

# meeting notes

**Title:** Long Eaton and South Community Forum

**Date:** Wednesday 19 February 2014

**Venue:** Long Eaton Town Hall

**Apologies:** Councillor Clare Neill

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<p><b>Welcome from the Chair</b> (Mike Powell)            Mike Powell (MP) welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p><b>Plans for West Park in 2014</b></p>	
2.1	<p>MP introduced Dave Bramwell (DB), Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council to explain the work completed previously and the plans for West Park during 2014.</p>	
2.2	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In 2005 Erewash Borough Council's Green Space and Street Scene teams were integrated. The team manage over 1,000 pieces of Erewash Borough Council owned land and amenity maintenance for Derbyshire County Council. There are 101 parks and open spaces covering 260 hectares (650 acres) of land. The two main parks are Victoria Park and West Park. The decision was taken to focus on Victoria Park initially and three years of work resulted in the achievement of a Green Flag award for the park. This is a national award that deems the park to be in the best 3% of all parks nationally. The Green Flag criteria are to be applied to West Park. West Park is the biggest park in the Erewash borough at 127 acres (compared to Victoria Park's 8 acres).</p>	
2.3	<p><u>Green Flag Standards</u></p> <p>There are eight key criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A welcoming place;</li> <li>• Healthy, safe and secure;</li> <li>• Clean and well maintained;</li> <li>• Sustainability;</li> <li>• Conservation and heritage;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community involvement;</li> <li>• Marketing;</li> <li>• Management.</li> </ul>	
2.4	<p><u>Community involvement and consultation</u></p> <p>The main consultee when considering future works on West Park is the volunteer group The Friends of West Park. Other residents are also invited to take part in the consultative process. For example, local schools may be involved in works that are particularly for the benefit of young people.</p>	
2.5	<p><u>Master Plan</u></p> <p>The Master Plan is available to download via the Erewash Borough Council website. It documents everything that the council wish to achieve over the next five years.</p> <p><a href="http://www.erewash.gov.uk/media/files/Erewash_in_Bloom/West_Park_Master_Plan_2014.pdf">http://www.erewash.gov.uk/media/files/Erewash_in_Bloom/West_Park_Master_Plan_2014.pdf</a></p>	
2.6	<p><u>Gateways</u></p> <p>The original gates are from the 1700s. The gates were vandalised a couple of years ago. Each access point to the park is being gradually revamped.</p>	
2.7	<p><u>Main entrance</u></p> <p>The gate at the main entrance is known as the 'Butterfly Gate'. Three schools took part in a competition to design the gate. Their separate entries were amalgamated by an artist to come up with the final design that we see today.</p>	
2.8	<p><u>Shelters</u></p> <p>This is the original fish pond shelter from Aston Hall. The picture on the left shows the condition of the shelter as it was in 2012. The picture on the right shows the shelter today following the completion of restoration work.</p>	
2.9	<p><u>Original bowls pavilion</u></p> <p>The picture on the left shows the building in a poor state due to numerous incidents of vandalism over the years. Erewash Borough Council has invested money to restore the building following consultation with bowlers and the Friends of West Park. The building's interior is not used at the moment. We are open to suggestions as to what it could be used for in the future. For example, it might be used to house a display about the history of West Park.</p>	
2.10	<p><u>National Cycleway</u></p> <p>The picture in this first slide shows that the surface was not good for cyclists. Erewash Borough Council's Planning Team was able to secure £150,000 of funding that enabled us to resurface the</p>	

	pathways all the way through the park. A National Cycle Route runs through the park.	
2.11	<p><u>Tennis court fencing</u></p> <p>The picture on the left shows the fencing in a state of disrepair and the picture on the right shows the fencing after repair work has been completed (together with the resurfaced pathway).</p>	
2.12	<p><u>Boundary fencing</u></p> <p>The boundary fencing towards the bottom of park, adjacent to the canal, was a tricky issue. There was a public safety issue in terms of gaps in this fencing meaning people were not barricaded from the canal. Erewash Borough Council believes this area to be the responsibility of a different agency but, given the public safety concerns, the fencing was reinstated by Erewash Borough Council as a one-off gesture.</p>	
2.13	<p><u>Bridges</u></p> <p>All bridges within the park have been tested to ensure that they are structurally sound. Where reinstated, as in the example in the right-hand picture, a Victorian style has been used. The use of railings instead of solid brickwork means that, in times of flood, the flood water can flow straight through it. The design is inspired by the gates that we saw earlier.</p>	
2.14	<p><u>Bandstand</u></p> <p>Again, a black and gold colour theme has been introduced on repainting.</p>	
2.15	<p><u>Bins and benches</u></p> <p>We are still working on replacing these. There are 30 or so of them on the park. New locations have been chosen for some of them in consultation with the Friends of West Park. We have looked to make them more accessible, including an accessible picnic bench for wheelchair users. The benches are of a similar Victorian style to other park features. Bins and benches have not been upgraded in the floral garden part of the park yet as this area is still to be redeveloped (more details in a moment).</p>	
2.16	<p><u>Wheeled sports area</u></p> <p>Young people asked for this facility. Historically there were issues in Long Eaton town centre near to Tesco and Asda, and along Waverley Street, where young people skated on the car parks. Funding for this facility came from Erewash Borough Council, the Erewash Youth Forum and developers. A group of young people took part in the facility's opening event, as can be seen in the photograph. The problems mentioned that took place in the town centre have dramatically reduced.</p>	
2.17	<p><u>West Perk Café</u></p>	

	<p>There is an agreement in place so that the café is now open at weekends and in school holidays. There will be more consistency with the café's opening hours. There has been some repair work completed to the building. The café should be successful given its proximity to the Splashpad next door.</p>	
2.18	<p><u>Splashpad</u></p> <p>This was developed in consultation with young people and people with disabilities. It cost a total of £140,000, with just £17,000 of this contributed by Erewash Borough Council. Money was provided by the Aiming High grant in the main. It is probably the single most successful feature in terms of bringing families on to the park.</p>	
2.19	<p><u>Sports</u></p> <p>A number of different sports have traditionally been played within the park, including but not exclusively cricket, football, rugby and bowls. Improvement works have taken place to improve the facilities for Riverside Football Club, for example. The bowling greens have been levelled. Long Eaton Rugby Club is this year looking to spend £230,000 on building an extension to their facilities. The rugby pitches have been realigned.</p>	
2.20	<p><u>Outdoor gym</u></p> <p>The installation of the outdoor gym can be credited to a lady called Sheila, one of the original Friends of West Park. Sheila completed 17 bids in total and was finally successful in obtaining the finance to purchase the equipment.</p>	
2.21	<p><u>Trees</u></p> <p>All the tree work from the 2013 tree programme is now completed. All tree felling is now completed. The trees in the picture are American elm trees. They are resistant to the Dutch elm beetle. We have a new planting programme at the bonfire site.</p>	
2.22	<p><u>Planet Garden</u></p> <p>This is a new project. We have completed shrub bed works so we are now replanting. There is still some work to do. We have adopted a theme of the nine planets (in the flower beds, with each design being linked to one of the planets). We are looking at introducing all year round colours. 7 of the 9 'planets' are externally funded. We will look to introduce seating around this area. It will be an educational resource. The Long Eaton School's telescope resource can also link into this. We will install an interpretation panel.</p>	
2.23	<p><u>Landscaping – riverside planting</u></p> <p>There are four parts to this project. We have completed the tree planting part. We will be completing the riverside planting in the spring.</p>	

2.24	<p><u>Landscaping – Floral Garden</u></p> <p>This area is at the top of the park. We have a couple of ideas for how we can create more interest in the floral garden. For example, young people from local schools are working on a new central sculpture feature.</p>	
2.25	<p><u>Signage</u></p> <p>Again, it's a style similar to other features in that we will continue the black and gold theme. Interpretation boards will be installed in 6 or 7 locations.</p>	
2.26	<p><u>Fox Covert – a Local Nature Reserve</u></p> <p>We are working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England to write a Management Plan that will cover the next ten years. It will be available on the Erewash Borough Council website soon.</p>	
2.27	<p><u>Schools</u></p> <p>We have installed a new mural at the bottom of the park. Local schools have worked on it. The floral design shown in the photograph on the left was designed by the pupils. They picked the design and the flowers. Including young people in this way gives them ownership of their local park.</p>	
2.28	<p><u>Future plans</u></p> <p>We will complete a tree survey in 2014. There will be some more poplar trees taken out. We have an excellent planting programme planned for the autumn of this year. We are identifying locations for new trees. This is a key project. We are about 20 to 30 years behind on our tree replacement programme.</p> <p>At the Broad Street bridge end of the park we are looking to take the old tarmac away when the weather is suitable. We will work with the Friends of West Park on this.</p> <p>We will continue to increase our partnership work with local schools with projects aligned to the national curriculum.</p> <p>Art in the park is something I'm particularly passionate about. For example, I'd like to see many different forms of paintings, stone sculpture, etc.</p> <p>Marketing activities need to be enhanced. A lot of local residents don't know where the park is, even people from Ilkeston. We need to show people what West Park has to offer and divert them from trips to Markeaton Park in Derby and Wollaton Park in Nottingham.</p> <p>In terms of events we will look to introduce an activities</p>	

	<p>programme, probably starting in 2015. We will focus some activities around the Splashpad and the café area, for example a bouncy castle. We will make better use of the bandstand, for example by inviting local musical groups to use the facility.</p> <p>Ultimately, all of this work is going towards obtaining Green Flag status for the park.</p>	
2.29	<p><u>The Friends of West Park</u></p> <p>MP thanked DB for his presentation and passed to Paul Marsden (PM), Chair of the Friends of West Park to say a few words about the volunteer group.</p> <p>PM explained that he had been Chair of the Friends of West Park from May 2012. The group was formed in 2006. The group's aims and objectives include increasing attendance at the park, its quality and its accessibility.</p> <p>The group complete fundraising for the benefit of the park, for example to raise funds for the exercise equipment previously described. The group's next project is in the north east corner of the park by the canal. The aim is to introduce a low maintenance garden incorporating a shelter for older generations, plus a couple of park benches. The drawback to this plan is the current lack of access to the park via the Leopold Street entrance which is blocked. The Friends of West Park would like to see this entrance re-opened.</p> <p>PM explained that on joining the Friends group he had a concern regarding the absence of communication on the trees and shrub works. The Friends group would prefer to see the clearance of trees slowed down to the point where replacements can be planted as others are removed. As it stands one or two generations will miss out whilst the new trees grow.</p> <p>The park is terrifically well used. The various sports clubs complete a lot of activity on the park.</p> <p>We need to support the park. We have lots of new housing developments in the immediate area. The park is there to service them.</p> <p>If you wish to join the Friends of West Park we have information available with our contact details. These include the dates of our meetings. All our meetings are held at West Park Leisure Centre. We meet once every two months.</p> <p><a href="http://www.erewash.gov.uk/culture-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/west-park-friends-group.html">http://www.erewash.gov.uk/culture-leisure/parks-and-open-spaces/west-park-friends-group.html</a></p>	
2.30	<p><i>Question received in advance from resident:</i></p> <p>In response to the current request for suggestions as to how West Park can be improved, I feel obliged to point out that the overwhelmingly obvious enhancement that could be carried out would be to lay a tarmac path from the Thoresby Road entrance to join at some point with that leading to the children's</p>	

	<p>playground.</p> <p>Several local residents have mentioned how the muddy state of the field prevents them going on to the park. The alternative route round by West Park Leisure Centre adds about 700 yards and makes it too far for many people.</p> <p>Moreover, there is a ramped edge to the pavement at the Thoresby Road entrance so as to facilitate access for the disabled, etc, but immediately inside the park there is no path, just a quagmire of mud. Of course, there is a school for the disabled at the end of the road and when the weather is reasonable I have often seen the staff taking some of the children around the park, which necessitates the 700 yards diversion round West Park Leisure Centre. This does not comply with the recent disability access legislation and if West Park is to obtain the Green Flag accreditation, then I would imagine that this oversight would have to be remedied.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p> <p>The access point at Thoresby Road is narrow. It would be lovely to put a new bridge in but we would have to raise the money. A new path would cost tens of thousands of pounds. The desire line would cut across the area we have identified for sports facilities. There will be no work of the type requested for at least the next couple of years.</p>	
2.31	<p><i>Comment from resident:</i></p> <p>I am concerned about the removal of poplar trees.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p> <p>The tree planting around the bonfire site has a woodland theme. The tree surveys monitor the health of the trees on the park. The main issue is the age of the trees. We look to plant the native trees to England in the park. Poplar trees typically live 60 to 80 years and West Park's are 90 years old. We have had some previous incidents with structural damage to these trees.</p>	
2.32	<p><i>Comment from resident:</i></p> <p>There are no toilets open on the park during the day. This may be a particular issue for older generations.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p> <p>The toilet facilities at the bottom of the park near the bowling green have been closed for a number of years. The toilets near Wilsthorpe Road were vandalised repeatedly and subsequently closed. We have got some near the café but they too are vandalised a lot. This area is our central gathering point and so a good location for toilets. We have also got toilets at West Park Leisure Centre. We have no plans to reopen or build new toilets. We will try and install vandal proof equipment in toilets where possible.</p>	

	<p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> We had not had any significant vandalism issues reported in relation to West Park. We do typically see an increase in incidents in the summer months.</p>	
2.33	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Can you please provide an update on the position regarding the event field? What is the timescale for improvements to this area?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> There isn't a timescale at the moment. Work in this area will be towards the back end of the process. We will look to ensure that any work doesn't conflict with summer time events. It is likely to take place in the next couple of years.</p>	
2.34	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> The canal end of the park is badly waterlogged. Are there any plans to install drainage? My second point is that the bonfire area is a bit unsightly. Can it be screened?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> In terms of drainage we will look to drain the area into the Golden Brook. We require permissions from the Environment Agency. We are hoping to have another football pitch down there. There will be some tree planting in this area too.</p> <p>Regarding the bonfire site it saves money to tip vegetation in to one place. When the winter maintenance work is finished in March we will tidy it up. This is particularly important as the park begins to increase its visitor numbers from this time of year.</p>	
2.35	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> The Ranger has spent some time on the park and is situated in the rugby club building. With vandalism tending to be near the café area, could he be relocated to this central area?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Unfortunately there are no appropriate facilities to house this person at this location (there are changing room and toilets). The café is a private business. My team monitor the whole of the park. We do dedicate someone in the summer months due to visitor numbers. Hopefully visitors also provide natural surveillance.</p> <p><i>Question from resident #2:</i> Since the dedicated person was taken away the vandalism seems to have got worse.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> £10,000 of damage to the park's lighting columns occurred when we had a full time ranger.</p>	



	<p><i>Councillor Daniel Walton:</i> My father was a park ranger on West Park. He would leave the bowls pavilion at 9pm to come back the following morning and find it vandalised.</p>	
2.36	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Why not consider moving the children’s playground equipment in Trent Meadows, which is very, very underused, to West Park? Its position in Trent Meadows is most unsuitable.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We have no plans to move it or any other play area. A survey of all of the key locations for our playgrounds across the borough has previously been completed. Our playgrounds tend to be adjacent to housing estates. We completed some consultation with local residents two to three years ago and there was a strong feeling that the playground be kept at Trent Meadows. I think the site has potential to be developed as a local nature reserve given its proximity to Attenborough Nature Reserve. There are other works of this nature to complete first (for example, at Straws Bridge in West Hallam) before we can look at Trent Meadows.</p> <p><i>Question from resident #2:</i> The recent rains have washed soil on to pathway at Trent Meadows. Can the soil be cleared, for example, by people engaging in community work?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> We do work with the probation service, for example at Pioneer Meadows in Kirk Hallam. Something can be done, definitely.</p>	
2.37	<p><i>Comment from the Chair:</i> I think it’s appropriate that we cover the issue of the Leopold Street access point to West Park at this juncture. This is a long running issue and I’d like to refer to a communication received from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer from Derbyshire County Council on 13 February 2014:</p> <p>“You might recall that we received objections during the Public Notice period for a Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) to add the path between Leopold Street and West Park as a Public Right of Way. Those objections were not withdrawn and Legal Officers are currently in the process of packaging the matter off to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Once the Inspectorate has received the paperwork they will choose whether to decide the matter by means of <b>a)</b> written representations, <b>b)</b> a hearing or <b>c)</b> a public enquiry; they will then get back to us with an offer date for this to happen. Judging by other cases we have recently sent to them, we anticipate that the Inspectorate will probably come back with a date either at the end of 2014 or, more likely, the beginning of 2015.”</p>	

	<p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> It is a very laborious legal process. I will continue to update the Forum as and when progress is made.</p> <p><i>Comment from resident #2:</i> This was the situation at least six months ago. Locals know it's a Right of Way and has been for 100 or so years. There has been a suggestion to move the gate on to the council land (i.e. West Park) for the council to lock the gate at night.</p> <p><i>Further comment from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council received on 27.02.14:</i> The route is not currently listed on the Definitive Map &amp; Statement (legal document) as a Public Right of Way. Historically, an agreement was made in 1915 between the council and landowners for the route to be used by the public. Essentially this was an informal agreement and in itself not sufficient to claim public rights over the footpath, hence the need for this process.</p> <p><i>Councillor Roland Hosker:</i> Any appeals could take up to a year. The owners of the Harrington factory are against the gates being opened.</p> <p><i>Further response from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council received on 12.03.14:</i> I have received confirmation that the matter has now been forwarded to the Planning Inspectorate. In due course the Inspectorate will arrange a means of deciding the matter (as stated at the last Forum); either by way of a public inquiry, a hearing or an exchange of written representations.</p>	
2.38	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Could we bring back the West Park railway?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The railway existed pre the flood scheme. It was removed in 1976 with the flood scheme being introduced after the 1977 floods. Some of original railway can still be seen near the bonfire site. We have the practical problem of how we would protect a steam train if the area floods. One option is to perhaps have a land train?</p>	
2.39	<p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> The Friends of West Park get involved in lots of good projects and I would encourage people to get in touch with them.</p>	
2.40	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> There is nothing in the plan regarding the number of pitches to be included in the park.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i></p>	

	This is a piece of work we have to finish. I have to think of all the different users of the park.	
2.41	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Wouldn't it be good to include exercise units within the park?</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> As mentioned previously there are ten pieces of gym equipment positioned at various points on a mile and a half lap. They are designed to be used by all age groups and abilities.</p>	
2.42	MP thanked DB for his presentation.	
3	<b>Long Eaton Cycle Safety Scheme</b>	
3.1	<p>MP introduced Paul Jameson (PJ), Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council to deliver an update on the latest news regarding the proposed cycle safety scheme for Long Eaton.</p> <p>MP explained that the discussion was to be an update on the democratic process and not whether the proposal was a good idea or a bad idea. Derbyshire County Council has obtained £400,000 funding from Sustrans and identified a further £200,000 of Derbyshire County Council money for the scheme. It is to cover the road network from the Wilsthorpe island to the Long Eaton boundary on Nottingham Road. This route has recorded a higher than average number of cycle related accidents.</p> <p>There are two elements; to remove and replace the Long Eaton Green roundabout with a junction with traffic lights, and to alter the pedestrian crossing arrangements along the route. Two exhibitions detailing the plans have been hosted by Derbyshire County Council within Long Eaton Town Hall.</p>	
3.2	<p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> There has been a good level of response to the public consultation and the two public exhibitions – held at the Town Hall – were well attended.</p> <p>The results of the consultation have been discussed with the Local Members and officers are now compiling a report to be considered by the Cabinet Member – Jobs, Economy &amp; Transport. This will include the officer's recommendations on a way forward.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the report will go to a Cabinet Member meeting at the end of March. Reports are posted on the DCC website, usually one week in advance of the meetings. Anyone wishing to view the report in advance of the meeting can visit our website – <a href="http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk">www.derbyshire.gov.uk</a> – and highlight 'Your Council', click through 'meetings and decisions', 'meetings' 'Cabinet</p>	

	<p>Member Portfolio' and then 'Jobs, Economy and Transport'. A link will be provided to Ian Marsden to include in the notes.</p> <p>It will be up to the Cabinet Member whether to support the officer's recommendations or not.</p> <p><i>Below is the link to the relevant section of the website. Apologies for the size of the text in the link (reduced to ensure it fits on one line).</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/meetings_decisions/meetings/cabinet_member_portfolio/jobs_economy_transport/default.asp">http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/meetings_decisions/meetings/cabinet_member_portfolio/jobs_economy_transport/default.asp</a></p> <p><i>Update from Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council on 13/03/14:</i> I am advised that the report has been delayed and will now be considered at a Cabinet Member meeting at the end of April, as opposed to March as originally anticipated.</p>	
3.3	<p><i>Comment from the Chair:</i> It's my understanding that this is a public meeting and therefore that the public can attend. You can make representations to your local county councillor.</p>	
3.4	<p><i>Councillor Roland Hosker:</i> I don't like the proposals. I, along with Councillor Clare Neill, met with the county council's Cabinet member Joan Dixon to show her the area. Though we cannot be sure of the outcome at this stage I'm hopeful that the officer's recommendations will be ones that will please the people of Long Eaton.</p>	
3.5	<p><i>Question from resident:</i> Has there been any attempt to work out where cyclists start and end their journey, to work out the most appropriate route?</p> <p><i>Paul Jameson, Local Area Forums Liaison Officer, Derbyshire County Council:</i> I don't know, but I would be surprised if we haven't done this. I will check this and report back via the meeting's notes.</p> <p><i>Comment from resident #2:</i> I am a lead campaigner against this proposal. The community has rallied around to campaign against this plan. Such has been the response that we are looking to establish a civic society for Long Eaton. The first meeting will be in March 2014. Please see me at the end of the meeting for further details.</p>	Paul Jameson to check and report back via meeting notes
4	<b>Long Eaton Townscape Heritage Initiative Project</b>	
4.1	MP introduced Ian Marsden (IM), Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council to explain about the latest developments regarding the Long Eaton Townscape Heritage Initiative Project.	
4.2	IM explained that the Long Eaton Townscape Heritage Initiative (LETHI) project is now drawing to a close. The grant was successfully secured for the five-year project back in 2008.	

4.3	IM explained that there are a number of historical buildings and features within Long Eaton that have received works during the project's lifetime, and these are detailed in two booklets available to take away; the 'celebration of grant-funded projects' and the 'self-guided walk'.	
4.4	IM also explained that, as part of the requirements of the grant funding, an evaluation of the project has to take place. Part of this evaluation includes obtaining feedback from the town's residents. IM encouraged the meeting's attendees to take away one of the paper surveys to complete in their own time, together with a postage paid envelope within which they could return it by no later than Friday 21 March 2014.	
5	<b>Questions for officers</b>	
5.1	<p><i>Question received in advance from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire</u> What is the cost per annum for the running of the Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire?</p> <p><i>Action: Ian Marsden, Consultation Officer, Erewash Borough Council e-mailed Andrew Davies, Community Engagement Officer, Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire on 28.01.14.</i></p> <p><i>A holding response was received on 10.02.14 from <a href="mailto:PCCOffice@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK">PCCOffice@Derbyshire.PNN.Police.UK</a> that stated "thank you for your communication below to Andy Davies. We will be in touch again soon".</i></p> <p><i>Response received from Andrew Davies, Community Engagement Officer, Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire on 25/02/14:</i> Andrew provided information on the Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner's budget and stated that "it has been the intention of Alan Charles (the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner) for the Derbyshire Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner to save staff and running costs of over £100,000 when compared to the costs of the pre-existing Office of the Police Authority."</p> <p>The proposed 2014/15 budget totals £1,045,100. This figure includes 33 different budget areas. The greatest totals relate to the following budget areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Staff Pay = £609,100;</li> <li>• Police Staff Superannuation = £82,500;</li> <li>• Financial contracts = £81,500;</li> <li>• Police Staff National Insurance = £54,100;</li> <li>• Media Relations = £40,000;</li> <li>• Subscriptions General = £37,000;</li> <li>• Miscellaneous Expenditure = £35,200;</li> <li>• Professional Fees = £20,000;</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professional Fees – Legal = £15,000;</li> <li>• Other Mileage (PSV) = £13,000;</li> <li>• Hire of Rooms = £10,000;</li> <li>• Rail Travel = £9,000.</li> </ul>	
5.2	<p><i>Comment from resident:</i></p> <p><u>The closure of public toilets</u> The number of public toilet facilities in the borough has been reduced. Toilet attendants have gone. Public toilets were closed during the Chestnut Fair event. No one seems to care anymore.</p> <p><i>Dave Bramwell, Head of Green Space and Street Scene, Erewash Borough Council:</i> Similar to the issues previously discussed regarding West Park’s toilets, we have had numerous repeated problems with vandalism. If there are any maintenance issues with the public toilets that are open then please report these issues to the council and I will arrange for my team to inspect them.</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i> The Asda and Tesco supermarkets are virtually open 24 hours a day and, along with the toilets adjacent to the town hall, it was felt that there was a sufficient supply of public access toilets within the town centre. Vandalism has cost the council a lot of money in the past. It costs a lot of money to employ someone to look after the toilets. I would like to see a scheme where other premises make their toilets available to the public.</p> <p>On another different yet related note, the council will soon be considering the introduction of a byelaw relating to urinating, defecating and spitting in public.</p>	
5.3	<p><i>Comment received in advance from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Long Eaton Cycle Safety Scheme proposal</u> We have a property at 102 Derby Road and can confirm that the volume of traffic passing by our property at peak times is very high. When the pedestrian crossing near to our property is activated it causes the traffic to tail back.</p> <p>The proposal to introduce five more pedestrian crossings along the Derby Road / The Green / Nottingham Road route will just add to these problems and will cause issues for the businesses in terms of customers trying to park their cars.</p> <p>I believe that the grant money available should be used to further develop the current National Cycle Route that passes through the town via West Park.</p>	
5.4	<p><i>Question from Tony Fountain of the Long Eaton Website Extra:</i></p> <p><u>Burglaries in Sawley</u> The paper has received letters, e-mails and phone calls about</p>	

	<p>the bungalow bandits in Sawley. They all ask the same question: what are the police doing about it?</p> <p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> We will look at the issues and place a response to them in the local paper along with some crime prevention advice.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i> I would encourage people to go to next Sawley Safer Neighbourhood Panel meeting that takes place on Wednesday 12 March 2014 (6pm to 7pm) at the Community Centre, Draycott Road, Sawley. Residents attending that meeting can raise these issues and potentially they can be identified as priority issues for that area.</p>	
5.5	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>HS2</u> Opposition to HS2 is growing, so much that an alliance of councils have come together to challenge the evidence about the HS2 project. They are known as “51m” because that represents how much HS2 will cost each and every parliamentary constituency; £51 million.</p> <p>Transport Minister Patrick McLoughlin has vetoed the publication of a November 2011 review by the Major Projects Authority, despite the Information Commissioner saying it should be released after Freedom of Information requests. It is believed to contain a damning report of the cost to local councils along its route, and that it would mean a hike in Council Taxes to those local people.</p> <p>What does Erewash Borough Council say about this?</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i> Erewash Borough Council responded to the HS2 consultation. Yes, we like the idea of a station being at Toton, subject to certain conditions, for example access. As a borough council we cannot affect whether HS2 goes ahead, but we can try and maximise the benefit. It hasn't been debated at borough council but as a consultation group we have said we like the business and trade but there is a list of issues that we are concerned about, such as traffic and the removal of level crossings.</p> <p><i>Resident #2:</i> HS2 will destroy Long Eaton. The removal of the level crossings will divide Long Eaton in three.</p>	
5.6	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Traffic study for Long Eaton</u> Surely a traffic study is required for Long Eaton in relation to all of these issues raised tonight (i.e. HS2, the cycle safety scheme)?</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i></p>	

	I agree. Such as study would be the responsibility of the Highways Department at Derbyshire County Council.	
5.7	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Small greenfield site, Bostocks Lane, adjacent to the north side of Junction 25 of the M1</u>  Planning permission is being sought for a new McDonald's restaurant at this location. It would be open 24 hours per day and would have a drive-in. The people living in the area do feel strongly against this application and I wanted to let the councillors know that this is the case.</p> <p><i>Councillor Steve Bilbie:</i>  I totally support the resident. I'm sure other councillors will support them too.</p> <p><i>Councillor Daniel Walton:</i>  As I sit on the council's Planning Committee I can't comment as this would be considered as pre-determination, but I will look in detail at the planning application.</p> <p><i>Councillor Chris Corbett:</i>  Tell your councillors that you object to the planning application. These comments will then be considered by the Planning Committee.</p>	
5.8	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Fire station</u>  What is the latest news regarding the future of Long Eaton Fire Station?</p> <p><i>Councillor Roland Hosker:</i>  I am Chair of Derbyshire Fire Authority. We have to make a number of cuts totalling £4.4 million over the next four years. Since the time of the last meeting I can now confirm that there will be no fire station closures in the next two years. Station closures will be a last resort. We will look at the whole package to see how savings can be made, for example changing shift patterns, or shared services such as relocating the headquarters to Derbyshire Constabulary's headquarters at Ripley. There will also be a Council Tax precept increase of 1.9% that will bring in over £400,000 of extra revenue to the Fire Authority.</p>	
5.9	<p><i>Question from resident:</i></p> <p><u>Street lights</u>  This is the second winter where certain street lights have been switched off at certain times of the day and night. Has this affected crime levels in any particular way?</p> <p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i>  Long Eaton has seen a 4% reduction in overall crime. Anti-social behaviour has reduced by 8% in Long Eaton. I understand Ilkeston has also seen a reduction in these areas.</p>	



5.10	<p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i></p> <p><u>Long Eaton Section update</u></p> <p>In the last couple of weeks we have seen an increase in vehicle crime in the College Street and Sawley areas. I would like to remind residents to lock their vehicles and ensure that no possessions are on show. We have identified some suspects and work is on-going. Since the last meeting in October 2013 an offender was placed in prison but has subsequently been released.</p> <p>I would like to remind people that free car ice scrapers can be obtained from the display table at the back of the room. The scrapers are provided by the Erewash Community Safety Partnership.</p> <p><i>Question from resident:</i> Has some of the car crime taken place on people's private driveways?</p> <p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> Yes.</p> <p>On another note, shop theft has gone up. It is 25% up in Long Eaton. We are working with retailers to improve this situation.</p> <p>We have recently completed some work on the Petersham estate, where one of the main anti-social behaviour culprits is now banned from entering the estate.</p> <p>If you have any issues you wish to discuss please get in touch via the 101 non-emergency number.</p>	
5.11	<p><i>Question from Councillor Kewal Athwal:</i></p> <p><u>Water into car locks</u> Do we have any incidents being recorded of car thieves injecting water into car door locks to override the locking mechanism?</p> <p><i>Inspector Katie Andrews, Derbyshire Constabulary:</i> There have been a couple of incidents. The main reason for car crime is vehicles being left unlocked.</p>	
5.12	The Chair closed the meeting at 8:55pm.	
	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> Tuesday 17 June 2014, 7:00pm. Council Chamber, Long Eaton Town Hall.</p>	