

ILKESTON COMMUNITY FORUM

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DATE – 27 May 2010

VENUE - Ground Floor Lounge, The Arena, Rutland Street, Ilkeston, DE7 8DG

CHAIR - Lew Hall (Resident)

OUTSTANDING ISSUES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING - 21.01.10

Experian report on Erewash - We heard before Christmas that a report from data company Experian recently had shown Erewash to be the 14th constituency worst affected by the recession and we have also heard that the borough council has been given a £52,000 grant, a share of a £2.6 million Government grant for borough councils across the UK, which have been deemed to have the largest proportion of empty shops on their town centre high streets. What is this money to be spent on?

A report is being considered by Council Executive on the 27 January 2010 and this will agree spending proposals.

It is proposed that the £52,000 is spent on the following items:

£10,000 “Golden £1000 hello”

Available to independent traders signing 6 months or more lease on currently vacant shop units

(10 retailers to benefit from this- 5 in Long Eaton and 5 in Ilkeston town centre).

£5,000 Town Centre Events fund

This will provide an events fund for both towns to develop a 12 month programme of activities and entertainment. Evidence shows that events increase visitor numbers in both towns. An equal number of funded events will take place in both towns.

£5,000 Erewash Partnership business start up support for traders locating in the town centres.

£2,500 Introduce a business start up pack to encourage people to locate in the towns - this is a Local strategic Partnership action in the Jobs, Economy and Housing Group. Erewash Partnership to lead development and production of the pack.

£8,131 Introduce the shopping loyalty card, magazine and website – based on the successful Stafford Town Centre Enjoy Card -

<http://staffordtowncentre.co.uk> delivered through the Erewash Partnership for 12 months.

£8,000 Arts funding to provide match funding towards G4A monies. £4,000 for

	<p>each town. (Total value with match is £8,000 each town). £1000 Provide chalk boards for daily market offers/ events information and banners to promote the market places and town centre generally £5,000 Advice and training for new businesses provided by the Erewash partnership with a target to sustain the business beyond 12 months and used exclusively for businesses locating in the town centres. £2,500 is available for each town. £8,000 Provide a grants fund for both towns that can be accessed by traders, subject to their 100% match funding to encourage traders to become more proactive and involved in making the towns more vibrant. Traders will need to demonstrate the wider benefits to the town centres in investing in their submitted project proposals. Maximum grant per bid is £500. (Total value with match is £8,000 each town).</p>
<p>Asset transfer - Can we have an update on the plans for transferring the Pavilion and the Abbotsford community centres which was proposed by the Council last year? Transferring the running and ownership of the centres <u>from</u> Council control to residents' groups.</p>	<p>Cotmanhay Community Centre and Eventide Community Centre were the two pilot CC's being considered for Asset Transfer. The Eventide Board have decided not to proceed at this time and Cotmanhay are not in a position to progress because of the transition taking place to form Action for Cotmanhay.</p> <p>Abbotsford CC has no Board or Community Group willing to oversee its operation. Currently, the centre operation is heavily subsidised by Erewash Borough Council. The Council is in discussions with the main building user, a nursery, and the Development Trust Association to look at more financially efficient ways to operate the building. Operation of Abbotsford and Cotmanhay CC are fully funded in the 2010/11 budget. However, if any resident group wishes to consider running Abbotsford, we would be pleased to discuss with the involvement of the Development Trust Association.</p> <p>Cllr Darren Adams-Shaw - will bring full details to the next forum.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS SUBMITTED PRIOR TO THE EVENING</p>	
<p><u>Bus Shelter outside the job centre on South Street, Ilkeston -</u> Passengers feel intimidated when they are either waiting for a bus, or getting off a bus, as, very often, there are loud groups of people standing around the entrance to the job centre, usually with drink in their hands.</p>	<p>Derbyshire Police confirmed that they have raised the issue with the Job Centre Plus to advise their customers not to hang around outside on the steps/ramps of the premises.</p> <p>The Local Safer Neighbourhood Team are dealing with persons drinking at this location using their powers to confiscate alcohol from persons engaging in nuisance and if necessary directing them to leave the area for up to 48 hours.</p>

<p><u>Car Parking on South Street</u> - Cars are parked on double yellow lines on both sides of South Street causing an obstruction to other traffic. I have seen both police and "traffic wardens" totally ignoring them. WHY?</p>	<p>The Police no longer enforce Double Yellow Line offences and this was amended with the introduction of Civil Parking Enforcement. A Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) would ignore a vehicle if it was displaying a disabled badge or other dispensation. The CEO may also ignore a vehicle if they have been assigned to serve their duties solely on Car Parks. I have addressed this issue with the Enforcement Company.</p>
<p>QUESTIONS SUBMITTED ON THE EVENING</p>	
<p><u>Lay by at Quarry Hill Road</u> I am of the opinion that a lay-by is a stopping place for traffic beside the road and that overnight parking is not permitted unless the lay-by is protected by a grass verge, curb race, etc.</p> <p>If the above statement is correct then why has a very large lorry been allowed to use the lay-by on Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston as a lorry park almost every weekend from Friday until Monday and some nights in the week for several months?</p> <p>My main reason for concern is the safety of pedestrians. The footpath leading from Ilkeston towards Stanton is only on the same side of the road as the above lay-by and ends at the lay-by, commencing again on the other side of the road after the entrance to the Hallam Fields school playing fields. This entrance is also the beginning of the footpath leading to the new estate off Longfield Lane. Pedestrians can only cross the road at this point, whether they wish to proceed down Quarry Hill or walk along the footpath.</p> <p>When a large vehicle is parked in the lay-by then any pedestrian has to walk across the front of the vehicle and look down the road whilst leaning forward.</p> <p>I also ask Derbyshire County Council to look into the safety aspects of this lay-by and act accordingly.</p>	<p>Inspector Roberts: This is a law based question. I need to look at such questions in advance ideally as it is difficult to accurately state what the exact law is. I can get the definitive answer for you later. I'll report it back via the meeting notes. I need to research the laws re lay bys.</p> <p>Paul Jameson (DCC) - I will also take the query back to DCC to look at.</p> <p>Response from the Traffic Management Officer of Derbyshire Constabulary: <i>Given the weight of the vehicle it will require lights whether its in a 30 or 40 limit because its over 1525 kgs ULW + anything with a trailer attached will require lights.</i></p> <p><i>If a driver is parked in a lay-by without encroaching onto the main carriageway then I cannot see under what powers we would move the vehicle on. Most of the time HGVs park in segregated lay-bys or service areas of course where lights would not be required, but there is nothing to stop a HGV parking in a lay-by providing it displays obligatory lights and projection lamps as needed to indicate the extremities of the vehicle.</i></p> <p><i>HGVs or LGVs will need to display obligatory lights during the hours of darkness because their weight well exceeds 1525 kgs. The vehicle must be parked with its nearside to the nearside kerb.</i></p>

<p><u>A609 Derby Road, Ilkeston: proposed pedestrian refuge</u></p> <p>A local resident questioned when the proposed pedestrian refuge for Derby Road (near to the Kniveton Park junction) was to be installed?</p>	<p>SBS 534406</p> <p>DCC Liaison Officer advised that he believed that a proposal had been put forward for consideration within this financial year (2010/11). There had been a delay on the release of the Capital Programme and there were no guarantees that this particular scheme would receive funding. An update will be sought.</p>
<p><u>Quarry Hill Road, Ilkeston: request for 30MPH extension and vehicle activated sign (VAS)</u></p> <p>A resident raised concerns regarding the speed of vehicles along Quarry Hill Road (30mph). It was suggested that vehicles travel in excess of the 30mph from the Little Hallam Hill roundabout to the start of the 40mph limit. The resident suggested that the 40mph stretch should be reduced to 30mph to create a continuous, consistent 30mph limit along the extent of the road, in order to bring speeds down.</p> <p>The resident further queried whether a vehicle activated sign could be introduced?</p>	<p>SBS 534407</p> <p>DCC Liaison Officer advised that there were strict DfT criteria set out for the introduction of speed limits which the County Council needed to adhere to. The 40mph stretch of Quarry Hill Road/Ilkeston Road is much less residential, with far fewer accesses, than the earlier 30mph stretch. As such, it is unlikely that an extension to the 30mph section would be appropriate. Speed limits have to be realistic otherwise drivers will generally tend to ignore them and drive at speeds they deem appropriate.</p> <p>The introduction of VAS relies upon a history of speed-related injury collisions and the Liaison Officer believed that the location had a relatively good recent history in this respect and, therefore, a VAS would be difficult to justify.</p>

<p><u>Ilkeston Road, Ilkeston: carriageway width / pedestrian concerns</u></p> <p>A resident raised issues in regard to the above. He had been corresponding with Mike Hawkins from DCC's Traffic & Safety section in regard to the recent opening of the Ward's Recycling plant and the impact that the additional heavy vehicles were having on the carriageway.</p> <p>The resident stated that the carriageway of Ilkeston Road, between the plant entrance and the junction with Sowbrook Lane/Lows Lane, is too narrow to accommodate larger vehicles. Subsequently, when two large vehicles try to pass each other, they end up mounting the kerbs and overrunning the verge. Of particular concern is the fact that the footway ends at the entrance to the plant and does not recommence until after the canal bridge (a distance of some 50m); as such, the resident has concerns for the safety of pedestrians when larger vehicles are mounting the verge here.</p> <p>Mr Hawkins has advised that a carriageway widening scheme had been drafted but that the cost would have been in the region of £65,000 (due to the need to relocate some stats) and was considered prohibitively expensive. The cost, coupled with the good recorded collision history over the last 3 years, meant that the scheme did not have a high enough priority to obtain funding within the 2010/11 Capital programme.</p> <p>The resident contests the fact that we are basing the prioritisation of the scheme on personal injury collisions over the last 3 years and believes we should look at the situation again with consideration given to the current 'potential' for accidents.</p>	<p>SBS 534409 (previous on SBS 284859)</p>
<p><u>Reduce the price of parking in Ilkeston</u></p> <p>Please reduce the price of parking in Ilkeston. Why would people come here when it is cheaper to 'Park and ride' in Derby? The Albion Centre extension car park and the one opposite are always empty. Please make them Long Stay at the same price as the one in Stanton Road (less than two hours = 80p; over two hours = £1).</p>	<p>Scott Cartledge -</p> <p>The prices are set by Erewash Borough Council's fees and charges team so I can't make any changes myself. However I can have a look at the situation. I can take the idea back to discuss it with relevant colleagues. I can get some monitoring done on the two car parks mentioned by our one of our Neighbourhood Wardens to measure how well they are used.</p> <p>Action: Scott Cartledge to arrange for monitoring of use of the two car parks.</p> <p>Further Action: Monitoring has been arranged by our Town Centre Warden.</p>

<p><u>Brown bins - garden waste recycling</u></p> <p>I recently contacted Erewash Borough Council to request an extra brown bin as I had noticed my neighbours had three bins and I never had enough space in my one bin during the spring / summer months. I was told that there used to be an option for larger gardened premises to have more than one bin but this option has been withdrawn.</p> <p>I asked if I could pay for the additional bin and service and was told that this was not an option.</p> <p>I would like to ask the council to consider providing more than one bin when requested especially to those residents who are willing to pay extra for this service. This could generate income for the council from an environmentally friendly source and may deter individuals from tipping.</p>	<p>Cllr Stephenson -</p> <p>This matter is currently under consideration. It was discussed two weeks ago. It does raise health and safety issues and it potentially places extra strain on the lorries in terms of the amount of garden waste that they have to take away. I am in favour of people having as many brown bins as possible. It may take some time to introduce a new approach.</p>
<p><u>Information on VPLC swimming baths re movement of the gym from Rutland</u></p> <p>What information can you give on the proposed development of the swimming baths, concerning the movement of the gym from Rutland Sports Park? Is the gym going to be moved on top of the changing rooms, as we understand it will put a 25 foot wall at the rear of our property?</p>	<p>Cllr Stephenson -</p> <p>Victoria Park Leisure Centre is subject to a £2 million refurbishment scheme to make it fit-for-purpose long term. As part of the refurbishment scheme an application was submitted for a government grant. This government grant has not turned up as yet. This has forced a reconsideration of the scope of the project. The conclusion as to what is to be included in the refurbishment scheme has not yet been reached. The report concerning what is to happen is still in draft form and was discussed last Tuesday (25th May). The decision is not absolutely clear at this time. There would be a benefit of having the gym and swim facilities together in the one location. There is also the disadvantage that the gym would leave Rutland Sports Park. I would like to see a gym at both venues but that option is not feasible. The next Executive Meeting takes place on 3rd June. It is at this meeting that the decision will be made. Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting but are not allowed to contribute to the debate.</p> <p>To clarify the car parking issue. The area proposed for the car parking extension is currently predominantly a small tarmac area. The Duke of Rutland has expressed his strong feelings against the proposed car parking extension. He has covenants on this area of land. The consultation carried out showed that generally people were in support of the proposed car parking extension. However, those that lived nearer to the proposed car parking area were more against it.</p> <p>Free car parking is available near to South Street and to Drummond Street</p>

	<p>for the public to take advantage of, but there is still the issue of how the car park would be controlled so that it was used solely by those visiting Victoria Park Leisure Centre.</p>
<p><u>Have you looked at outsourcing the swimming pool facility so that it is run more economically?</u> As in Heanor, for example.</p>	<p>Cllr Stephenson - Yes, and the numbers terrify me. Such initiatives practically bankrupted Amber Valley Borough Council. It is not an option due to the high costs involved.</p>
<p><u>Cleaning of the WW1 war monument, Ilkeston town square</u> May I request that the council look into a more efficient and skillful cleaning workforce to maintain this monument and others like it in the surrounding area?</p> <p>I noticed that the last time the WW1 monument was cleaned not only did the stonework receive chips and damages, the graffiti that was supposedly being cleaned could still be seen. The liquid used also reacted with the brass and copper name plates, which resulted in the inscriptions becoming illegible. The cleaning liquid did not seem to be removed from the monument at all.</p> <p>If monuments such as these cannot be kept spotless this sends out the wrong impression and message to would-be graffiti artists that nobody cares about what they are defacing.</p>	<p>Scott Cartledge - I was involved in this a while ago. The graffiti was removed. We normally use a company called Bonsers who do the memorial cleaning. I will arrange for them to visit the monument again to clear the graffiti. Action: Scott Cartledge for removal of the graffiti from the WW1 memorial in Ilkeston town square. Further Action: Scott Cartledge spoke to Bonsers on 28/05/10 to undertake removal of graffiti. Bonsers will inspect the site week commencing 7th June 2010. They will restore both war memorials.</p>
<p><u>Rented properties on Albany Street and landlords</u> We have a problem with rented properties on Albany Street. Why don't the properties get inspected by landlords? Is there a law to make landlords responsible to sort the tenant out because it is not working out on Albany Street? We are getting people moving in to rented properties from all over. Albany Street is being used as a scrap yard. If you wanted to sell your property in Albany Street you would have a problem. Albany Street has a drug user that has been moved in. He is now sub-letting to other drug users. Both people are robbers; this is well-known to Ilkeston Police. You don't feel safe to leave your home and go on holiday. Albany Street is being used as a dump for people from elsewhere.</p>	<p>Inspector Roberts - Unfortunately there is nothing that the police can do about private tenancy rules. I suggest that we talk about this matter in private at the conclusion of this meeting.</p> <p>Scott Cartledge - I will arrange for our Housing Benefits Team to look into the stated occupancy at the property. Action: Ian Marsden to contact Housing Benefits Team to arrange for them to check occupancy levels at the property. Further Action: Housing Benefits Manager confirmed that the Fraud Team will conduct an investigation into occupancy at the stated property.</p>

<p><u>Clarify purpose / function of Albany House, Ilkeston</u> Could you please clarify the purpose or function of Albany House in Ilkeston? In my opinion to give the children there a bed and a meal but beyond that they can do what they want. There are fits and starts with how much trouble we get from them depending on which youngsters are in there. It's owned by Derbyshire County Council (DCC). There is a problem with children congregating there and kicking a football around and making a lot of noise.</p>	<p>Cllr Birkin - In my capacity as a county councillor I asked the manager of Albany House why they allowed the children to play ball games on the land surrounding the property. The response I got was that it was safer for them to play there than playing on street. The building may be closing down soon. I am willing to arrange a meeting with the managers of Albany House and any concerned local residents. Action: Cllr Birkin to look to arrange a meeting between local residents and the manager of Albany House, if the residents still required such a meeting at the conclusion of the Community Forum.</p>
<p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and noise problems in Ilkeston area</u> May I take this opportunity to remind the council and the police that not every resident wishes to join in with the activities of drinking / shouting / loud disco music and other anti-social behaviour of pubs and their customers in and around the Ilkeston area.</p> <p>After many years of making complaints relating to this issue to the relevant departments within the council and the police the problem still clearly exists.</p> <p>May I suggest a compromise to the council and police to have a total ban on any anti-social late night music blaring out from these pub premises during at least the months of May and June, as this is the time period when local children are usually sitting their final exams.</p> <p>With a ban in place this will allow children to uninterrupted peaceful revision time and allow them adequate time for quality sleep. I am aware that the sleep requirements of adults appears not to be of any issue for the authorities and that those residents not participating in the anti-social behaviour activities are expected to be patient and just put up with the noise.</p> <p>I have on many occasions felt to be wrong for having to complain and have been told by representatives of the relevant authorities that as there is a pub nearby that I should expect noise and anti-social behaviour. Life sometimes forces you to have to live in places not through choice but necessity. I ask, would you expect to have to put up with your neighbour having all night parties consistently through the year?</p>	<p>Inspector Roberts Public houses are under strict licensing rules. If anti-social behaviour occurs on the premises the police can speak with the landlord. However, if they are acting within the boundaries of their licences then there no action that the police would look to take.</p> <p>There is no law that can tell people not to do something on their own property such as shouting. It may, for example, be children playing in the garden. If you believe that the noise level is consistently too high then the way to go is to contact Erewash Borough Council regarding noise abatement. The council can install monitors to record the noise levels. If appropriate the council can then take civil action.</p> <p>Scott Cartledge Noise issues would have to be recorded in a diary. I can take this issue forward. I need to find out what action has been taken to date by the Environmental Officers. Action: The query was submitted anonymously. Further details are required from the resident to enable further action to be taken. A request is made that the resident contacts environmentalhealth@erewash.gov.uk or speaks to Ann Marie Tattersall (0115 907 2244 x3821).</p> <p>Cllr Bevan Any issues can be dealt with by Erewash Borough Council's Licensing and Enforcement Officer, Carolyn Singleton.</p>
<p><u>I have previously contacted Environmental Health regarding a noise</u></p>	<p><i>Further details are required from the resident to enable further action to</i></p>

<p><u>issue. I have been waiting on a reply since July 2009. They confirmed to me that noise should not be audible from the next property.</u></p>	<p><i>be taken. A request is made that the resident contacts environmentalhealth@erewash.gov.uk or speaks to Ann Marie Tattersall (0115 907 2244 x3821).</i></p>
<p><u>Health and leisure membership - direct debit</u> To set up a health and leisure membership by Direct Debit to use the swimming, gym, sauna and work-out facilities in the borough's leisure centres, I am shocked to find that there is also a "one-off administration fee of £22.70" payable for all Direct Debit memberships. Why is this charge made on top of the Direct Debit?</p>	<p>Scott Cartledge - I will have to take this query back to clarify. I will provide a response through the meeting notes.</p> <p><i>Response:</i> <i>As the fee suggests, the charge is a one-off fee to cover 'administration' charges associated in having a membership. For example; the cost covers the employment of a 30 hour post to administer and maintain the membership system i.e. set up the initial membership, make changes to member details, provide information to our Information Technology Department to be able to run the BACS system to collect payments from customers, deal with queries, to liaise with our Finance Team regarding sundry debts and chasing up non paying customers. There is also the cost involved in the Information Technology Department running the Direct Debit instructions. We are comparatively cheap some private gyms. They can charge up to £150 in relation to their joining fee. We do occasionally run promotions when we waiver the administration fee.</i></p>
<p><u>Repairing outdoor tennis courts</u> I have decided to become a parrot and ask a question that I have asked before. I am fed up of having all the leisure activities taken away or just left to rot, for example the Albion Leisure Centre. When is this council going to put their hand in their huge bank accounts and repair a fantastic facility - the outdoor tennis courts? You don't seem to care about the people that used the outdoor tennis courts. This facility gives people a chance to keep fit and enjoy the fresh air. Not everyone wants to use indoor courts and I would like a choice. There must be other people who feel not listened to by this council.</p> <p>I do not want to have to pay membership to a club to be able to play tennis.</p>	<p>Cllr Stephenson - There are two outdoor tennis courts within a short distance of the older tennis courts that the resident complains about. They are located at Rutland Sports Park. They are good, safe secure tennis courts. If members of the public do not want to use these tennis courts then I cannot justify reinvesting more money in such facilities.</p> <p><i>Tim Spencer (Assistant Director for Regeneration and Community) confirms that an outdoor tennis court is marked up on the artificial playing surface at Rutland Sports Park in time for the summer season. Anyone wishing to play on this court is asked to pay a charge for each visit. Membership of Rutland Sports Park is not required. The previous outdoor tennis courts were condemned as they were unsafe to use. The facilities were decommissioned a number of years ago, primarily due to the cost of maintenance and repairs. However, the Council is set to meet with Stanton Tennis Club to see how the Council can support the club in bringing the courts back into operation. The</i></p>

	<p><i>Council has also looked at ways of working with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) to bring the courts back into use. However, because of the initial cost involved these discussions have not yet reached a conclusion. We will continue to work in partnership with the LTA and Stanton Tennis Club to try and bring the courts back into operation.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Duty Manager at Rutland Sports Park made telephone call to resident on 03/06/10 to explain above information. Information pack also issued to resident.</i></p>
<p>Asset transfer - Can we have an update on the plans for transferring the Pavilion and the Abbotsford community centres which was proposed by the Council last year? Transferring the running and ownership of the centres from Council control to residents' groups. This issue is still outstanding from the last meeting.</p>	<p>Ian Marsden (Consultation Officer) promised to chase an update on the latest progress from Councillor Douglas Adams-Shaw. Any feedback received will be included within these meeting notes.</p> <p><i>Action: Ian Marsden to arrange for the provision of a follow-up response.</i></p> <p><i>Update: Still awaiting follow-up response as on 21/07/2010.</i></p>
<p><u>Following a five minute break a focus group took place that was facilitated by Alison Brandon of Peter Fletcher Associates.</u></p> <p>18 people took part in this discussion regarding the future housing needs within the Erewash borough, particularly with reference to older members of the community.</p>	