



Website: www.leasowecommunitycentre.co.uk

Leasowe Play Youth & Community Association

Registered Charity Number **702959**

Leasowe Community Centre, Twickenham Drive,
Leasowe, Wirral. CH46 1PF

Tel: 0151-691-1595

JMC MEETING

Held on Wednesday 3rd April 2014

Members Present

Jane Davies, Paul Townley, Sheila Henry, Pauline Murphy, Tina Amis, Emma Hopwood, Councillors Ron Abbey, Anita Leech & Ian Lewis, Iris Coates Ken Williams, Mandy Connor, Roy Sheriff & Lesley May

Apologies

Sandra Camello, Victoria Clarke, Mary Quigg, Jenni Jones (Roy Sheriff attended in her absence)

Minutes of Last Meeting

These had been circulated and were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Matters Arising

Iris Coates thought that a digital safe was a good idea and if anything was happening about it. Paul Townley said that he had been pricing them. Emma still wants, in writing from the Council, clarification on the legal responsibility of people involved with Health and Safety of the building and is to email Simon at the Council. Sheila said she would invite Simon to the Centre for coffee, where he can talk through people's concerns.

Ron Abbey wanted to send his apologies for future meetings that he may not be able to attend due to Merseytravel rescheduling their meetings to a Thursday.

Correspondence

Paul had received an email from Vicky Clarke saying that the Reading Organisation had their funding withdrawn.

Treasurer

Paul reported that the balances were

Current Account = £18,629.32 Savings Account = £34,785.79

Minibus Account = £2,764.09

Paul was in the process of finalising the accounts for the end of the financial year. As there has not been much activity on the accounts it could mean bringing the AGM forward to September. He was also looking into the feasibility of including a 'Donate' button on the website.

The work of the cleaners was still poor, despite warnings. They were contracted for 2 hours a day but rarely worked more than 20 minutes. It was decided to appoint new cleaners. Emma asked if the cleaning contract be open to all people.

Reports

Discussions regarding the Unity in The Community and the Youth Zone had been included in this meeting and Jane was conscious of the time and asked if the other reports could be brief

Senior Playleader

No Report

Youth Society

New volunteers had been found, some local parents and some from outside the area, trained. It was hoped that the Society would start operating on a Monday night very soon. The Society had won an award for its work from the Youth Federation

Art Club

Iris had 5/6 members off sick so was, temporarily, short on numbers. Local Art Clubs had been approached on displaying paintings to celebrate the Century Anniversary of World War one. Only Iris's club had been interested. Their paintings will be displayed at St. Chad's hall at the beginning of August (Date to be advised)

Autumn Club

Tina reported that more people were attending the Club and this year they had been having themed events. A successful St Patrick's event had taken place and they were now gearing up for St George's event. Chris McGovern was starting to give 'Chair Exercise' sessions. There would be a Fun Day and in May they were holding a Tea Dance. Pauline asked if something could be done to prevent the smell of cooking wafting through to 7Waves radio. This is due to poor ventilation in the kitchen, Emma said the vents need to be bigger.

7Waves radio

Due to the partnership with Mersey Media, Pauline reported that for the first time in many years the radio's finance were in a plus situation

Men's Fit Club

Ken reported that they had been through a period of members being away due to holidays and sickness but they were now back to strength. He thanked Emma for her help in finding new members for the Club

Councillors Reports

Ron Abbey

There was a serious situation regarding the Homes and Community Association. It had been going on for two years but it had now reached a critical point and there was a possibility it could end in court. Ron was still waiting for information

Anita Leech

The local schools had been very successful with their 'Litter Pick'. There was now a long term loan of 11 litter pickers. The Council had been asked to provide more bins for Kingham Close. Tranmere Rovers had applied to use the Solar Campus for their training area and the planning application would be in June. The footpath will not be affected and the grounds have 60 spaces for car parking so it should not affect local roads & residents. Anita was still working with parents and children with regards to the Moreton Day Centre. Charity for Troy is over one thousand pounds and Hollyoaks are holding a Charity Football match to swell funds. The bin contract has changed to Van Nuttall

Ian Lewis

The car park for the Allotments and Boxing Club had been resurfaced. BT were working on speeding up their poor fibre optic broadband service in the area. Ian was meeting with the Police and Premier Estates regarding the anti-social behaviour in Kingham Close. Leasowe Community Homes day to day business has been put back due to the remodelling of the back shops. For those struggling due to the bed tax £180,000 was available with a turn round of a couple of days. Ian was doing a sponsored abseil for charity

Other Reports

Dianthus

Mandy was leaving and moving to the Birkenhead Youth Society but she would still be working with Tina and be involved in the estate,

WBC

Sheila had reported the grass in front of the building and the repairs needed to the shed and this would be sorted. She was wading through the points highlighted by the Housekeeping Meeting and hoped to have covered everything by the end of April. Due to problems with the Council the proposed filming had not taken place in Leasowe but had been moved to Rock Ferry but the sum of £500 had been sent to Leasowe and been equally split between JMC, who had donated it to the Youth Society, and 7Waves radio.

Leasowe Development Trust

Roy reported that they were credit canvassing the estate to try to highlight people who needed help and support but were not aware of the help they could receive. The International Business Festival was taking place in July at Mann Island, Liverpool and Leasowe would be the hub for the exhibition. A Wirral Art Exhibition would be taking place in Leasowe.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Friday 15th May 2014 at 10.30am in the Leasowe Community Centre

Unity in the Community

Extract from Wirral Borough Council's Website

'The Localism Act 2011 introduced new powers for communities to have a bigger say on the planning policies that operate within their areas.

Community groups wishing to use the new powers must make a formal application to the Council to be designated as a Neighbourhood Planning Forum, subject to a number of legal conditions. The Council must publish and consult on the application. If approved, the Neighbourhood Planning Forum must then draw up their proposals, in line with the Localism Act and National Regulations, including community consultation.

Once complete, their proposals must be submitted to the Council for public examination and voted on in a local referendum before they can be brought into legal effect by Council resolution.

Current Consultations

Application for a Neighbourhood Planning Forum for Leasowe

Unity in Our Community has applied to be formally designated as the Neighbourhood Planning Forum for Leasowe.

The Council is seeking comments on their application from residents and other interested stakeholders.

The application documents and the proposed Neighbourhood Area boundary can be viewed below:

Notice of Consultation

Neighbourhood Forum Application Letter

Proposed Neighbourhood Forum Constitution

Proposed Neighbourhood Area Boundary

Any comments on the application should be made in writing to the Forward Planning Service, Regeneration and Planning, North Annexe, Town Hall, Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED or by email to robertoates@wirral.gov.uk and **must arrive no later than 5pm on Wednesday 30 April 2014**

Further information on the Council's decision to consult on the application can be viewed [here](#).

If the Council agrees to designate Unity in Our Community, no other organisation or body may be designated for that neighbourhood area until that designation expires or is withdrawn and any proposals that Unity in Our Community may prepare for the area will need to be subject to public consultation, independent examination and local referendum before they would be able to come into force.

Discussion at JMC Meeting

Rob Oates and Andy Frasier from Wirral Council were in attendance to explain about the Neighbourhood Planning Forum that allowed people an involvement in their local planning, and to ask answer any questions. A local forum is set up, the cut-off date being 30th April. Legally there has to be a minimum of 21 people on the forum. Anyone can be on the forum if they either live, work or represent the community. The Unity in the Community forum that have applied to the Council to represent Leasowe has 24 members. The Strategic panel have the right to refuse a member. The forum will submit plans and planning proposals to the Council. These plans will

be checked by an Independent Examiner then they are sent to a local referendum if agreed then they have to be implemented by the Council. Negotiation will be possible.

Members of the JMC were concerned that there had been little advertising of the forum and most members were unaware what had been happening and as the cut-off date was 30th April it was too late for them to become involved.

Roy Sheriff, as Chief Executive of the Leasowe Development Trust, apologised that the JMC did not know about the forum the four meetings that had been held. These meetings had been attended by between 30 – 50 people. The meetings had been advertised by posters sent around the area and posters had been sent to the Community Centre. He was under the impression that the JMC were aware of the Forum. Ron Abbey said that it had been in the local papers. No one from the Centre could remember receiving the posters but Roy said that he was confident posters had been sent to the right places.

As the JMC is the 'hub' committee which links the organisations, committee's etc in Leasowe together, so there can be a central point of reference, it was felt that an effort should have been made ensure the JMC aware of what was happening. Jane Davies was upset, as it was not the first time that important information about things happening in the local area had not been known by the JMC and asked if this omission could be looked into. Jenni Jones, from the Leasowe Development Trust, sits on the committee, but had not mentioned it and Sheila Henry, who works for the Council, was unaware of the forum. Ian said that the first time he had heard of it was when he recently saw it on the Councils website, Paul Townley asked, if in the future, he could be used as the point of contact for the JMC. He would then circulate the information by an email to members.

Pauline asked if the JMC could have a list of who was on the forum and who makes the decisions. Jane asked if a member from the JMC could sit on the forum. Ian Lewis asked what the Forum could do that can't be done now. He was told that it would give the local community powers to allocate land, or not and it will give them a say on planning in area's (the planning has to be legal and broadly in line with the Council's plans). He also asked that if a plan was made to build on land subject to flooding would the building plan override the flood warning, He was told that liaison would take place with the Environmental Department who would advise. Jane asked if more money would now be available but was told no more money was involved, just advice. Roy was asked if the JMC could see the minutes of the meetings that had taken place but, as the meetings were only briefings Roy said that no minutes had been taken.

Rob Oates and Andy Frazier were thanked for their help and time and opted to leave the meeting

Youth Zone

Dawn Tolcher had been asked to attend the meeting to explain about the decision to build a Youth Zone in Birkenhead.

She explained that the Youth Zone was not intended to replace or detract from the current good work for young people taking place in Wirral but to enhance it. There is a lack of good facilities for the young nationwide and a lot of people were not accessing the sports/social opportunities available. This had been true in Bolton and £5 million had been raised and used to create the first Youth Zone. The effects had been amazing and 5 more Zones had been set up in the North West. When the Wigan Zone opened it attracted 600 people in the first week and was now attended by 100 people plus most nights.

Wirral Council had given £2 million to the Birkenhead Zone and it had attracted local business funding. Cammell Lairds were driving the project with Peter Bibby and Peel Holdings also investing. The Fire Service had donated land for the building.

The Youth Zone would offer a variety of top quality facilities, up to 20 different activities each night. This means that groups of people with varying interests could go together to the Zone. There had been a briefing at Woodchurch to find out what the 14 to 19 years olds wanted and what the parents would like – sometimes their views differed from the youngsters and it was a case of trying to piece things together. People had been disillusioned about youth facilities because usually when the Council make cuts the first thing to be affected were youth facilities, play leaders etc.

Jane was concerned about the costs of travel and any territorial rights. Sheila was worried that problems would occur if buses became full. Ron said that Merseytravel were looking into what transport was required and a way of providing cheaper fares but there was no quick easy fix. Emma said that sometimes things were better when people were not in their local area and young people should be encouraged to go out of the area. Pauline was worried about facilities being duplicated -Dawn said existing services and the Zone would work together. Roy was worried that when public and private money were mixed private money usually won and this could be reflected in the pricing costs of the facilities – Dawn said that a set Pricing policy would be drawn up.

The Youth Zone would create 30 full time and 20 part time jobs. These would be new jobs for people and existing employees of the Council would not fill these roles. The police had been consulted and they were keen to find resources for the Zone as it would hopefully cut down the trouble in the streets.