

Minutes of the Carholme Community Forum held on Tuesday 28th July 2020

via Zoom at 5.30pm

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Hannah Coleman, Kay Rowntree and Gary Stimson.

Matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

Francesca Bell said she was happy to look at the latest guidance on solid fuel burners although given that some staff were furloughed and others assigned to different work it would not be possible to undertake a project on it at the moment.

Action: Francesca Bell

Laura McWilliams is leading work on campaigning for better streetlighting in Lincoln. She was waiting for the students to come back before she did work on this. She would introduce herself in the autumn. Jacqueline Mayer said she would send Laura a list of contacts for the Students' Union. Lucinda Preston asked if she could have this too as one of her email contacts kept bouncing back.

Action: Laura McWilliams/Jacqueline Mayer

Jacqueline, Lucinda and Nigel Manders from WERA had met via Zoom in relation to reducing end of academic year rubbish. Jacqueline informed the Forum that some low key communications had been sent out to students.

Sandra had sent a list of problem properties to Francesca Bell's team and the rubbish from those properties had been cleared up.

There had been quite a bit of rubbish outside some properties including some valuable items. Lucinda commented that some of the ideas the SU had been keen to further pursue had been impossible or very difficult during the COVID lockdown period. She also noted that the university had co-ordinated the collection of tinned/dried food from accommodation for Lincoln Community Larder, which had been very welcome.

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

Now that traffic levels were returning Lucinda was keen to once again collect some detailed data, although financial constraints might make this difficult.

A meeting with officers regarding a range of environmental issues was pencilled in for August and Lucinda would be raising this at that meeting.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Lucinda had contacted council officers regarding getting rid of leaf debris. Sandra Lewis said some was still remaining and the corners/crevices needed additional cleaning. Lucinda said she would relay this back.

Action: Lucinda Preston

The box markings at The Avenue junction were to be re-painted.

Lucinda was still looking into empty properties but had not heard anything back. She would chase again.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Lucinda had written a statement regarding the cancellation of the Carholme Gala and this had been posted.

The sub-group meeting with regard to the Lincoln Transport Plan hadn't yet taken place. Rob asked who might be interested. Jon, Rob, George and Sandra said they would be involved. Sandra expressed regret that a local resident who she thought might make a good contribution to the group was no longer interested in taking part. Lucinda said she would email out about a date.

Action: Lucinda Preston

There was still no date for the Central Lincoln Local Plan Review.

Sandra had noted there was an issue with wooden posts near to the entrance of the West Common. Lucinda had looked into this but as this hadn't been resolved she would contact officers again.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Zoom meetings

Lucinda had spoken with Rob and Sandra and it had been agreed that the Forum would pay for a monthly Zoom subscription, with the hope that the subscription wouldn't be required for very long. The subscription meant that rather than logging in and out at least twice, Forum members could log in and then stay connected in the meeting. Lucinda had a receipt and would be reimbursed for each month's payment.

There was a general consensus that face-to-face meetings were preferable to Zoom. At the moment the police were unable to take part plus some Forum members simply preferred the traditional way of meeting.

Lucinda suggested that if committee rooms 1 and 2 were booked together then social distancing would probably be possible. Lucinda and Laura commented that there were no committee meetings happening in the City Council at all at present. Rob commented that he thought there was a possibility that face-to-face County Council meetings might resume in September and he felt that if that happened it might nudge the City Council towards doing the same.

It was agreed that no decision should yet be taken for the format of the September meeting. Lucinda suggested that if the next meeting was via Zoom that we should ask the police if it was possible to send us some information via email.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Police station redevelopment

Lucinda explained that councillors had received notice of a pre-planning presentation by the police about the redevelopment of the police station. This had been the first councillors had heard of any plans. She had been told the applicants would be the police or a joint application between the police and YMCA.

Full details have not been given yet (the presentation is on 12th August). What they had found out so far is that the plan is for a mixed use building including 'supported housing' (for people who have had difficulties in the pasts but who are now moving on in their lives) plus graduate 'live/work' space.

All three Carholme councillors have serious doubts about the project. Lucinda pointed out that these presentations are often given before potentially controversial planning applications were put before planning as a way of softly persuading councillors. All legal and above board but clearly there was some degree of PR exercise going on. There had been difficulties for the PCC selling the building/renting it out

Whilst councillors are of course very compassionate and keen to support supportive housing this does not feel like the right location. The building would be unsuitable (even

with internal changes it would surely still feel quite prison-like which would be unpleasant for residents) plus there was the danger that it would become a magnet for anti-social behaviour. Even if the building was pulled down and new accommodation built, Laura underlined how close the site is to bars, clubs and other sources of ASB so that there was surely a danger that residents in the supported housing would struggle to rebuild their lives in the way envisaged.

Neil Murray had told Lucinda that supported housing was overwhelmingly in the central wards (Abbey, Park and Carholme); surely it would make sense to spread out the housing outside of the city centre?

24 hour management was promised but what that meant in practical terms and how far into the future that commitment would last (five years, ten, fifteen) was anyone's guess. Lucinda said that there had been some issues down at the YMCA on Rumbold Street and that has round the clock management as far as she was aware.

Lucinda also commented that as the country has had an economic downturn it is not clear what the uptake of graduates for the live/work space would likely be.

Lucinda was trying to obtain documents prior to the presentation but so far nothing had been sent through to her.

Rob asked that councillors email the evening after the presentation to let Forum members know what they had found out.

Action: Lucinda Preston, Laura McWilliams and Neil Murray

Friends of Lincoln Commons

Lucinda had proposed this idea to the Commons Advisory Panel and it had been agreed there. In short the idea has two objectives:

1. To support Commons across the city by bringing together an umbrella 'Friends of Lincoln Commons'.
2. To use online platforms to further raise the profile of the Commons and develop understanding of the Commons across the city so that they have increased prominence for the Lincoln public in the same way our parks, castle and cathedral do.

The key issue would be turning these ideas into reality! Neil had looked at a further meeting but we were hampered a little by social distancing rules.

There were comments from Forum members about issues around policing. George Woolfenden noted that sometimes police were reluctant to even assign an incident number. Rob said that this was something that needed addressing and there needed to be further discussion with the police.

Action: Lucinda Preston

Policing

It was noted that Pete Davies was retiring in October.

Lucinda noted that with an economic downturn there might be a rise in crime, as is often seen in such times. There was a discussion around students and helping them to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime. Jacqueline said that crime prevention information and advice was given as part of induction to students.

ASB

Sandra said that she felt that things had been quiet in the ward. Laura commented on the loud noise at midnight/1 am a few weeks back. She wondered if it had been an informal rave/large gathering. David thought that the noise originated from further south in the city.

Long Leys

Jon Davies gave an update on the Whitton's Park/Albion Crescent footpath. He had been informed that the bit of the path near Hobblers Hole is public open space (a right of way can't be established when a space is a public open space).

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust has said that they will object to the footpath.

Rob remarked that this issue was not moving quickly. He suggested that there might be local media interest.

Community issues

There was a general discussion about the two hour parking bays on Whitehall Grove.

Rob mentioned noted that the closing date for objections had passed. Some people in the ward had not realised that official objections had to be submitted. Rob said that the sign had made this clear. Rob said he would contact the officer responsible at the County Council, Tessa Featherstone, to see what the position was and whether people could still submit objections. David asked if the restrictions were still being enforced and Rob said they were.

Action: Rob Parker

Sandra raised the issue of skips in two houses - one on Carholme Road and one on Tennyson Street. Materials were being tipped in there and then were being taken to Pennistone Street. It looked like the person hiring the skips was doing house clearance: a lot of the rubbish was being left in the gardens and out on the pavement as well as in the skips.

Francesca said that officers in her PPASB team could look into this. There was a comment that the skip hirer was essentially running a business but not registered as such.

Action: Francesca Bell

Street Scene

There was a discussion about the signs on Bond properties and Locat8 properties. Lucinda asked people to keep sending her evidence as we need a long-term log before possibly anything can be done.

There was a brief discussion around the Newland development. No one knew what was happening with it.

AOB

Alison Griffiths asked about the water needed for Liquorice Park. She had had a meeting with Lee George but nothing had happened since. Lucinda would speak to senior officers.

Action: Lucinda Preston

David asked if plans for the re-opening of the university in the autumn had changed but Jacqueline said they hadn't. Numbers of students still look healthy at the moment including numbers of international students.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 15th September at 5.30 pm (to be decided whether this is a virtual meeting or not).

Carholme Community Forum, Tuesday 28th July 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Francesca Bell	Lincoln City Council
Sandra Lewis	WERA
David Mitchell	WERA/Small Business Action Group
George Woolfenden	WERA/Open Spaces
Jon Davies	Long Leys Residents Association
Jacqueline Mayer	University of Lincoln
Alison Griffiths	Liquorice Park
Laura McWilliams	City Councillor
Rob Parker	County Councillor/Chair
Lucinda Preston	City Councillor/Secretary