WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at the Hillyfield Primary School, Higham Hill Road, Walthamstow E17 6ED

On Monday 5th February 2007 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Chair: Johar Khan Councillor Vice-Chair: Adam Gladstone

Councillors:

Bob Wheatley Peter Woollcott Bob Belam John Macklin Sean Meiszner Robert Carey Liaquat Ali Patrick Smith James O'Rourke

Community Vice-Chair:

Faisal Raja

Philip Herlihy

Community Chair:

Cabinet Champion: Afzal Akram

Officers in Attendance:

Gareth Jones Robin Tuddenham

Brigid Montgomery Brian Whiteley Claire Witney Shirley Haynes Theresa O'Brien Alessandra Awolowo

Also Present:

PCSO Ali Kalin PS Denise Canderlon PS Wooding

Kevin Coleman

Environmental Services Chief Executive Communities and Community Safety Extended School Area Manager Community Council Lead Officer Community Councils' Manager Community Council Officer Community Council Officer Community Council Officer Committee Manager

Safer Neighbourhood Teams Safer Neighbourhood Teams Safer Neighbourhood Teams

Detached Youth Services Manager

Residents Present:

There were approximately 48 residents present at the meeting.

PART 1 – COMMUNITY FORUM

1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

P Herlihy (PH) welcomed residents to the meeting and introduced ward Councillors, partner groups, speakers and presenters. He requested residents present to complete evaluation forms handed out at reception, as they were a valuable tool for improving the Community Council meetings and making them more effective.

For example a recurring request has been to have more time for discussion. Although it has been difficult to find a balance between time dedicated to presentations and discussion, the Chairs have decided to extend the time allocated to the discussion forum, from 30 minutes to 45 minutes.

PH then listed the items of the agenda.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Geraldine Reardon, representatives of the Primary Care Trust, Abid Hussain (PCCG Observer).

4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

This standing item is intended <u>only to confirm the accuracy of the</u> <u>Minutes of the last meeting</u> and any matter arising are discussed during the *Open Forum/Community Discussion*.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as accurate record and signed by the Chair, with the following amendment(s) noted:

Page 5 – *Elizabeth Davies* was present at the Community Council meeting on the 20th November 2006 *not* as a Walthamstow West Community Council Councillor.

Page 13 – it has been noted that J Slater stated that *local* residents would not be expected to travel to Romford.

5 YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Kevin Coleman (KC), Detached Youth Services Manager talked about youth work carried out in the area and replied to questions and concerns raised by those present at the meeting.

Below is a summary of the discussion that followed:

KC stated that the Borough had a long tradition of 'detached work', which meant going to estates and parks rather than concentrating youth activities in specialised centres; 25% of the Borough's youth services consisted in bringing activities there, where young people were – e.g. 'Park Life'. The Detached Youth Services (DYS) worked in partnership with other agencies in order to give a positive image of young people and inform the community.

Item The DYS provided by the LBWF was one of the largest in London incorporating three teams - 'Streetwise', the detached drug team, and the crime prevention team. DYS was based in Leyton Youth Centre and had ongoing activities also in Chingford, The Drive, and Cann Hall.

Most of the activities were concentrated in Higham Hill area where Streetwise run a youth club for four years. He said that this particular activity had received support from its early years; it had to deal with challenging teenagers but achieved great results. He personally believed that the young people in the Higham Hill area were among the best and rewarding people he had to work with.

Another activity was 'Park Life' where children had football and basketball coaching sessions in local green spaces.

This activity was in the process of expanding its work. Since September, DYS launched arts and drama activities in a children centre, installing mirrors in one room dedicated to dance lessons, as well as a DVD projector and a sound system. Thanks to these facilities the DYS team run an 'Integrated Youth Offer' with two nights dedicated to creative arts as well as a choice of sport and the development of new skills.

The outreach and detached activities also worked in partnership with the LBWF Library, building a strong relationship and solving the problematic situation, which arose around that area. **KC** said that since the DYS moved its activities away from the library, troubles had started again. He hoped that in the future the DYS could cooperate again with the Higham Hill community to solve this problem.

In Cann Hall the DYS have built a good relationship with the skate boarding community. He emphasised that the skate boarding community was very vulnerable and an easy target to crime, therefore it was very important to create a safe environment around it, to cater for its needs and to provide organised support and supervision.

KC said that at the Lloyd Theatre, the DYS organised poetry, art and rapping workshops during the half-term week. It has been very rewarding and successful and they would like to make it into a permanent arrangement.

He informed that all the activities were open to every young person in the area. In Higham Hill area, between 70 and 80 young people took part in the sporting activities in the summer.

Finally **KC** emphasised that the Walthamstow West did more than most areas in the Borough in contributing to activities for young peoples. He assured that the DYS had no intention to leave, instead wanted to expand and consolidate their existing activities. Item Cllr Smith congratulated the DYS for all the activities it was hosting at the Lloyd Theatre. He said that he took on board the idea of performing and other art forms as a magnet for young people which contradicted the argument that young people were not interested in these things; an argument used to justify the reduction of hours of Vestry House and the William Morris Gallery or even the closure of the Lloyd Theatre.

He asked what were the plans if the Theatre would not be there in the future.

KC replied that the DYS supported the work of the Vestry House and the William Morris Gallery and they had planned to work in partnership. With regard to the Lloyd Theatre, he stated that they wanted to continue using it to make a positive impact in local young people and the community.

K Lord asked if the DYS would be interested in football pitches in Foley Lane. He said that although the LBWF proposed a cut on services for disabled people and the elderly, it has continually invested in leisure activities. He understood that at first, the Council wanted to build football pitches on the green space in Foley Lane, however this space was later given to the Muslim Association as a burial ground.

KC replied that he could not comment on this issue but he would be happy to make use of any facility available.

Clir Meiszner clarified that the green space in question was never a leisure facility and it was proposed and agreed at a Cabinet meeting in 1999 to use it as the extension of the burial ground – this has never been enacted. However, there would be a public meeting on Thursday 8th February 2007, chaired by Johar Khan where resident concerned could obtain more information.

KL stressed that he wanted to obtain information at the Community Council meeting rather than to wait to the 8th February.

Clir Meiszner stated that there was a proposal to extend the burial ground.

KL said that during the Cabinet meeting of the 12th December, it has been agreed in principle to give this land to the Muslim Association, therefore he questioned the need for a public meeting when the matter seemed already agreed upon.

CIIr Meiszner emphasised that although the Cabinet agreed on the matter, the decision had to reflect the public consultation.

A resident (Friends of Lloyd Park) informed the residents that the group had been working together for two years. It decided that the theatre should go whilst keeping the performance area. Also it was planning to build a new skate board area. He stated that the new plans would be presented at the end of March, and by the end of September the Friends of Lloyd Park would bid for Lottery sponsorship. He emphasised that the bid is very competitive and he would welcome the input of young people on how to propose a better service for the future of the Park.

Action

A resident said that he never heard of the services provided by the DYS but he was pleased that such activities existed. He said that he was impressed by the number of facilities in the Borough were dedicated to football activities, but he was concerned by the lack of facilities for girls and other less popular sports. He suggested that expanding the facilities in less mainstream sports would cater the interests of other young people.

KC replied that the lack of involvement of young girls in sport activities is a very interesting issue. He said number of girls participating in sport was declining all over the country. It was a struggle that the DYS had to face and it was in need of ideas.

The item was closed at this point.

6 NEWS REPORT

P Herlihy informed Community Council that the News and Announcements item would provide an opportunity to brief residents on current developments in our area. He also invited residents to contribute news on local events. If they wanted to do so they should contact the Community Council Officers a few days before the meeting so that the item could be included.

6.1 Response sheet:

B Whiteley (BW), Community Councils Lead Officer gave a brief summary of the item(s) on the (blue) response sheet included in the papers.

P Herlihy (PH) remarked that the response on Stoneydown Park (p. 16, Minutes of the meeting 20th November 2006) was short but good; the responding officer stated that "What cannot be costed is loss of the amenity value and sense of security the removal of staff has created". He said that the use of parks and preserving the environment were important issues and wanted to see whether anything can be done to redress this.

PH commented on the issue of the Government White Paper. He stated that the Paper was very broad, very diverse and it would have a significant impact on how the Borough would be run. The lack of a comprehensive response on the issue was due to the fact that the LBWF was still analysing its content and estimating the nature of the impact it would have on its services.

6.2 Update on the Community Council Spend:

BW updated on the following:

- £1,600 had been sent to the Waltham Forest Disability Resources Centre.
- £2,000 had been allocated to the Sport Facilities for Young People in Lloyd/Aveling Park. Free football session, and tennis coaching sessions would be set up in Lloyd Park/Aveling Park. Also flyers and articles in the local press

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Park/Aveling Park. Also, flyers and articles in the local press **Action** advertising the activities would be arranged.

- £2,000 had been allocated to the Anti-Litter Environmental Campaign. Three meetings have been arranged with Environmental Services to scope the project and identify the area to be actioned.
- £3,000 to Schools Environmental Projects had not yet been progressed due to the season break, however invitation letters would be sent to schools in March/April 2007.
- The Football Goal Posts for the Coppermill Lane Park (£1,000) have been ordered and would be installed when received, which should take place in four to six weeks.
- The post socket for the Cheney Row Goal Posts (£400) have been installed, and the posts would be fixed into place during the week.

6.3 News and Announcements:

BW informed that at today Community Council meeting, there were three items.

First, he reported the success of the recycling scheme – more than 600 Christmas trees have been recycled and re-used as soil compost; and the Council computers that were no longer in use were donated to local voluntary organisations, including the Silver Surfer Learning Centre in Orford Road.

Second, the Council is tackling the problem of illegal selling of counterfeit DVDs in local pubs with a new campaign called "Nothing fake about prison".

Finally, he reported that Waltham Forest has been awarded £35,000 from Transport for London to install a wind turbine to produce energy to power the Borough's electric vehicle fleet.

The item was closed at this point.

7 COMMUNITY FORUM/ MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

P Herlihy (PH) introduced the item saying that there were already four issues to be raised and he was sure there would be many more, therefore he was pleased that there was 15 minutes added to the Community Forum.

7.1 Spending on the Arcade site.

PH raised the first issue, local concerns on the spending of £400,000 on the arcade site. He stated that he received a breakdown of the spending which he described as follows:

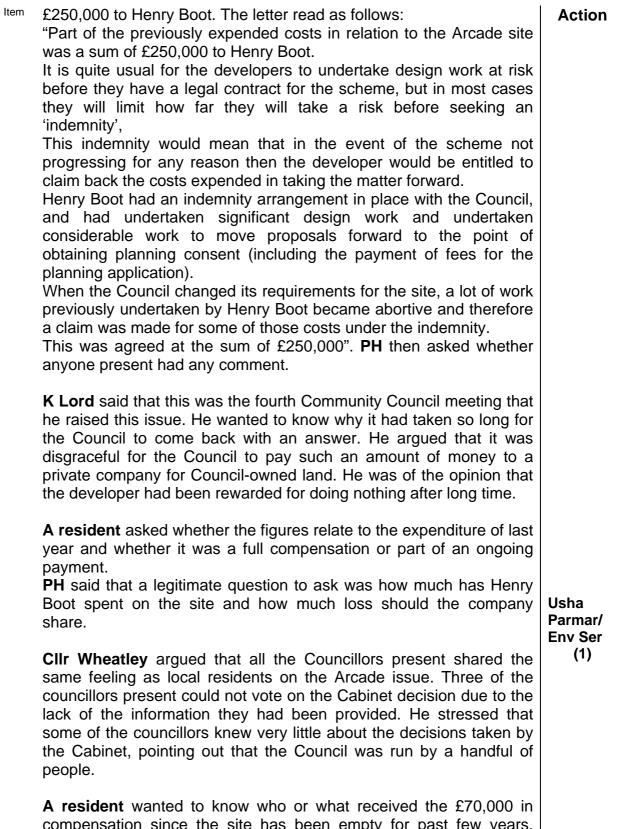
£19,000 were spent on site works;

£68,000 were spent on security;

£70,000 were spent on compensation;

£250,000 were paid to Henry Boot.

PH also read out a letter he received from Paul Humpreys (Head of Asset Planning and Maintenance), explaining the payment of



A resident wanted to know who or what received the £70,000 in compensation since the site has been empty for past few years. Although there has been a public consultation, the Council seemed to have washed its hands of the matter.

Clir Akram replied it was difficult to say at present whether the money for compensation spent was a full payment as it was made out to businesses that had move out from the area and there are still

Item	out to businesses that had move out from the area and there are still businesses that have not claimed their share of compensation to date.	Action
	CIIr O'Rourke said that there a is a cross-party Scrutiny meeting, he was not sure whether it was open to a public, but he would certainly inform residents of the outcome.	
	7.2 Shopkeepers and residents of Coppermill Lane.	
	P Chauhan informed the residents that he was representing shopkeepers in Coppermill Lane, who could face closure since the LBWF had introduced a parking restriction with the use of CCTV, issuing parking tickets, resulting in customer being fined when stopping to shop in one of these shops. He said that shopkeepers wrote to the Council requesting a 10 minutes parking bay on Coppermill Lane, but they did not receive a response.	Street Services (2)
	Clir Belam stated that there was a new parking strategy being introduced in some areas of the Borough. However this was the first time he heard about these particular complains.	
	P Cooper (Pearl Road) said that he represented the residents of Coppermill Lane and he wanted to emphasize residents' resentment on the new parking zone scheme. Residents where concerned that such a restriction was introduced in a residential area, away from public transports or shopping areas. The shops in Coppermill Lane were local and small and were all facing closure as a result of the parking restriction. He wanted evidence of total residents' reply to the LBWF	Street
	consultation for and against the scheme; he did want percentages but actual figures. He believed that the Council's planning office was out of touch with the needs of the residents, putting an extra tax on those who use cars, disregarding any financial implication that this would cost.	Street Services (3)
	7.3 Increase of the price of parking permits.	
	A resident wanted to ask specific questions on the reason behind the increase; why people had to buy permits for visitors; what was the justification for the increase; and where was the money going.	
	Clir Belam replied that there were five areas currently being consulted and the people were free to express their opinion and if they decided against the introduction of parking permits in those areas, it would be taken into account. However he stated that there were no foreseeable increases – in the next three years the price would stay the same.	

S Vaughan said that residents in her area had been told that only their area was under consultation – 495 houses out of 520 were

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Item their area was under consultation – 495 houses out of 520 were against the scheme. They wrote a letter to the Chief Executive and to all the councillors but only received an acknowledgement from Cllr O'Rourke and the Chief Executive, Jacquie Dean. She emphasised that the area in question was not near public transports links and the imposition of parking permits was more regarded as a 'money-making adventure'. Although Cllr Belam stated that the residents were consulted, she believed that lumping the areas together was wrong.

PH said that issue of controlled parking was very contentious – in some Boroughs it was regarded as a money-making venture. However, the key issue was based on how resident felt with the consultation that had taken place: whether it had been carried out in the right way or not.

A resident (Mansfield Road) said that he had never heard of this issue until he wanted to purchase a parking permit and he was faced with the following prices which seemed to have tripled: Residents Permit:

- 1st Permit, £45.00
- 2nd Permit, £80.00
- 3rd and Subsequent Permit, £105.00
- 1 month Temporary, £17.00

Visitors' Permit:

- 1 hour, £15.00 (originally £5.00)
- 2 hour, £18.00 (originally £6.00)
- 5 hour, £21.00 (originally £7.00)

(from the Waltham Forest NCP Residential Parking Permit Tariff List)

E Poulsen (Westbury Road) said that at first the Borough introduced a parking permit scheme in her road because it was near the market, however residents were not required to pay for a parking permit and it was free for several years. Then residents were charged because the Council felt that it was becoming an expensive service. She said that she would not mind paying, however she would like to know the reason behind this change of service.

F Raja, Community Vice-Chair wanted to know the mechanisms of the decision-making process on this issue.

Clir Belam replied that the Cabinet took the decision in November 2006.

Cllr Smith requested in a written submission that the Traffic Control Team would include Uplands House in review and public consultation as an urgent priority, as there have been complaints from residents about the parking congestion in the vicinity of said area.

Traffic Control Team (4)

7.4 Vestry House Museum and the William Morris Gallery

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Item	P Spiro submitted the following written questions to Cllr Akram: First, he wanted to know whether the £43,000 estimated saving, marked down for 2007/08 was a one-off payment 'spread over the three years', as was clearly said to him (and to others previously), by Mr Clive Morton, senior Council officer responsible for Arts and Culture, at 7.10 pm on the 25 th January 2007, at the Baptist Church, Greenleaf Road. In preparing the reply to his question, it should be borne in mind that Cllr Sarkar, Cabinet member with the Art and Culture portfolio has since told him that if Mr Morton gave residents the above information, then Mr Morton had been 'quite wrong' as there could be no guarantees that – in the future reviews for 2008/09 and 2009/10 – further savings/cuts could be avoided for this sector (i.e. the Museum and Gallery); even though just the first year £43,000 estimated savings represented a 16% annual cut in their total budget.	Action Support Officer (5)
	Second, he asked what, if anything, has the Manager of the Vestry House Museum and William Morris Gallery, Mrs Lorna Lee, done in her period in office to date, to promote and publicise the Gallery and Museum services in order to a) improve weekday attendance by the public; b) increase the already quite substantial weekday shop sale in both the Gallery and Museum – bearing in mind that these sales already raise annual income amounting to as much as the estimated savings likely to be obtained from closing the Gallery and Museum on weekdays. Finally, he wanted to know why during the past year has the Manager of the Vestry House Museum and William Morris Gallery been employed by Mr Morton on general culture and arts work at Silver Birch House, Blackhorse Lane, for some 2 out of the 5 days a week, instead of performing her full-time duties as Manager of the Museum and Gallery.	Support Officer (6)
	7.5 Consultation process	
	Clir Wheatley argued that residents at the Community council meeting were disappointed about the Council's consultation process, but he personally posted over 300 leaflets asking local residents to take part on the consultation process and stop the planned development of a 4 storey block, but he received no reply; and only four local residents attended the Planning Committee meeting. He said that there were councillors who cared.	
	A resident asked whether the submission of residents' petitions could become a legitimate part of the consultation process.The item was closed at this point.	Phil & Claire (7)

PART 2 – FORMAL COMMITTEE

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY

Robin Tuddenham (RT), Assistant Chief Executive Communities and Community Safety presented information on the work of the local Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership in the area. It was then followed by Ward Workshops with local Councillors and the Safer Neighbourhood Teams.

Below is a summary of the discussion that followed:

RT informed local residents that one of the main crime disorder partnership in the area is 'SafetyNet', an umbrella body that involved the Council, the Police, the Primary Care Trust, and the business sector. SafetyNet was created as a strategy to ensure that the statutory duty to work together to reduce crime was undertaken, and to produce an audit and strategy to reduce crime and disorder, antisocial behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse and fear of crime in Waltham Forest.

RT stated that the SafetyNet vision was to focus upon strategy, decision-making, and making a real impact in the community; to develop new services which responded to need, evidence and what it was regarded as important. He said that TJAG – Tactical Joint Action Group was one of the different ways the SafetyNet was visible in the community. It was a strategy that focused on a particular area, working together with all agencies to reduce crime and support victims – to date it has made a real progress in reducing street crime in the area. TJAG was made of 5 priorities: anti-social behaviour, drug and alcohol misuse, youth crime, volume of crime, and violent crime.

RT then outlined the achievements of the TJAG. First, during 2006, 'Beat sweep' took place monthly in targeted location across the Borough. The scope and activity was vast, however it primarily tackled graffiti, illegal underage sale, and breaches of Anti-Social Behaviour contracts. In 2006, 500 tonnes of unwanted items were removed; graffiti were removed from 591 locations; almost 200 abandoned, untaxed or uninsured vehicles were removed.

Secondly, 60 CCTV cameras have been installed and a Community Safety vehicle has been introduced to provide CCTV coverage in targeted areas.

In order to tackle drug and alcohol misuse, the '722 Project' was lunched in October as the Borough's specialist service for young people with drug/alcohol problems. There has been a 14.2% increase in people receiving drug treatment (from 805 people between April 2005 and December 2005, to 919 people between April 2006 and December 2006). Also, Disorder Patrols have been introduced to tackle alcohol related disorder.

To reduce the volume of crime in the area, a Crime Prevention week was launched on the 4th December at Whipps Cross Hospital and the

Item event has increased in popularity receiving valuable feedback from residents. Also, more than 200 residents were involved in Neighbourhood Watch to reduce crime in the local area.

The TJAG provided intensive supervision of high risk young people in order to reduce youth crime, intervening earlier to stop children as young as 8 years old from offending. It provided parenting support to address family problems, it increased work with young victims of crime. The work in this area has had positive results – with a 10.3% reduction in young people entering the system and 8.5% reduction in re-offending (above the national target). During September 2006, Waltham Forest Youth Offending Team in conjunction with Proactive, Greater London Leisure (GLL) and Team Leyton compiled a 60-hour Level 1 Health and Fitness Course specifically for Young Offenders. Furthermore, five young people now had the opportunity to move onto level 2 of the Health and Fitness training which might lead to employment as sessional workers within the Borough's fitness centres.

Violent Crime was Community Safety number one priory and, under the 'Robbery Plan', it worked with school and known offenders. The 'Defendin Da Hood' project organised events prior to Christmas attracting some 560 young people to the Assembly Hall where they were consulted upon about the extended school programme.

Finally, the work around domestic violence and hate crime increased the support to victims, developed and encouraged the use of third party reporting, and created sanctuary and crisis intervention for victims.

After the presentation **J Khan**, Councillors' Chair, asked residents present to split into group according to their wards and discuss, with their Councillors and representatives of the Safe Neighbourhood Teams what were their priorities and issues for their areas.

After 20 minutes, each ward was asked to briefly to feedback its three main priorities.

William Morris ward:

- to continue working on vehicle crime and ASB;
- to tackle graffiti;
- to encourage people to work with the police and extend the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Chapel End ward:

- residents reported that all the priorities they had listed had been or were addressed by the SNT.

Higham Hill ward:

 main concerns involved burglary, vehicle crime, drug issues and traffic calming in Willingham School and Hillyfield School.

High Street ward:

residents reported that there was a shattered window in Campbell Road.

SNT (9)

SNT (8)

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Action Campbell Road: disable badges were stolen from parked vehicles; people were gathering on the pavements after Friday night prayers causing disruptions. **SNT (10) I** Capes was concerned by the issue of traffic calming scheme. He said that High Street ward had recently implemented a traffic-calming scheme in the area around Stoneydown Park Primary School which has been funded under the Transport for London 'Safe Route to School' initiative. The core feature was a one-way section of Pretoria Avenue between Longfield Avenue and Orchard Street. It had been designated 'northbound only' to prevent traffic going into central London bypassing the traffic lights at Blackhorse Road tube station by rat-running past a school gate used by more 240 primary school children. Many drivers have routinely ignored the one-way section and speeds in the (wrong) southbound direction have increased especially during lunchtimes and extended afternoon leaving time (from 3:30 pm to 6.30 pm). LBWF officers visited the school on the morning of Friday 2nd February to discuss post-implementation street layout problems with the headteacher, governors and PTA. Afterwards they did a tour of the area and many cars were seen ignoring the new restrictions. **IC** asked whether the Council and the Police could liaise to organise a multi-agency enforcement over a relatively short but continuous period of time to discourage the illegal driving which was putting school children at risk, pointing out that a similar risk faced older pupils from Willowfield School using Pretoria Avenue, and local residents of different ages. **F Raja** replied that PCSO could discuss the matter with Mr Capes. RT thanked residents for the feedback and he welcomed the wonderful news about Chapel End, which meant that Neighbourhood Watch Schemes were working. He added that motor-vehicle crime was one of Community Safety's top priorities and it was in the process of ordering 100 'protectors' to reduce the theft of disabled badges. Then he advised residents using satellite navigators and in-car stereos not to leave holders visible and clear any signs from the windscreen. Cllr Meiszner was concerned by the fact that Community Safety had not replaced some broken CCTVs. **RT** replied that his team was working with the Enforcement Team and Environmental Services to replace them very guickly. New CCTVs had not materialised due to the amount of money involved and it is currently analysing the value for money for a new replacement.

The item was closed at this point.

9 CABINET CHAMPION FEEDBACK

Clir Akram's feedback on the spending on the Arcade site was delivered during the Community Forum (Item 7).

10 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

There was no formal business for discussion.

11 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and venue of the next Community meeting will be published after the annual Full Council meeting on the 24th May 2007.

The meeting ended at 9.58 pm

Chairs Signature_____

Action

Date_____