

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Friday 12th June 2020

via Zoom at 2pm

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Francesca Bell, Heather Grover, Hannah Coleman (sending a representative in her place), Neil Murray (technology problems) plus Mark Wrigley and George Woolfenden (following the meeting). Lucinda explained that PCSO Kay Rowntree had said that they may be problems with the police accessing the meeting.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

There was a consultation out about the solid fuel burners. Francesca Bell suggested holding off from a communications campaign for the moment. Francesca was unable to attend today's meeting so this item was moved to the next meeting.

Action: Francesca Bell

Laura is leading work on campaigning for better streetlighting in Lincoln. She had arranged a meeting with the Students' Union just prior to lockdown which was thus unable to take place. She is looking to set a new date and take this forward from September.

Action: Laura McWilliams

Regarding the issue of academic end of year move out rubbish, Jacqueline and Lucinda would be meeting with WERA representatives via Zoom on Tuesday 16th June. Thank you to Nigel Manders from WERA and Jacqueline Mayer who have organised this.

The Forum discussed the fact that some students were already moving out. Rob Lewis noted that he'd seen a few black bags but that there wasn't a huge problem at the moment. Obviously there are currently no wardens. Jacqueline said she would pick this up with the ASB team and would be in contact with Sharna who works in that team.

Actions: Jacqueline Mayer and Lucinda Preston

Earlier in the year Lucinda had begun some work looking at how we might reduce pollution in Carholme: we had previously discussed the apparent increase in pollution/poor air quality in parts of Carholme.

Lucinda is still keen to obtain some more detailed data/monitoring with the view that air quality is worse than the current data/information would suggest. However, the COVID lockdown has made this more difficult to pursue for the moment. Firstly, traffic isn't operating at 'normal' capacity so pollution isn't so much of a problem at present and thus if we had capacity to measure hourly pollution right now it wouldn't produce any meaningful data in relation to usual traffic flow. Secondly, whilst she remains committed to tackling the pollution (should traffic return to its previously high levels after lockdown ends) it will be even more difficult to obtain the money needed to hire the equipment because of the financial situation the City Council now finds itself in following COVID. She will still pursue that monitoring but wanted to flag up the difficulties.

Action: Lucinda Preston

There had previously been problems with an overflow pipe at 75 Carholme Road. Neil had been looking into this and Sandra Lewis was pleased to be able to report that the problem was now sorted. There had also been an issue with a property on West Parade, opposite the dog grooming parlour and this had also been resolved.

Lucinda had forwarded the content of an email from Steve Bird, an Assistant Director at the City Council, regarding leaf debris. Sandra informed Lucinda regarding issues with the right side of Albert Crescent. Lucinda said she'd report this.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Rob Parker was pleased to report that he'd had an assurance that the box markings at The Avenue junction would be re-painted by the end of the month by the latest. Rob noted that lots of lines were being repainted.

Lucinda had forwarded the content of an email about HMOs from Ryan Smith, an officer at the City Council.

Regarding empty properties, Lucinda was still looking into these. She had chased it up; a key officer was back at work so she would see if he responded to her email before the meeting.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Update on building developments

Newland/Carholme Road: Rob reported that piling had recommenced this week. The reduced traffic had meant there had been no need to close the inner lane. The right turn closure would come into effect week commencing 22nd June.

Rudgard Lane: there was general agreement that resumption of work on this site had been well managed so far. Sandra and others commented that the work digging up the roads to lay cables had happened when there were fewer people about. The people working had been quick and careful. There had been just a couple of complaints and issues.

Bottom of Beaumont Fee: some work was to commence on this part of the road with overnight closure.

There was a question about the future use of the police station building. Rob thought that Marc Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner, had no idea what might happen to it. Nothing has happened or been resolved. There was hope it could be re-used for the public sector.

Policing

Alison Griffiths reported that there had been issues with drug dealing with Liquorice Park but that neighbours had worked together and the situation had now improved. Jon Davies reported that although there was less traffic on the roads, cars had been tracked travelling at 79 to 80 mph down Long Leys Road. Sandra mentioned that speeding cars were still being seen down West Parade. It was suggested that this information was given to the police as and when it happened.

ASB

There had been some police activity on Albion Crescent.

There was a general discussion around the recent ASB on the West Common. This had come about because of the combination of warm weather and the relaxation of lockdown. There had been issues with litter, mobile barbecues and people not observing social distancing rules.

Lucinda had spoken to the City Council about whether the bins could be emptied more frequently at times when the weather was warmer. The City Council was unable to reinstate paid urban rangers because of the severe financial strain it was under: she was researching what other councils and organisations were doing in terms of volunteer groups with the possibility of setting up a 'Friends of West Common' group, even extending it to other parts of the city. This would be focused on reducing litter, reporting issues, education and maybe have a social element. They could possibly connect into the wider park volunteer groups, which are overseen by the City Council. Laura correctly pointed out the

importance of delineating roles carefully as there was a danger of confrontation. Lucinda said she'd take her ideas to the Commons Advisory Panel. Alison kindly offered her advice and expertise to support any such group.

Action: Lucinda Preston

There was discussion around the relaxation of parking enforcement.

David asked for clarification re: PCSOs. Lucinda said that there hadn't been any specific changes to PCSO numbers in Carholme.

Community issues

There were issues around the date of the Carholme Gala as it wasn't known what the situation would be with social distancing plus a lot of the planning work hadn't been able to take place. Rob Lewis underlined the difficulties this year as WERA hadn't been allocated any lottery funding.

After some discussion it was agreed to cancel the date of this year's gala and aim to put on a smaller event (either at the Grandstand or maybe the church hall) later in the year. This would be on a smaller scale.

Lucinda to write a statement regarding the cancellation.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Street Scene

Susie Parry commented on the state of the roads and potholes and there was a discussion around cleaning/clearing.

David Mitchell asked about when students would be returning. Jacqueline did not know the exact figures although most students had indicated they would return. Studying would be via 'blended learning' - a combination of online and small group work. Students would be starting back on 12th October: there wouldn't be a Freshers' Week but there would be an online introduction between 5th and 9th October. The university was concerned about ASB as there would be few places for students to 'let off steam'. Kayleigh noted that the Engine Shed wouldn't be re-opening in October. There would, however, be an emphasis on making sure students had a good experience and that international students were properly supported.

David thanked Jacqueline and Kayleigh for all their work. He asked what the community could do to help. Jacqueline suggested letting the university know of any problems as soon as possible.

Lincoln Transport Plan

Rob noted the need for more cycle paths in the city: there is currently nothing linking north to south or east to west.

Rob said it would be good to have a Zoom meeting about influencing the next stage. It would be good to have a sub-group to meet. Lucinda would email to organise a meeting of the sub-group.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Any Other Business

Jon informed the Forum that work on the Long Leys Neighbourhood Plan had been temporarily suspended. The Central Lincoln Local Plan Review would be coming out in a few weeks but nothing had been heard yet. Jon asked Laura to find out what was happening.

Action: Laura McWilliams/Lucinda Preston

Sandra noted there was an issue with wooden posts near to the entrance of the West Common.

Action: Lucinda Preston

David expressed concern about funding of groups that meet at Derek Miller Court, St. Faith's and the Alive Church. There was a discussion around possible funding streams for these groups as currently they can't fundraise. He was also worried about the finances of small businesses.

Laura mentioned the Council's Small Business Rate Relief for small businesses. She also suggested groups look at The Dawber Trust and crowdfunding.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28th July 2020 at 2 pm via Zoom

Carholme Community Forum, Friday 12th June 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Sandra & Rob Lewis	WERA
David Mitchell	WERA/Small Business Action Group
Jon Davies	LLRA
Gary Stimson	LLRA
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Kayleigh	UoL Student Union (Assistant Campaigns Manager)
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Susie Parry	Derek Miller Court
Rob Parker	County Councillor
Laura McWilliams	City Councillor
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary