

Notes & Actions

The LERF meeting

Monday 5 June 2023 – 18.00 in Spotlight

In Attendance:

Mariee Wymer	MW	Vice Chair - Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF)
Jessie Gilsonan	JG	Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF)
Paul Burton	PB	Lakes Resident
Sue Evans	SE	Lakes Resident
Jan Sebastian Power	JSP	Lakes Resident
Stacey Colburt	SC	Lakes Resident
Samantha Goodwin	SG	Interim Community Partnership Officer for the Lakes Estate (MKCC)

Apologies were received from:

Rev. Steve Hallett	SH	Chair - Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF)
Will Rysdale	WR	Head of Housing Development (MKCC)
Zulf Awan	ZA	Community Engagement Manager, Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC)
Rahul Munday	RM	Development Manager, Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC)

1. Welcome & Introductions

MW welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained that while SH is taking a step back to cover the duties of a colleague whilst they take a sabbatical until October, she would be chairing the LERF meetings.

2. Minutes & Actions from the last meeting (9 March 2023)

- MW apologised for the lack of minutes from the March meeting. These will be sent out to attendees for comment as soon as possible.

Actions

- SG to send out March minutes to everyone in attendance

3. Public Realm update

SG read out the update from Sue Brown, Principle Landscape Architect for MKCC.

“I don’t have any news to share this month I’m afraid. We plan to install the planting at Burnmoor as soon as we have some wetter weather forecast, so this may slip to the autumn now. We are also mid handover of the Waste and Landscape Contract and so Serco are not taking on any new works. We will be back with the new landscape contractor in the Autumn to remove the old Lap equipment (very small play areas which are redundant) and carry out any additional works identified.”

4. Regeneration Update

In WR and RM's absence, SG gave the following update:

"Good progress has been made on the work under the PCSA; MKCC is working through the detailed specification and pricing of the 40, or so, work packages and Graham are in the process of going out to a range of sub-contractors for getting pricing for these. MKCC cost consultants are meanwhile going through the specifications, to ensure that they are tuned, to get the best value for the Council; and, as prices come in, they are looking for opportunities to make savings, where possible. The objective now is to agree final figures with Grahams' for Phase A, by the end of 2023. Building works will then start, as soon as possible, following MKCC Cabinet approval in early 2024."

It was noted that SCSG, LERF and the RA are not always being kept informed or given the opportunity to comment on communications going out to residents from Grahams.

Action

- SG to raise this with the Development Manager.

5. Health and Well-Being Day – Friday 28th July

MW explained the LERF and the LOLRA are holding a joint Health and well-being day in July. SH is organizing all the stall holders who will be providing advice and support on health and well-being. While MW is arranging all the activities and refreshments.

SG reported that Cycle Saviours will be there to deliver a bike doctor session for residents who need their bike serviced and minor repairs carried out.

Action

- SG to follow up with SH on stall holders for the health and well-being day.

6. Bulk Waste Amnesty Day

MW explained that LERF is looking to hold another Bulky Waste Amnesty Day. SG has obtained two quotes for a staff caged vehicle to go around the estate. But more information around staff levels and availability are needed.

Action

- SG to contact Greg Shouler regarding staffing levels and availability

7. 2023 Priorities

MW explained that an exercise was held at a 'Soup for the Soul Café' a couple of weeks ago to find out what residents liked, and disliked about living on the Lakes Estate, as well as what they would like to see. The results included:

Like

- Sense of Community

- Very good emergency services
- Church
- Waterhall Primary School
- How easy it is to make friends
- Helpful neighbours
- Its quiet
- The canal behind me for a walk with the dog
- Saplings family centre
- Community spirit
- My family is close by
- Easy travel to shops
- Dentist and doctor
- I love my neighbours. Very friendly and helpful
- The community – mk2 3nt

Dislike

- How people treat each other
- The litter and fly-tipping
- Too many trees
- How loud some people are late at night
- Neighbour pain
- Motorbikes on pavements, rubbish & fly-tipping
- Litter in Leon rec/unsafe items
- Birds singing too loud in the morning spoils my sleep
- Noisy cars. Cars on pavements. Rubbish / litter
- House repairs needed
- Dog poo & no dog bins. Litter. Fly-tipping. Landscaping
- Car park not big enough for 31 residents only 22. Shrubs over grown.
- Damaged streets / paths and roads. Drugs. Flytipping. Seen as an unwanted community by MK. Paths damaged and uneven. Trees overgrown.
- Graffiti on walls. Litter & dog mess.

Like to see

- Dog bins, planting, flowers, fruit trees, youth centre
- More kindness and respect around the estate
- May be clubs for teenagers so they are not just walking around with nothing to do
- Better community cohesion
- More road closures
- The grass cut. Dirty alleys cleaned. Street lighting fixed. Pathways fixed
- More care about nature
- Nothing
- More for the youngsters e.g. youth club
- People stop drinking outside the shop
- Better shops. More litter bins
- End to fly-tipping

MW explained that LERF needed to agree some priorities for 2023.

It was agreed that the two priorities for the group would be:

- Health and Well-Being (help tackle loneliness and isolation).
 - Hold health and wellbeing day (28 July 2023)
 - Install 2 new benches on the main footpath through the estate, to encourage people to get out about.
- Tackle fly-tipping & littering
 - Hold bulky waste amnesty day
 - Educate residents about the new wheelie bins

Actions

- SG to obtain quotes for new benches and their installation
- SG to invite someone to come to Spotlight and talk about the new wheelie bins and explain the change to the collection day

8. Any Other Business

New Wheelie Bins

Questions were asked about where residents were supposed to store / keep their new wheelie bins and also why the collect day has been changed.

Action

- SG to ask someone from Waste Collection to come and talk to residents on the estate about the new wheelie bins and explain why the collection day has changed.

Grass Cutting

Comments were made about how big areas of grass and weeds were not being mown.

Action

- SG to email Nick Hannon regarding this.

Landscaping Service Standards

SG said she had been in touch with Nick Hannon (NH) to ask if there were service standards for the landscaping. NH has responded that there was and asked for more details about what information LERF would like.

Action

- SG to email NH about which bits of the estate BFSTC would be responsible for from September and which bits MKCC would retain responsibility for.

Drains in car parks

JSP raised the issue of the drains in the car parks at the back of Serpentine Court flooding every time it rains.

Action

- SG to contact the Asset team to arrange for them to be cleared.

Rubbish/Fly Tipping

JG reported that there were approximately 11 black bin bags and other bits and pieces left on the corner of Skene Close by the bungalow.

Action

- SG and MW to photograph and report to NH.

9. Date of Next LERF meeting:

Monday 4th September 2023 at 18.15 in Spotlight

Meeting concluded – 7.00pm