

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 18th May 2021

via Zoom at 5.30pm

Apologies

Laura McWilliams and Duncan Howell

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Laura McWilliams was unable to come to the meeting but had fed back to Lucinda Preston. She was involved in the work to encourage a shop to open an outlet in Long Leys; she had met with the Girl Gang Group who were looking to set up a supportive, independent forum; Laura had asked Steve Bird to contact contractors regarding the cleaning of the cemetery.

Lucinda had an enquiry regarding 136 West Parade. David Mitchell reported that he had heard that there had been a tenant in the property but that they had now moved out and it was now uninhabited again. Lucinda said she would look into this as it was felt that the situation had dragged on and action was needed. She was also asked to find out what was happening with 96 Yarborough Road.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Neil Murray was not at the meeting so an update regarding the Golf Club and the West Common would be forwarded to the next meeting.

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. Previously, she had liaised with the County Council and in the previous meeting had been awaiting for a response from one of their officers, Joe Phillips. Francesca reported that she had still not heard anything back.

Action: Francesca Bell

Previously there had been a discussion about bins/litter in the ward. There had been issues with: 39, West Parade, 14 and 16 Yarborough Road and 23/25 Gresham Street.

Lucinda reported that Kate Oliver had advised that in the first instance officers would send an advisory letter in relation to the rubbish which would be sent to the occupiers. If they didn't remove the waste then the Council would look at enforcement action which would be against the tenants.

The team were currently doing weekly walkabouts in the West End weekly in relation to bins and Kate had asked them to pay particular attention to any accumulations of rubbish. Lucinda suggested that the issue was about persistently poor landlords rather than one-off issues.

Francesca discussed the issue of proportionality and the issue of resources as well as court dates. She said that some clauses in the Approved Landlord Scheme might be of help. However, Rob Lewis commented that the licences specifically mentioned bin management. Rob Parker asked about whose responsibility it was to get evidence of accumulating rubbish/repeat offenders. It had been decided to have 'weeks of action' in the city. Calum Roper said that the SU had been doing work with students about bins. Rob Lewis expressed appreciation of this and Sandra Lewis noted appreciation of the work of two officers, Liam and Sharna. Lucinda echoed this.

Lucinda said she would set up a meeting with Francesca, WERA and Neil.

Action: Lucinda Preston

With regard to road safety around the schools in the ward, Jon Davies had spoken with Graham Baxter at the County Council and put in a proposal for a SID mounted on the BT Utility Pole and also outside 37 Long Leys Road. If approved, the one on the BT Utility Pole would not cost much money. Rob was reinvestigating the SMOTs project.

Action: Rob Parker and Jon Davies

Rob Parker reported that the work on Alexander Terrace had started two weeks ago.

Sandra and Rob Lewis thought that the 'Fix My Street' website worked efficiently now.

Sandra reported that, sadly, some drivers were still going up the wrong way of the one way

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 had not set up a Zoom meeting in the end as Duncan had spoken with WERA and there was now a dedicated area on the WERA website and people undertaking litter picks.

Regarding a West End Get-Together in August, Lucinda said she would set up a Zoom meeting and Robert said he would find out if Neil had booked the Grandstand. Sandra had put something on the WERA FB site.

Action: Lucinda Preston/Neil Murray/Rob Parker

Rob had reported the blocked drains in the West End.

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

Rob reported that he had spoken to Neil and the police station application would be going to planning early June.

Lucinda and Sandra both expressed disappointment that the promised consultation had not happened, despite it being promised. Lucinda said she felt the application was being railroaded through and Sandra felt the same. Lucinda said that there was now little trust in the applicants or the scheme: if trust had been broken on one aspect of the project there was no reason to believe that any other promises or plans would be honoured. Rob said he would speak to Neil to find out more.

Action: Rob Parker

Policing

Mark Wrigley reported back to the Forum. Key points included:

- Burglaries were down 28% year on year - excellent news. However, today (18th May) there had been a burglary on Depot Street: a laptop, Deliveroo bag and trainers had been taken. Police were going to look at the CCTV.

- Drug possession was down 7% year on year
- Unfortunately, drug trafficking was up 13% - it was to continue as a policing priority.
- There had been an increase in ASB recently, probably the result of the looser lockdown. Mark reiterated the need for information from residents.

Sandra asked about the legal position in relation to cannabis. Mark said that the police needed to know information regarding cannabis use - it was a police matter. Sandra said there had been a lot of cannabis use in Liquorice Park recently.

Although she realised that the police in the ward were stretched, ahead of the summer Lucinda asked about support for reducing ASB on the West Common. Mark said that he and Kay would be looking at this.

Mark mentioned that Kay would be on leave for a few weeks but to contact him if there were any issues.

Long Leys

Jon further explained that the LLRA was exploring the idea of a shop on Long Leys.

The fly tipping near Long Leys was continuing. People had been trying to litter pick there but this necessitated going into the road which wasn't entirely safe. Jon expressed his frustration with the situation.

Rob Parker asked Jon to write a paper which he would take to the County Council.

Action: Jon Davies/Rob Parker

Community

Various issues were raised including:

- A portable loo at the bottom of Rosebery Avenue: it had been there for three weeks.
- A property on Whitehall Grove

Sandra asked about a motorbike left on the street - covered up and not in the middle of the pavement.

Action: Lucinda Preston/Rob Parker

David mentioned an aggressive-sounding person from Lincoln Lets. Lucinda said she would get the precise numbers for how many applications for Lincoln Lets had been approved.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Sandra said that the roofline of the new flats on Rudgard Lane seemed higher than was outlined in the original planning application; she also noted that the chimneys hadn't yet been placed on top of the structure. Rob said he would ask Neil to investigate this.

Action: Rob Parker/Neil Murray

Callum Roper said he would be leaving his post in June so this or the June meeting might be his last meeting. Thank you to Calum for his work.

Rob asked about any possible changes in the delivery of university education over the next decade. Kayleigh Teague said she would ask Jacqueline Mayer and ask at the SU. Rob asked for this to be made an agenda item for the next meeting.

Action: Kayleigh Teague/Jacqueline Mayer/Rob Parker

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 22nd June at 5.30 pm via Zoom

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 16th March 2021 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
PCSO Kay Rowntree	Lincolnshire Police
Kayleigh Teague	UoL Union
Callum Roper	UoL Union
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Rob Parker	County Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary