

meeting notes

Title: Ilkeston and North Community Forum

Date: 7pm Thursday 28 July 2016

Venue: Gladstone Lodge, Market Street, Ilkeston.

No.	Subject	Action / Lead Officer
1	<p>Welcome from the Chair and matters arising</p> <p>The Chair, Rachel Fernandez, EBC Performance and Communities Manager, welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked if there were any matters arising from the meeting notes of the previous meeting held on 18 January 2016, none were identified.</p>	
2.	<p>Police Update</p> <p>Representatives from the Safer Neighbourhood Team provided the forum with updates regarding the latest crime data and initiatives taking place in the north of the borough.</p> <p>The officers reminded attendees of the need to report any suspicious activity to the police and to always be vigilant regarding property and cars, ensuring they are never left unlocked or unattended.</p> <p>Feedback was also provided to concerns raised by attendees regarding a feeling of a lack of police presence in some areas of the borough and speeding traffic near schools.</p>	
2	<p>Your Forum, Your Future</p> <p>The Chair introduced the single main topic for the meeting outlining that the council is seeking to ensure their forums meet the needs of residents and the council.</p> <p>With regard to the format and times of the forum, attendees felt more publicity is needed as it was felt the forums are poorly advertised, suggesting “flyers” could be used and the local publication “Ilkeston Life” should also be considered.</p> <p>The current format of presentations and question and answer sessions was felt to be okay and examples of forums which were enjoyed included those which discussed “Digital Derbyshire”, Victoria Park” and the “EBC Budget”. The timing of the forum in the evening was also felt to be satisfactory.</p> <p>When asked how the forum could attract more attendees, promotion and advertising by social media was mentioned.</p>	

	<p>An EBC councillor suggested that parish councils were aware of the forums but were unclear about their role and purpose and felt they need more information about the forums. Consequently, a positive message is needed to remove any perceived barrier that may exist. It was felt EBC officers could attend/liaise with parish councils to explain exactly what the forums are, how they operate and also promote the forums to parish council residents. As parish councils have monthly meetings they may be able to assist in promoting the forums but they would require notice to add community forums to their agendas.</p> <p>It was also suggested that in order to increase attendance, not only does awareness of the forums needs to be increased, residents also need to be reassured that the discussions will be relevant to them and they will not feel “out of their depth”.</p> <p>With regard to young people, links need to be established but they may also feel the forums are too formal. Also, young people may prefer to be with their peers when discussing and considering issues.</p> <p>Overall, it was agreed the forums and topics need to be advertised well in advance. Having the opportunity to meet with Councillors was welcomed and more time should be made available for this if possible.</p> <p>It was strongly agreed that the key to getting residents to attend, whether they have a problem or not, is to ensure the council give residents confidence that it does listen to and address their concerns.</p> <p>The attendees were interested and supportive of the idea to try online/virtual forums, adding these may help less confident residents to share their views. However, as with the current format, if online/virtual forums are to succeed they will require widespread notification and publication.</p> <p>The Chair advised the forum about the council’s existing online facility for submitting questions. This allows residents to ask questions at any time and therefore, residents do not have to wait for a community forum to raise an issue. Attendees felt this was this was a very good idea but felt this too requires much more publication/promotion.</p>	
3.	<p>Questions submitted prior to the meeting A verbal reply was provided to an enquiry requesting the introduction of a raised pedestrian crossing on South Street Ilkeston due to road safety concerns.</p>	
4.	<p>Questions for officers/submitted at the forum Verbal replies were provided to questions on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appearance and maintenance of business properties; • Public toilet provision and signage during Ilkeston Charter Fair. 	
5.	<p>Close of meeting The Chair thanked the residents and partners for attending and closed the meeting at 830pm.</p>	
6.	<p>Date and time of next meeting: To be confirmed following the completion of the council’s review of their community forums.</p>	