



Welcome

Introductions

Ian Brown	Chair FCP
Doug Smith	Chair FVP
Bart MacCarthy	Treasurer FCP & FVP
Steve Thomas	Secretary FCP & FVP

Apologies

Speakers: Michael Flannagan (UoL), Lisa Wileman (LP), Ed Kocik (LCC)

Members: Helen Lentell, Rob Perrin, Jennifer Clegg

Non-members: Michael Lane (CPC), Wendy Allum (FNW)

Attendees

Committee: Ian Brown, Doug Smith, Bart MacCarthy, Steve Thomas

Speakers: Raj Shukla (LCC), Matthew Finch (LCC), Connor Cathcart (char.gy), Gareth Oughton (UoLSU), Donna Trusler (WQE)

Councillors: Danny Myers, Patrick Kitterick

Members: Emily Hall, Jenny Westmoreland, Jennifer Macgregor, Nick McDonald, Indira Nath, Sally Williams, Anthony Matthew, Veronica Matthew, Elizabeth Worrall, Robert Ball, Lawrence Whittaker, Bebe Lane, Mags Lewis, Sally White, Steffan Davies

Non-members: Jan Moore (SCAS), Lucy Ward, Michael Bitenieks, Natalie Simmonds, Nick Antill, Mark Harrison, Aidan Oliver, Jan Grothusen, Ro Gordon, Kristel Karami, Angela Walker, Jane McCarren, Susan Burnett, John Brownlow

Previous minutes

Minutes of our previous meeting are available on our website: [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 02 11 – Minutes.pdf](#)

Guest Speakers – “Electric Vehicles: on-street charging from lamp posts”

Ian gave an introductory briefing on the EV charging bays project (see [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slides 5 to 10).

Raj Shukla (Transport Development, LCC) spoke first and gave an overview of the project’s purpose and progress to date. He noted the project plans to provide 16 car charging points to residents without off-street parking provision. 1/3 of streets don’t have off-street parking.

Matthew Finch (Transport Development, LCC) updated the meeting that the charging stations were still going through the planning approval process currently, so the final locations are still not certain yet.

Conor Cathcart (Project Coordinator, [char.gy](#)) could only stay in the meeting for a limited time, but advised:

- Charge points will be live immediately upon installation.
- Planning objections from residents are being further discussed.

- EV Chargers will need to be rated to 3.7KW because of the infrastructure capability provided by Western Power Distribution, which is a “rather slow charge” that he described as a “destination charge” suitable for “overnight or while at work for **8 hours** or so”.
- Only “Type 2” charging will be possible – suitable for most normal vehicles but not SUVs.

Raj Shukla also advised:

- Parking bays for EV charging will have a **4-hour** TRO.
- West Avenue lamppost charger already live, some others are weeks away from going live, but committee meeting pending to understand objections first.
- The 4 hours EV parking allowed during the day will “give a certain mileage range” or a full overnight charge if there is availability to do that.
- Tesla ‘super’ vehicles would not be compatible with this EV scheme, but the scheme is the most normal/standard scheme around.
- There is no CCTV supervision of this trial scheme, but charging time used can be measured.
- Queens Road is a difficult location in terms of capability for electricity infrastructure for EV charging to be installed.
- Raj is interested to hear from residents interested in EV stations and for suggestions for additional locations and will try and add to a list and plan accordingly where possible when the next tranche of installations are to take place.
- Raj is happy to be contacted via raj.shukla@leicester.gov.uk
- <https://char.gy/> will be the day-to-day contact for the EV charging service once live

Bart suggested comms needed to local residents to give updates on the scheme and the timeline, perhaps a leaflet.

Updates

Police update – Lisa Wileman (PCSO, LP)

Provided written update due to absence for operational reasons (see [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 12).

Lisa can be contacted on lisa.wileman6654@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk

Discussion of issue of catalytic converters and the level of risk posed from theft in relation to Toyota Prius models in particular. Some conflicting messages from Police compared to the local Toyota dealership.

City Wardens update – Darren Evans (City Warden, LCC)

No update provided.

UoL update – Michael Flannagan (Director of Estates & Digital Services, UoL)

Not able to join the meeting on this occasion.

UoLSU update – Gareth Oughton (Chief Executive, UoLSU)

21% of accommodation for the new term has already been contracted (rented) which is likely to be good news for local businesses.

Percy Gee Building opened 4/5/2021 and includes the new food court and student services centre.

Start of term planning is now underway – some uncertainty regarding specifics of in person teaching arrangements etc.

Ian asked Gareth if he knew whether the food court was open to the general public. He confirmed it was and that it is now open with less extensive 'out of term' facilities provision but that all facilities will be open during the next term time.

WQE update – Donna Trusler (Associate Principal, WQE)

Pleased that no concerns raised by residents about students this academic year.

Leicester University 'Safe Zone' App now in use by WQE students with positive effects.

Students finish 1/7/2021 & plans are for normal teaching to resume on 6/9/2021. New term enrolment to be online only.

Planning

WQE College – progress with establishing a right of way.

Ian introduced and summarised the events relating to WQE seeking to end the right of way and public access to WQE land perceived to have been available to local residents to cross between Clarendon Park Road and University Road, for many years (see [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slides 14 to 16 for full chronology of events since October 2020 relating to this).

The war memorial, the university sports centre and the Victoria Park Health Clinic (inc. the car park for those with mobility problems) are all situated on WQE land.

Donna Trusler read a statement prepared by the absent WQE Principal and advised that she was not able to answer follow up questions. The statement can be found here:

<https://wqe.ac.uk/an-update-on-clarendon-park-road-gate-and-access/>

Donna further added further an additional message from the absent WQE Principal, "that they were aware of concerns in the community that there are plans to develop the areas ... this is not the case and we can reassure the community in this respect".

Ian referred to [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 17 'What can I do?' indicating practical ways to indicate objection to the closure of the path. He also advised a briefing note would be sent out shortly, and also a Leicester City Council hosted electronic petition is available for residents to be able to sign (although is hard to find and hard to register to be able to sign).

The 'chat' in Zoom detailed numerous concerns about the route closure and the implications for safety if people had to walk through the park at night instead. Multiple residents confirmed they had used the route openly for up to 50, even 60 years before its recent closure. Some had never seen the gate locked in decades.

Ian confirmed that the e-petition had experienced numerous technical problems so had not been publicised for signatures yet. The address for this petition is:

<https://cabinet.leicester.gov.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?ID=111&RPID=24613936&HPID=24613936>

Patrick Kitterick then spoke at length in criticism of the WQE actions and the statement read out on behalf of the absent Principal. In summary of his comments, he responded with observations that it was:

- “a patronising statement from Paul Wilson”
- He was sceptical of Paul’s assurances development of the land is not planned as WQE has given past assurances and development still took place.
- He does not trust WQE.
- The gate was locked without any community consultation.
- The college is “sticking 2 fingers up to the local community”.
- Patrick confirmed that many women had written to him objecting and stating that they felt safer walking through WQE than through the park and given concerns relating to the murder of Sarah Everard and other recent concerns relating to women’s safety, it appears that Paul does not care about this.
- Having someone else read out his statement that could then not be responded to was “really not good enough”.
- Councillor and local community support for WQE students that had been offered after previous student bad behaviour issues is not being reflected with this exclusion of the community from WQE path access.
- The locking of the gate most affects those with mobility issues.
- “Paul Wilson is displaying an ignorance of the community .. not understanding what happened on the ‘alternative’ route through Victoria Park”
- “It’s one of the poorest responses I’ve ever had from an institution” Patrick stated.

A number of meeting attendees expressed their agreement with Patrick in the chat including Steve, Sally Williams, Michael, Jan G., Nick A, Jane, Jan Moore, Steffan, Natalie Savage and Sally White.

Gareth Oughton also spoke on behalf of the student community and said that the (now closed) path is seen as a safer route and that people, including students do not feel safe walking through Victoria Park because of previous serious incidents that have taken place on that route.

Permit Parking Zone – Update, Feedback, Issues & Extension

Ian summarised the situation and chronology relating to the RPZ/Permit Parking Zone (see [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slides 18 to 28).

Bart reminded us that the FCP position/view on the RPZ was neutral but the expectation was for robust evidence to be provided by LCC for the benefits of the scheme.

Ian updated the meeting that:

- Parking vouchers/booklets ARE now available and are issued on a case by case/merit basis. (Patrick interjected that vouchers can be made available on the

basis of a genuine business need or a genuine individual or personal need) although in the official website LCC FAQ's they do not exist.

- Ian showed the pre and post implementation parking survey results in chart form showing more spaces available in the zone after the scheme started. He also showed that the number of weekly parking notices issued appears to be declining.
- Extension Area Surveys have been completed to indicate the availability of parking (at the time of the survey) in the streets surrounding the RPZ (see PowerPoint). Whether these 'facts' match resident perceptions is to be established.
- A map of the proposed extended parking zone had been published by LCC in the last few days (see [FCP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 26). This effectively covers all the terraced houses without off street parking.

Patrick advised the meeting that the draft extended RPZ area is open for comments and consultation – for representations for streets to be added or removed from the proposals.

He also said that his thought was that LCC would write to people with permits for feedback and offer a platform for other local people to respond with feedback through also. However, he said that most complaints have been for people wanting to be within the RPZ. A formal consultation process will have to take place, although his gut feel is that things are working, and are sufficiently successful to for the scheme to be expanded.

Aidan Oliver expressed delight at the news of the potential expansion of the scheme.

Cllr Danny Myers agreed that the scheme appears to have worked.

Patrick acknowledged that some RPZ schemes also have an afternoon restriction, but he would prefer to keep the scheme as simple as possible if possible.

Bart asked Patrick on timings for the extension of the scheme. Patrick answered that formal processes were necessary to confirm the RPZ phase 1 as permanent, and the extension of the scheme could be completed in time for the new academic year (but TBC at meetings to take place in July). There may need to be a grace period to allow returning students to prepare for the extended scheme.

AGM Business

Secretary's Report - structure, organisation, roles and meetings

Steve delivered the FCP Secretary's Report:

[FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Secretary's Report.pdf](#)

Treasurer's Report – membership & accounts

Bart delivered the FCP Treasurer's Report:

[FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Summary Accounts.pdf](#)

[FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Treasurer's Report.pdf](#)

Chair's Report – activities

Ian delivered the FCP Chair's Report:

[FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Chair's Report.pdf](#)

Friends of Victoria Park – The Future of the Group

Doug announced that with immediate effect, the Friends of Victoria Park group will effectively cease to exist. The current officers will remain in post to deal with the dissolution of the group and the transfer of assets to The Friends of Clarendon Park group. Doug has explained the reasons for this in the FVP Chair's Report:

[FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Future of FVP.pdf](#)

Ian paid tribute to Doug's efforts and expressed his sadness at the demise of the group, because it could not establish a successful working relationship with the Council.

Mags Lewis, one of the other FVP founding members also paid tribute to Doug and agreed that establishing a positive working relationship with the Council had proved to be impossible as the council saw the FVP group as problem rather than a resource.

Doug added to this that his understanding is that there is only one Park Friends group left in Leicester and that the others have all closed for the same reasons.

Lawrence Whittaker – ex treasurer also paid tribute to Doug's efforts. He also expressed the hope that FCP can help the FVP funds to be used constructively in the future.

Cllr Danny Myers acknowledged the projects initiated by the FVP that have brought benefit to the community and the park. He noted that the problems relating to the Park Friends groups is something that should be discussed at Council level, and that he will speak to Rita Patel about the matter. He wondered if Council behaviours needed to change as he has found FVP to be nothing but constructive and of benefit to the community.

Committee elections – Chair, Treasurer, Secretary & others

No other nominations for posts were received.

Chair – Ian was unanimously re-elected.

Treasurer – Bart was unanimously re-elected.

Secretary – Steve was unanimously re-elected.

Events

Update on recent and future events attended by FCP.

See [FCP & FVP – AGM – 2021 06 17 – Agenda.pdf](#) page 2 for details.

Licensing

CP – Gainsborough Stores, Pavlos Kebabs, Martin Bros Pizza Co

VP – Oktoberfest

See [CP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 31 for details.

Consultations

LCC – [Key Worker Corridors survey](#) (closes 27 Jun 2021)

LCC – [Safer Streets Healthier Neighbourhoods survey](#) (closes 27 Jun 2021)

See [CP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 32 for details.



FCP & FVP Members Meeting
7:30pm Thu 17/06/2021
Minutes



Projects

Student Communications – Farewell Letter

Noise – sound level meter funding

Ian confirmed that an application has been made to Castle Ward Community Fund for the purchase of a noise meter. If successful, the meter will be used to monitor noise from events on Victoria Park and in the community.

Any Other Business

Putney Road issues to be covered another time when there is more time available.

See [CP & FVP – MEM – 2021 06 17 – FCP & FVP Slides.pdf](#) slide 34 for details.

Close

Our next Public Meeting is scheduled for 7.30 – 9.30pm on Thursday 14th October 2021.

Whether this meeting will be held on Zoom, in person, or a hybrid of the two is to be confirmed.

Steve Thomas
FCP Secretary