the university was working on this issue. The COVID lockdown/pandemic hadn't helped. Rob Lewis mentioned students' use of headphones. David asked if the area would be getting additional officers but Mark Wrigley said he had no idea.

Sandra asked about CCTV. Lucinda said it would be useful to get statistics.

Duncan Howells raised the issue of plastic covers for cigarettes.

Neil thanked Mark for the police looking in on the cricket pitch (there had been issues with footballers going on it).

Mark reported that there was going to be a project around reducing drug use. Some posters would be produced with the Crimestoppers number on them.

Jon asked if we could get the statistics for the Long Leys Road Speedwatch.

Mark noted that the police were doing speed gun patrols.

Long Leys

Jon reported that on 22nd February the City Council had agreed the Section 106 money for Whitton's Park. He also noted that the City Council Executive was considering the proposal for a management agreement for part of Hobbler's Hole.

Community Issues

Lucinda and Neil discussed the increasing number planning applications for extensions to HMOs. These applications appeared to be landlords trying to circumvent Article 4. Positively, most of these applications had been turned down. Neil said he would ask the City Council to review Article 4 to ensure that it remains robust.

Duncan reported on the work he and some other members of the community had been doing to tidy the area. He had spoken to Jacqueline about involving the university. He had contacted the Tidy Britain Group.

Lucinda said she would set up a Zoom meeting regarding all of this.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Gala

Sandra suggested a West End Get-Together in August. Everyone agreed that this was a good idea. It was suggested that Lucinda, Neil, Rob, George, Duncan and Sandra could form a committee for this.

Neil said he would book the Grandstand and Sandra said she would put something on the WERA FB site.

Action: Neil Murray/Sandra Lewis

Street Scene

Sandra noted that the drain needed cleaning on Gresham Street. Rob said he would report it.

Duncan noted that a number of drains were blocked.

Action: Rob Parker

Police Station

The application had not gone to Planning yet. This was expected in May or June. Neil promised that the first circulation of the application would be with the Forum.

Action: Neil Murray

Any Other Business

David asked about what had happened in terms of university discipline to the student who had a large party during lockdown. Kayleigh Teague said she didn't know.

There was a discussion about when students would be leaving for the holidays this year. It was generally thought this would be in June. Exams finished on 11th June though term end was 21st May for those without exams.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 18th May at 5.30 pm via Zoom

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 16th March 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Francesca Bell	Lincoln City Council
Kate Oliver	Lincoln City Council
Sandra Lewis	WERA
Rob Lewis	WERA
George Woolfenden	WERA/Open Spaces
David Mitchell	WERA
Jon Davies	LLRA
Gary Stimson	LLRA
PC Mark Wrigley	Lincolnshire Police
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Kayleigh Teague	UoL Union
Lucy Krogdahl	UoL Union
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Duncan Howells	West End resident
Rob Parker	County Councillor
Neil Murray	City Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary