

19:30 Welcome to all Zoom Attendees

Introductions

Ian Brown	Chair FCP
Doug Smith	Chair FVP
Bart MacCarthy	Treasurer FCP & FVP
Steve Thomas	Secretary FCP & FVP

Apologies

FCP Members: Helen Lentell, Bob Ball, Rob Perrin & Mags Lewis

FVP Members: Lawrence Whitaker

Non-members: Darren Evans (City Warden), Mike Cawley (Inspector, LP), Wendy Allum (FNW)

Attendees

Lisa Wileman PCSO for CP	Nick Antill
Indira Nath	Maureen
Rich Carvell	Michael Bitenicks
Jenny Westmoreland	Bebe Lane
Anthony Matthew	John Orme
Veronica Matthew	Aileen Orme
John Egley (Guest Speaker)	Jennifer Macgregor
Sally White	Emily Hall
Geoff Whittle	Gareth Oughton (CEO UoL SU)
Nick Tucker	Michael Flanigan (UoL)
Jan Moore	Jen Clegg
Su Tucker	David Roberts
Holger Krauss	Sally Williams
Danny Myers & Patrick Kitterick (Castle Ward Councillors)	

Guest Speaker

Jon Egley (Growth Hub Manager, Business Gateway Growth Hub):
"Recovering from COVID-19: supporting local businesses".

John introduced the Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) Growth Hub and its function as a central point for business support. Funding provided by the government and the EU, potentially up to 2023.

John explained many parts of the slides in his presentation contain hyperlinks to relevant parts of the LLEP website to get further information. His presentation can be accessed on the FCP website at: <https://clarrypark.org/events/fcp-public-meetings/fcp-mem-feb-2021/> Some of the key points he made included:

- Grant funding available

- Peer networks, inc. 1-2-1 mentoring and event provision
- Employment hub to assist with jobs and redundancy matters
- Digital adoption consultancy help and grant funding help, including for websites and contact management systems
- Help with innovation & to realign businesses to opportunities available
- Digital marketing inc. paid advertising and social media advice
- Support for CEOs available from experienced 'Business Champions'
- Dedicated International Trade Advisor Available to help and a longstanding funded programme of help available
- Business resilience advice available on Brexit
- Business recovery advice available for sectors struggling as a consequence of Covid
- A variety of Grants available & can help with access to them and support businesses
- Start Up Programme for new businesses available
- 10 core business advisors employed & there are 24 in total including outsourced experts and support staff
- Can signpost to a variety of wider support initiatives being run by third parties also
- Variety of workshops, webinars & events available – all accessed online
- 'Contact Us' details on final presentation slide – open invitation to get in touch with them!

Questions to John & Discussion:

- John confirmed that help may be available for community projects such as local traders or groups of traders (eg the businesses on Queens Road)
- John confirmed the Digital Growth programme is available to local businesses to help implement online marketing using a new or improved website, Twitter etc
- John confirmed any size of business can get in touch from multinationals to brand new startups

John was thanked for his very interesting and useful presentation and he signed off. He can be contacted via 07808 596867 / jon.egley@bizgateway.org.uk

Updates

City Wardens update – Darren Evans

Written update read out by Ian advised skips and scaffolding infringements are still being acted on and that any issues should be notified to him using Darren.evans@leicester.gov.uk

Police update – Lisa Wileman PCSO for CP

Arrived to cover our area in November & is very enthusiastic.

Advised that Covid taking up a lot of time including time spent in Victoria Park. Also a recent burglary operation has reduced issues in the area, offender management activity is ongoing. Liaising with Knighton area also & using social media to communicate more. Neighbourhood Link uptake is high. <https://www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk> Burglary figures are down, vehicle crime is down, robbery numbers are also down, although possibly due in part to Covid & recent lockdown. Please email Lisa with any questions using lisa.wileman6654@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk & she can help people who get in touch with getting access to Neighbourhood Link. Lisa advised vigilance in

relation to catalytic converter thefts, especially in relation to Toyota Prius models.

UoL update – Michael Flannagan

Michael showed a map of the University development and suggested residents could come on an 'open house' tour of it in due course. He showed the meeting the 3 phases of the development:
1 – the multistorey car park which is now complete (available for others to use at the weekend)
2 Nixon Court – 2 blocks – block 7 and block 8 (424 residential units) to be completed in September 2021. Teaching and Learning Centre to be finished in October – 8,000m² space
3 September 2022 – Blocks 1,2,3,4 & 5 will be completed

Progress is going well.

Freemans Cottages to be completed on schedule too.

Covid has not caused significant delays.

Questions/Discussion:

Completed teaching block is hoped to be in use from the new academic year, subject to Covid.

Discussion of safety at crossing on Welford Road – some concerns raised by Bart

UoL SU update – Gareth Oughton

Aspiration for some in person teaching to resume from 8th March 2021.

Noted that many students have returned to term addresses for a variety of reasons.

Reported Covid numbers are relatively low

Mental health service usage has been busy

Questions/Discussion:

Q – Are Covid numbers low or unknown apart from the few students that go on to campus (and are tested)? A – Reporting is important and lateral flow tests are being used on campus. Local Public Health is monitoring self-reported Covid number

Q – Will students that are yet to return be tested when they do? A – SU expectation is that government will offer lateral flow testing and that government advice will be followed

WQE update – Donna Trusler

Donna was not present and no update had been made available.

Planning

Recent planning successes

Details at <https://clarrypark.org/events/fcp-public-meetings/fcp-mem-feb-2021/>

Ian explained:

- 1 Success in helping to have a mobile phone mast and related cabinets relocated.
- 2 Assistance and advice given to resident to object to conversion of a house to flats
- 3 FCP briefing document circulated led to 53 objections being made to an application for a house to be converted to an HMO

Bart thanked Ian on behalf of the committee and local residents for his work on this.

Residents' Parking update & feedback

FCP had requested data from Leicester City Council regarding the commencement of the scheme and the take up of permits. Ian presented the data in visual form, which was followed by questions. See page 8 of PDF of slides presented, available at <https://clarrypark.org/events/fcp-public-meetings/fcp-mem-feb-2021/>

Questions & Discussion:

Parking permit costs are standard across Leicester, but it was wondered why businesses pay more than residents for a permit. Point made that we need to support and encourage our local businesses / traders.

Nick Tucker discussed the challenge parking creates for Create Studios on Hartopp Road (just outside the experimental parking zone). This included a lack of space for loading and unloading because of overspill of parking now happening out of the parking zone.

Hope was expressed that this could be discussed with Councillors and that the feedback of businesses would be considered when the parking scheme is reviewed.

Ian then presented the data for the 10 pre-implementation parking surveys completed and the dates the surveys were completed. As the data had been received the day before, further analysis of it will be undertaken soon. He also explained the planned survey schedule and regularity and locations to be surveyed. See page 10 of the PDF for full details. He also advised that only one survey had been completed so far since the scheme started on 1/2/2021. More data will be available at the time of the next meeting that will allow patterns to be identified. It was noted that from the data on parking Warning Notices given, it appears that not all streets were covered (and ticketed) every day.

Ian also shared the most 'Common Issues Raised' to the Council (see PDF page 13 for details)

Questions & Discussion:

Confirmation that 'tickets' are warnings for the first 2 weeks, and this has been extended to the first 4 weeks.

Concerns over the level of frequency of data collection & its accuracy during an unrepresentative period of time due to Covid.

Victoria Park

Doug presented on the 2 following issues:

Flooding problems & proposed remedies

Presented flood map of the park (see p.15 of meeting slides) & related photos.

Problem of prolonged heavy rainfall not draining & covering paths including outside the VP Heath Centre, and access had to be diverted to an alternative entrance. Work progressing to put in new pipe and gully to prevent future flooding as also happened last year. Planning underway to reconstruct a larger pond in the eco area and to be completed before the next winter.

Bandstand project

See PDF p.20 for indicative images and also <https://fovp-leicester.org.uk/the-bandstand/> It is to be a traditional design on a plinth with surrounding seating and will, hopefully, become a community

focal point. To be in place by the end of June 2021 and events to be organised by the local community, assuming it is safe to do so. Funding is from S106 generated from the university Freemans Common development and was identified as a high priority project in community consultations undertaken.

Answers to Questions Raised:

Location of bandstand to be in the middle of the community field.

Trees also to be planted in area to offer shade.

Location of bandstand – concerns over noise expressed – but Doug advised that is 110m from Queens Road and new trees planted will also muffle sound. Any noise problems can be dealt with appropriately if they arise.

Not to have a permanent power supply but portable supply to be made available. Intention is for it to be used by the community.

Events Teams at LCC may be responsible for bandstand bookings but details TBC and advised in due course.

Pavilion restoration ideas are being considered although it is a very large undertaking. The old bowling area to be a garden to surround it. Project once completed must be self-sufficient. More details on this available on the Friends of Victoria Park website at: <https://fovp-leicester.org.uk/the-park-pavilion/>

(Danny Myers joined the meeting)

Danny mentioned the ideas for landscaping around the Pavilion and how that could also improve the area around the large gates to the park. The bowling green area does have some plans for development and further details on this will be investigated.

The meeting then reverted to residents parking (RPZ) matters and questions raised earlier were put to Danny regarding RPZ costs and whether Warden numbers will be sufficient to cover the RPZ in the 1 hour of restrictions?

Danny advised that the 1 hr restriction is aimed so as not to damage businesses. He is keen for businesses to benefit and noted that the outcome of the experiment needs to be reviewed

Nick Tucker spoke to Danny Myers re Create Studios situation and needs regarding loading and unloading and worries about lost bookings. Danny advised that the scheme is intended to free up parking spaces and this will be kept in mind re the possibility of extending it to include Hartopp Road and possibly beyond. Nick said he thought the RPZ is a great idea but should be extended – Danny suggested we wait and see how the experiment goes and said he is confident/hopeful that any extension of the RPZ might help Create Studios.

(Patrick Kitterick joined the meeting)

Patrick offered the tip that if you are genuinely loading and unloading you won't be issued with a parking ticket.

The following question was asked in AOB at the end of the meeting, but noting of it best fits here. Bebe Lane asked the Councillors whether there are enough parking wardens to cover the restricted area [in the hour of restrictions], or do they only cover a section of the area each day?

Patrick answered that he doesn't know their particular movements but advised that traffic wardens

are deployed tactically. He also advised that residents should advise him, Danny, or Deborah of any persistent problem areas for them to be asked to target. He suggested that usually a second ticket will end repeat offenders. Wardens will be deployed based on the number of transgressions, but given commuters have regular habits, they will soon get the message and move on.

Events

Update on recent events attended by FCP and future events and meetings pending (see PDF p.26 for list). No Ward meetings currently scheduled.

Licensing

The Verandah (was Rosebud) has transferred over and now has licence

Port & Nata (was Jones) has transferred over and now has licence

Knighton Convenience Store – has applied for and been granted an alcohol licence

Hesi Local - has applied for and been granted a new alcohol licence

Consultations

LCC – Draft Leicester Local Plan 2020 (closed 07 Dec 2020)

LCC – Smart Information Bus Stops (closes 19 Feb 2020)

This is not a public consultation, but Ian can share info on it to anyone interested. Potential issue regarding the size and type of display.

Projects

Student Communications – Farewell Letter will be posted online and shared via social media rather than printed and hand delivered (due to Covid-19 restrictions).

Any Other Business

FCP – our areas of activity

Ian outlined the FCP Committee's plans to circulate a document or questionnaire to consult and seek the opinions of members on desired areas for future FCP activity at the next Members meeting.

MemberMojo – roll out

This has been delayed but testing is now complete and members will start receiving emails regarding FCP membership renewals around the start of March – please look out for them.

Bike Stations

It was mentioned by Patrick Kitterick that there is a potential contradiction between installing (hire)



FCP & FVP Members Meeting (Zoom)
7:30-9:30pm 11/02/2021
Minutes



bike stations in CP and the RPZ scheme – the desire would be to avoid encouraging commuting from those outside CP driving to the area to then cycle into town.

Electric Bike Scheme

This is currently being tested and Danny Myers is participant. Danny advised that hopefully the scheme will be ready for the spring, but dependant on feedback. Nearest scheme base to be on Lancaster Road; other locations are possible.

Electric Car Charging Points

Patrick advised that this is at a reasonably advanced stage and there are firm proposals being considered for locations and it is going through the Council currently. The parking changes needed (that will surround the charging stations) will need to be advertised.

Bart and Ian thanked all attendees, and the Zoom meeting ended.