

**NOTES AND ACTION FROM
THE LERF MEMBERS MEETING
TUESDAY 27th May 2021 VIA ZOOM**

In attendance:

Rev. Steve Hallett - SH (Chair)	LERF
Mariee Wymer - MW (Vice-Chair)	LERF
Vikki Bull – VB (Chair - Repairs Action Group)	LERF
Halima Saeed – HS	LERF
Craig Boulton – CB	LERF
Lauren Jeffrey – LJ	LERF
Jessie Gilsonan – JG	LERF
Cllr Ed Hume – EH (BFSTC Rep)	LERF
Margaret Prescott - MP	
Sue Evans – SE	
Philip Gerrella – PG (Observer)	
Sheila Attlee – SA (represented by her daughter Jackie)	
Vivien McDermott - VM	
Mohammed Khan – MK	
Aoife - A	
Rahul Munday – RM (Development Manager, MKC)	
Sharon Rust – SR (Practise Manager Water Eton Surgery)	
Deimante Sidlauskaitė – Dsi (Health and Well-being Coach)	
Councillor Emily Darlington – ED	
Francoise Ugochukull – FU	
Stephen Gundry – Sgu	
Sharon Jordan – SJ (Vice-Chair SCSG)	
Nick Hannon – NH (Director of Environment and Waste, MKC)	
Sam Goodwin – SG (Interim Community Engagement Officer, MKC)	

Apologies were received from:

Nina Sweetland - NS (Education Rep)	LERF
Sonal Mehta - SM (NHS Rep)	LERF
Danielle Slaymaker – DS (Chair SCSG)	
Will Rysdale – WR (Head of Housing Delivery, MKC)	

Non-attendees:

Malcolm Wenz – MWz (Resident Rep)	LERF
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SH welcomed everyone to the meeting. He shared the agenda for the evening and reminded everyone of the meeting etiquette. Which is to keep themselves on mute unless they have been invited to speak and to indicate if they wished to speak by using the hand raised facility or waving their own hand. SH said that MW would be helping to keep an eye out for people wishing to speak.

Chairs Reflections

SH stated that since the last meeting a month ago, he has already seen changes and momentum with regards to the priorities discussed by the group. There will be new bins on the estate in June. He went on to say that he wants residents on the estate to feel they can come to the LERF meetings, hear what is going on and have an input and have their voices heard. He said that LERF is a place where decision makers can be invited to attend and talk about the things that need to change. An LERF email address lakesrenewal@outlook.com had been set up and residents were welcome to contact him with questions, comments and concerns.

Minutes and Actions from the last meeting – 29 April 2021

Actions from last meeting:

- WR to chase Steve Young for a response regarding the fire safety and structural safety of Serpentine Court and report back. WR has emailed Steve Young again and is waiting for a response.
- SG to organise an evening walkabout – SG apologised that this had not yet been done.
- ALL email in places that the walkabout should include.
- SG to invite Nick Hannon to the May LERF meeting
- SB (Sue Brown, Senior Landscape Architect, MKC) to draft drawings for each of the four Courtyard B green spaces for May LERF meeting – This item has been pushed back to June and the drawings will be available for the meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2021

- Jessie Gilsean pointed out her name had been spelt incorrectly in the minutes.
- Craig Boulton pointed out that his name had been spelt incorrectly in the minutes.

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Member Elections

SH reminded everyone that the majority of members should be residents from the Lakes and ideally representative of different groups living there and of the wider community i.e. business, schools, nursery, faith groups.

SH also reminded people about the roles and responsibilities of the LERF which include:

- the opportunity to define the terms of reference for LERF
- attending meetings
- gathering resident's priorities

- voting on proposals and recommendations put forward and
- feeding back to other residents & the community

SH also reminded everyone that there were still a number of vacancies on the group which included:

- 1 business rep
- reps from other faiths

SH went on to talk about the election process for the LERF which needed to be transparent and encourage residents to engage with the group. Any potential members should advise the ERF of their interest to be part of the committee. They would be invited to attend the next ERF meeting to speak for maximum of 2 minutes about why they wanted to join the group. Everyone present at that meeting would vote on the membership by raising their hand.

SH informed the group that two more residents had expressed an interest in becoming members of the LERF, However, only one person was in attendance. SH then invited Craig Boulton (CB) to speak for 2 minutes.

CB said that he had been a resident on the estate for 45 years and had also been a school governor at both Water Hall Primary School and the Sir Herbert Leon Academy. He went on to explain that the role of a school governor is that of a critical friend helping to drive improvements. CB expressed his upset at the level of disrepair on the estate and said that a long-term solution was needed and not just a sticking plaster.

A vote was held and all voted in favour.

SH welcomed the CB to the group.

Regeneration Update

In the absence of WR, RM gave the update. He said that a lot of work had been done looking at the risk to the project. He also explained that detailed discussions were taking place with consultants (the architects and engineers). MKC were concentrating on Phase A of the regeneration which included the building of 202 new homes, the demolition of Serpentine Court, the new community hub and some work to Warren Park. RH went on to say that the budget for the ground works survey had been approved and they were finalizing the contract with WSP and expect them to start in the next couple of weeks. RH finished by saying that works on the Redway were done. The next phase of sign-off on regeneration with the Council is scheduled for 13th July

MW asked that the drains on the Redway be looked at, as a number of them had sunk and tilted and were a trip hazard.

SE informed the group that yellow lines had been put around the sunken drain covers with arrows pointing up.

Health and Wellbeing Activities

SH introduced Deimante Sidlauskaitė (DSi) and Sharon Rust (SR) who wanted to talk to residents about Health and Wellbeing priorities now that lockdown was easing.

DSi introduced herself and explained that she wanted to have a discussion around potential health & wellbeing topics. She went on to say that people need to feel safe & supported coming out of lockdown, that activities should be inclusive of all members of the community regardless of age and ability and open to all regardless of whether they are registered with Water Eaton Surgery or not. DSi also said that it was important to learn from what has worked well previously and what hasn't and that there were lots of people and organisations who could help e.g. new roles like social prescribers and health & wellbeing coaches working alongside doctors, nurses etc.

DSi went on to talk about some of the ideas that had been put forward including:

- Supporting people to make new social connections
- Encouraging people to be more active
- Community larder is expanding and hopes to offer a social element
- Could we try and tackle the social and physical element at the same time?
 - Walk & Talk group
 - Community garden – land in and around surgery and other sites on the estate.
 - Litter picking as it ties in with other concerns on the estate

DSi then asked those in attendance:

- What do you think about what has been proposed?
- Any other ideas that would support social connections and being active?
- Are you interested in joining the health subgroup to help shape plans – will be open to anyone from the local community and facilitated by us.

VB said that she had been talking to a resident who would be interested in getting involved in health and well-being and would like to set up a litter picking group.

JG mentioned the armchair exercises that used to be run at the church.

HS suggested aerobic and Zumba classes.

LJ suggested that if DSi was looking for spaces to conduct physical activities the Sir Herbert Leon had a large sports field that could be utilised. She went on to mention the issue with getting information out to people and advertising the activities.

CB mentioned that SHLA had Astro-turf and a gym and that it might be worth approaching SHLA for their expertise. SH agreed and said he had had conversations with Dave, who runs the facilities and would talk to him about getting involved.

MP suggested Thai Chi for both the elderly and young people.

JG mentioned that once restrictions are eased, Thai Chi will be held at the Sycamore that that we needed to be careful about taking activities away from other venues. ED said that it can be challenging accessing a GP due to the reduced service during the pandemic. She went onto say that losing Lloyds the chemist was a big blow but that a new pharmacy 'Jardines' would be opening on the estate soon. ED said that it would be great to get them involved in the group. ED stated that for a lot of people managing their health is an issue. SH said that when they are open he would invite Jardines to a LERF meeting and to be part of the Health and Well-being Sub-group.

In the Chat, VD suggested a director of health activities is put together.

Sharon Rust (RD) said that the surgery is doing more face-to-face appointments and is also a centre for giving vaccinations three days a week. At the moment the surgery is looking at diabetes and are trying to concentrate on one thing at a time. SR acknowledged that things need to improve and that residents should see a difference by the end of June.

DSi and SR said they would discuss the ideas and suggestions made with Sonal and put a plan in place.

SH concluded the agenda item by saying that anyone with a particular interest in health and joining this sub-group should email Sonal Metha (SM) or the LERF email lakesrenewal@yahoo.com

Fly-Tipping

SH introduced the item by saying that fly-tipping was a hot topic across Milton Keynes. And that waging war on this was a priority for MKC. He invited HS to tell the group about her personal experience of fly-tipping.

HS said she lived at 45 Serpentine Court and had experienced a lot of issues with fly-tipping, which included people setting fire to items that had been left in the blocks. HS said that she had contacted MKC to ask for CCTV cameras to be installed because she was worried about resident's safety. HS went onto say that residents living in Serpentine Court were dumping their rubbish and household items in the blocks and when it piles up it becomes dangerous. HS was frustrated that there did not seem to be any accountability or consequences for these actions and said that people needed to be educated to take personal responsibility for disposing of their own household waste and bulk waste.

Nick Hannon (NH) explained that his team work to remove fly-tipping in areas where they find it. He explained that if one item is fly-tipped then more items start to appear. He said that the Lakes have a team who sweep the estate and remove fly-tipping but

manpower is exceeded by the amount of fly-tipping. NH also explained that there is a cost to collecting and disposing of fly-tipping. At the moment there are 3 enforcement officers in Nicks team and another person starting who will be responsible for CCTV. NH said that CCTV is needed for prosecution, to help identify perpetrators and provide evidence of them fly-tipping. NH said the issue is how can we tackle blight and manage it in the future when people are not willing to give witness statements.

MP said that she had put a complaint over six weeks ago about branches that had been lying in the Courtyard where she lived since last year. She has had 2 response which have informed her that the job has been given to Mears but she hasn't heard from them. NH said he would get Serco to remove them.

Action

- MP to email details to NH

SJ said that there had been some fly-tipping in her street (Ennerdale Close) and as soon as it was cleared away, a load more appeared. SJ said that cameras were needed to catch perpetrators and that if a flash was put on the camera, people would know that they have been caught on camera.

NH explained that the cameras had night vision but they needed to be able to see peoples faces.

SA – Jackie spoke to SA's behalf and explained that SA lived on Ennerdale Close. She explained that SA is 89 years old and believes that where people fly-tip is where you are supposed to put your rubbish. She said it is an eye sore, stinks and is worried about vermin. Jackie said that she had even seen workmen dump stuff in the Close.

NH confirmed that it had become a culture to dump because the Council would collect and dispose of it.

LJ said that there was lots of focus on cameras when it came to tackling fly-tipping and expressed concern about privacy issues. LJ asked how fly-tippers should be punished. She feels that people don't fly-tip because they don't care or want to commit a crime but because accessing the dump and the costs of having bulk rubbish collected is an issue. LJ said that MKC need to make it easier to dispose of rubbish and bulk items in a more responsible way.

NH said they would look at their processes and how they are going to engage and educate residents on the estate. That it is important to reach out to all residents. That MKC needs to look at the roots of the problem as well as the problems themselves.

JG said she knew of 3 hotspots for fly-tipping and would email locations to NH. JG went onto say that she has a friend who is a computer whizz and went onto MKC

website to print of a ticket for the dump. The print was so small it was difficult to read and when they got to the dump they wouldn't take the items, so it was a waste of time.

Action

- JG to email NH the 3 hotspots she is aware of

NH explained that they had tried to make as many slots available as possible at the dump and to also make it as assessable as possible. He said that they need to do more work to make the service as easy as possible to access and will talk to Customer Services Team.

Action

- NH to talk to Customer Services about the accessibility of the appointment system for the dump

CB said he felt that prevention was better than cure. People used to phone up the Council and arrange for things to be collected but the cost is excessive now and feels like it is a money-making exercise. He also said that there used to be skips put on the estate.

NH explained that the Council has to generate money to cover the costs as they no longer receive government funding. He also said he would go away and look at putting an action plan together and report back to the LERF with an update on progress at the next meeting. He would also be willing to trial the use of skips but they would have to be carefully managed and controlled. NH informed the group that the Waste Department and the Housing Department were being brought together and would be responsible for waste and street cleaning.

SH felt that a skip day would be a great opportunity to educate people.

MW said she fly-tipping had got so bad because of the lack of enforcement. There were no notices being put up, the housing officers were not present on the estate and no warning letters were being sent out. MW said that there needed to be a designated housing officer on the estate to deal with fly-tipping.

NH explained that there had been a dedicated officer (Wayne Turner) however he was now responsible for fly-tipping across Milton Keynes. But there was a new housing and environment enforcement officer who would have a presence on the estate and would be responsible for enforcement and education.

EH said that the majority of residents on the estate take pride in where they live. He suggested getting residents involved in tidying up the estate. There could be a litter pick and BBQ now that we are coming out of lockdown and this could provide an opportunity to engage with children and young people.

NH said you can never have enough people helping to litter pick and that they bring communities together. He can provide the sacks and picks and can have the full sacks picked up and taken away.

SH said that some residents have been really creative with the small green spaces where they live and created beautiful gardens and would like to see how the Council can encourage more of this

ED agreed that most people on the estate do not fly-tip and do in fact hold onto their rubbish and items. That in fact people from off the estate come onto the estate and fly-tip. ED went on to say that residents need to say 'No More' and reclaim the estate. She pointed out that there are lots of unloved bits of grass that MKC would gift to the community to plant and look after and that people are unlikely to fly-tip on top of flower beds.

SH summarised what had been said / suggested:

- Strict enforcement to be defined in more detail. What does this look like?
- NH to Look at the causes of fly-tipping (accessibility and cost) and review bulk waste charges
- Look at holding amnesty / skip days in conjunction with the Community saying we are not a dumping ground
- Commercial vehicle illegal dumping and how do we report it safely?
- Arrange a Community litter-pick day
- Confirm fly-tipping hotspots, i.e Ennerdale, and look to install CCTV
- Stop the behaviour from happening in the first place by educating people

Stephen Gundry (SG) said that boulders and pieces of wood had been left on the grass Following the completion of the Redway which has meant that the grass cutters won't / can't cut the grass.

NH said he would get the landscape team down there and would also contact the contractors.

Action

- NH to contact the landscape team and the contractors to get the boulders and pieces of wood removed.

HS said that there were different problems for different areas. She lives in a block of flats where people cannot be bothered to take their black bin bags down to the bins and leave them in the communal areas. CCTV cameras in the communal areas would help identify the perpetrators and act as a deterrent.

NH confirmed that needed to be an action plan for houses and for flat blocks and that he would work with the asset team and the housing team on these.

Action

- HS to let NH have her address.

MW said that HS needs to contact her housing officer Andrew Johnson about the black bin bags. Meanwhile she will speak to Terry (caretaker) about getting the fridge freezer removed. MW asked NH if he could let her have some litter picking picks and sacks.

Action

- NH to provide litter picks and sacks to MW.

SH thanked NH for attending the meeting and welcomed his offer to attend a future meeting in 6 months time to update the group on progress and would encourage written updates of progress in the meantime

Q&A and AOB

MP asked everyone to go on BFSTC website. They are looking to get a number one song with all the schools in MK and are looking for people to join the choir.

Wrap Up

SH thanked SR and DS for attending the meeting He also thanked everybody in attendance for staying on a bit longer.

SH asked that people join the meeting on time for the next meeting so that the meeting can start and finish on time.

Date of Next LERF meeting

Thursday 24 June 2021 at 6pm via zoom