



LENTON COMMUNITY MEETING
Monday 12th October 2009 at 6pm at Thomas Helwys Baptist Church

Present

22 x residents

Unless given permission, we avoid using residents' names in our notes to protect privacy

PC Mick Barratt (Notts Police)
CPO Laura Chambers (NCC/Notts Police)
Melanie Futer (University of Nottingham)
Michael Golding (Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum – chair)
Alice Hardy (University of Nottingham)
Dorothy Holmes (Neighbourhood Management)
Robert Howard (resident – see item 3)
Andrew Keith (Thomas Helwys Baptist Church)
Mark Lawson (Nottingham City Homes)
Laura Marano (Local Involvement Network)
Hugh McClintock (Pedals)
Cllr Zahoor Mir (Nottingham City Council)
PC Dave Silverwood (Notts Police)
Alex Sinclair (Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum – minutes)
Parbinder Singh (Neighbourhood Management)
Cllr Dave Trimble (Nottingham City Council)

1. Local Area Group

PC Mick Barratt introduced himself as the new Beat Manager for New Lenton. PC Barratt is supported in the area by PCSO Brian Grant and CPO Laura Chambers.

PC Barratt asked residents for feedback on any local community safety issues. His team is aware that cyclists using pavements is an ongoing concern in the area. Residents said they also wanted cyclists to be educated about using bike lights. Cllr Trimble stated that enviro crime should receive constant attention. Many landlords still do not notify students about wheelie bin use which can lead to increased problems at the start of the new term. Residents were reminded to report any issues.

Michael requested feedback on issues raised at the July meeting. Questionnaires are still in use and given to residents to help police identify local priorities. Residents' desire for high visibility policing is being addressed as PC Barratt is supported by a CPO and PCSO, both of whom should be known to residents as they spend most of their shifts in the community. PC Silverwood discussed the use of signage at cashpoints to alert users to robbery with CID officers. This will be considered if incidents arise but at the moment nothing has been reported in the area.

Hugh McClintock introduced himself and explained that Pedals promotes safe, responsible cycling. He understands that some cyclists use pavements irresponsibly but some feel they have to use pavements as the roads have become very dangerous. Cyclists also need to be

encouraged to use their bells more to alert pedestrians on paths. There is a need for better signage as some markings are out of date and misleading for cyclists. Parbinder reported that he has recently assisted the Highways Agency to assess the state of cycle paths and signage in the area and improvements will be carried out.

On 21st September a window was smashed at one of the shop units in Church Square. Residents reported that youths tend to gather in the Square in the evening but it was noted that the youths are not necessarily causing trouble, many have nowhere to go to socialise. All agreed CPOs should be made aware of where to signpost young people who might be interested in a group or activity.

Residents reported an increase in taxis disturbing residents by beeping horns throughout the night. All incidents should be reported to the taxi company responsible.

A resident reported parking problems on Lenton Boulevard and confusion over what permits can be used on what roads. **Action: Neighbourhood Management to follow-up directly with resident.**

Priorities for New Lenton

1. Tesco Express on Sherwin Road – work to reduce anti-social behaviour.
2. Educate cyclists about using pavement and speeding/using lights.
3. Enviro crime.

PC Barratt also noted that residents wanted regular patrols in Church Square to monitor youths, particularly in the evenings.

2. Lenton Housing Office

Mark Lawson from Nottingham City Homes (NCH) provided an update. NCH distributed a total of 2,350 consultation forms across Lenton and the Meadows and 155 were returned. Out of 155, 112 respondents were against the closure of the housing office and 43 were in favour. 83% of visitors to the housing office use it only to make payments. Since the change to the opening hours, there has been a drop of 20% in visitors. A report was written up based on the feedback and it was decided that Lenton Housing Office reduce its opening hours for a 3 month pilot period. Mark acknowledged this change had not been properly publicised in the local area.

NCH thinks it is likely the housing office will permanently close after the 3 month pilot. Based on its usage, the overheads are too high just for payment transactions. The pilot will be monitored and tenants and residents are very welcome to submit further feedback (see list of contacts at end of notes). NCH is keen to arrange an alternative payment point in Lenton and also offer some support services including advice surgeries. The Lenton Centre will probably be a suitable venue for advice surgeries and there could be a freefone installed in the longer term and maybe an IT hub for viewing NCH properties. Discussions have also taken place to address how the housing office units could be used in the future. It is possible that Nottingham City Council will look into sharing the space with voluntary sector partners. A resident said the remaining shopkeepers in the Square are very concerned about loss of business and the negative effects of the housing office closure. Cllr Mir asked what NCH staff would be working on if they are no longer taking cash payments via local offices. Mark said there is likely to be a reduction in staff through natural wastage and at present there are no plans for compulsory redundancies.

A resident raised a separate issue regarding a tenant at Penn Avenue and expressed frustration at the lack of action and support from NCH to date. **Action: Cllr Trimble to email full details to Mark Lawson who will investigate and try to resolve.**

3. 'State of Lenton'

At the Lenton Community Meeting in January 2009 Robert Howard presented a list of local 'hotspots' for discussion. Robert spoke about the list and circulated an updated map version. Robert believes a neighbourhood transformation plan for Lenton is urgently needed and stressed the importance of regular consultation with residents otherwise decisions will be made that do not reflect the needs of the local area. Nottingham City Council recently launched its 'Nottingham Plan to 2020' and part of the vision statement is 'making every neighbourhood a great place to live'. One Nottingham is the organisation responsible for delivering the 2020 Plan but Robert expressed concern about the lack of community representatives on the board. Robert said housing is a particularly urgent issue and some control is needed about the percentage of student housing within any neighbourhood. Cllr Trimble said he is continuing to push for changes to legislation to help with housing issues.

4. Updates

Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum

Michael and Alex updated. The Forum newsletter has not been published since April 2009. The Forum held many focus group meetings in the summer to gather residents' views on the newsletter and is currently working on a new edition to publish in January. The Forum does not have the same level of funding for the newsletter but is hoping to secure more advertising to keep it going. More residents are needed to submit articles. Joe, an intern from the University of Nottingham, is in charge of the next issue and anyone interested in getting involved should contact him via the Forum office.

Planning has started on the next Dunkirk and Lenton Community Festival. It will be held on Saturday 12th June 2010 at Lenton Recreation Ground. The Forum would like residents to get involved in the planning and will need lots of volunteers on the day. Contact the Forum office for more details.

The Forum continues to run the Small Steps Food Project, selling bags of vegetables for £3 at 2 local venues – The Lenton Centre, Wednesdays 12 noon until 2pm and in Dunkirk, from 29th October, 10am until 12 noon at the Children's Centre on Marlborough Street.

Neighbourhood Management

Dorothy and Parbinder updated. The Dragon's Den scheme was very successful and 13 bids were received. The presentation night was very positive and all the projects received £100. The Grab a Grand project is now up and running. There are three options for funding within Area 8, voting can be done online.

The new parking scheme in the Hoyland Avenue area is progressing and should be complete by 2010. It is likely the scheme is extended to Coleby Avenue.

Tenders are going out for installation of security lighting and CCTV columns at Penn Avenue. An external noticeboard will also be put up in the grounds. 4 community noticeboards will also be put up in each of the Lenton high rise blocks.

University of Nottingham

Melanie updated. Figures show a slight increase in undergraduate admissions and bigger increase in post graduate admissions. The post graduate students are older and many have families which brings a mix of residents into the community.

A door knocking campaign has been carried out in the Lenton Triangle area to remind students about wheelie bin use and CPOs will be enforcing with notices if necessary. The University of Nottingham is working with Trent University to encourage students to use the ring back service offered by most taxi firms to minimise disturbance.

Night walks will be carried out during the term to monitor any disturbance. The Students' Union will also be running campaigns to education students about noise.

At total of 60 interns from the University's Talentbuilding scheme are now working within the University and also in the voluntary sector (including the Dunkirk and Lenton Partnership Forum).

Alice, the intern working with Melanie, introduced herself and explained that she is working on a new leaflet to distribute to students. The aim of the leaflet make is to raise awareness of venues, groups and facilities in Lenton. If residents wish to contribute ideas, they should contact Alice via Melanie asap.

5. Any other business

A resident noted that at the Area 8 meetings Dunkirk and Lenton is under-represented in comparison to the Meadows. The resident feels the representatives from the Meadows are very positive about their area and more of that spirit is needed in Lenton.

Laura Marano from Local Involvement Network (LINK) introduced her organisation. LINK is an independent network of local individuals, groups and organisations that work together to raise community concerns about all publicly funded health and social care services. Further information from www.strongerlocalvoice.com or by telephone 0115 9754647.

6. Date of next meeting

Monday 7th December at 6pm at Thomas Helwys Baptist Church.

Useful contacts

Dunkirk & Lenton Partnership Forum
Rose Cottage, 1a Lenton Boulevard, Lenton, Nottingham NG7 2ET
Tel 9419525
Email forum@dunkirkandlenton.co.uk

Melanie Futer, Manager off Campus Student Affairs
University of Nottingham
c/o Accommodation Office, Cherry Tree Hill, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD
Tel 24 hour neighbourhood helpline 8468666
Email Melanie.futer@nottingham.ac.uk

Mark Lawson, Performance Improvement Manager
Nottingham City Homes, 14 Hounds Gate, Nottingham NG1 7BA
Tel 9157374
Email mark.lawson@nottinghamcityhomes.org.uk

Nottingham City Council
Street Scene – rubbish, waste or recycling
Tel 9152000
Email waste.management@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottingham City Council
Lenton HMO Action Team – issues relating to houses in multiple occupation
Leonie Stewart, Neighbourhood Environmental Manager
Tel 9157538
Email Leonie.Stewart@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nottingham City Council
Traffic Management – parking, permits etc
Neighbourhood Services, Lawrence House, Talbot Street, Nottingham NG1 5NT
Tel 9156591
Email traffic.management@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Gursharan Nijran
Traffic Management – signals
Tel 9156080
Email gursharan.nijran@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Parbinder Singh, Neighbourhood Action Officer
Dunkirk and Lenton and Bridge (Area 8) Neighbourhood Mgmt
1st Floor Severns House , 20 Middle Pavement, Nottingham NG1 7DW
Tel 9158063
Mobile 07852 169252
Email Parbinder.singh@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Robert Howard
www.parkviews.org
Tel 9700369

PC Mick Barratt, Beat Manager for New Lenton
Mobile 07792 437363
Email mick.barratt@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

CPO Laura Chambers, CPO for New Lenton
Mobile 0798 3427876
Email laura.chambers@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Anti-social behaviour hotline 0115 9152020

Crimestoppers 0800 555111