

YARDLEY EAST WARD MEETING NOTES	
WARD: YARDLEY EAST	DATE: Thursday 20 th June 2019
VENUE: St. Edburgha' s Church, Church Road, Yardley, B25 8PD	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.15pm
COUNCILLOR: Neil Eustace	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team, BCC Pat Whyte – Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit Sgt Michael Wilson – Local Policing Team, WMP	
WARD PRIORITIES: Ongoing	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<p>1. Notice of Recording – Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and/or take photographs of the meeting. exempt items.</p> <p>2. Local News and Updates</p> <p><u>WMP</u></p> <p>Sgt Mick Wilson briefly advised of the ongoing work of the local policing team. The increase in HMOs (Homes of Multiple Occupation) in the ward was currently one of the causes for concern; some lacked the basis structures and adequate support for the occupants which in turn had an impact on the residents living close by. Residents with concerns should contact the local policing team on 101, via the WMP website or the team mobile number 07931 019033.</p> <p>Details of WMNOW (West Midlands Now) messaging service were also given, and residents actively encouraged to register their details with the App to receive advice/information and alerts specific to their local area.</p> <p>Cllr Eustace advised of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waste Collection Service – over 900 collections still being missed daily even through the dispute had been resolved and the crews 	

had returned to work. A new Cabinet Member, Cllr John O'Shea (Acocks Green Ward) had recently been appointed and was really keen to work with the Trade Unions and collection crews to get the service back on track. In the meantime, residents should still continue to report missed collections to the Contact Centre or Cllr Eustace.

- Amey Highways Maintenance Contract – following yet another High Court challenge, a final ruling had been made in the City Council's favour. Discussions were now ongoing between both parties regarding ending the contract, however finding a replacement contractor could take up to two years. Currently, Amey would only be carrying out work that was deemed urgent/dangerous; it was unlikely that routine or programmed works would now go ahead. Residents would continue to be kept informed.
- Parks/Open Spaces Maintenance – the current contract with Glendale's had now ended and would not be renewed. The service would be done 'in-house' by the Parks Dept. However, due to there being a shortage of equipment, grass cutting and other maintenance work had been patchy. The appropriate levels of equipment had been ordered and the maintenance work should continue to improve over the coming weeks/months.
- Stechford Train Station – the improvements to the station were going well and were still expected to be completed by the end of November 2019.
- Iron Lane Junction Improvements – works ongoing with the improvements to the junction.
- Graffiti/tagging had appeared in Partridge, Croft and Church Roads; much of it had been removed by Waterloo Housing Association and a local resident (John), however Virgin Communications had not yet removed it from their cable boxes despite several requests.
- Former Stechford Baths building – a decision had not yet been made on the future use of the premises. During the consultation, many residents had stressed that another supermarket was not needed, and that community use with parking provision was the preferred option.
- Former Co-op Sports Ground, Barrows Lane – an open day was held on the site by Persimmons developers who were hoping to build up to 170 new homes on the site despite many objections from local residents and the non-league football team who had used the site for many years; paid rent on the site and offered to carry out the ground care and maintenance. There was also an ongoing

dispute regarding how the site should be used as it was covered by a covenant for community use when it was originally gifted to the Co-op.

- Former Garage site on Church Road – Planning Application submitted due to be considered by the Planning Committee within the next few weeks. The site was in the Conservation Area and the application was expected to adhere to its restrictions and conditions, however there were concerns that the applicant had already ignored/not complied with them. Cllr Eustace and several residents would be attending the Planning Committee meeting to present their objections and concerns.
- Special Thank You to local resident Mr Powell for his ongoing work in picking up litter along Blakesley Road on a daily basis and helping to keep the road clean.

3. Ward Plan – Ideas and Suggestions

Following discussions, the ward priorities were identified as:-

- **Open Spaces:** Yardley East only had half of the recommended public open space, therefore we object to the loss or any further green public space – public or private, and that the retention of the former Co-op sports ground was very important
- **Transport:** the proposed tram line from the NEC via the Meadway/Bordesley Green East was welcomed/a bus service for the length of Queens Road, linking with Lea Hall and Stechford Stations would be useful, along with additional car parking facilities at both stations.
- **Road safety/speeding** continued to be a cause for concern across the ward; the safety of pedestrians was paramount. Funding is needed to install traffic calming measures, including driver feedback signs, VASS (Vehicle Activated Speed Signs) and community initiatives like Street Watch and Speed Watch encouraged and supported
- **Planning:** greater protection and enforcements of conditions and restrictions in the Conservation Areas; proactive enforcement action against those residents running inappropriate businesses from residential homes (car sales/car repairs etc.)
- **Street Scene:** cleaner, tidier streets, improved refuse collection service and emptying street bins; litter picking and street cleaning; grass cutting/maintenance of grass verges; graffiti removal within 48 hrs.
- **Housing:** the increase of HMOs/supported housing facilities in the ward, with little or no experience and insufficient staffing levels. More suitable homes for older/elderly residents/ making better use of derelict/unused garage sites to build affordable homes.
- **Former Cascade Site/Community buildings:** retention of community buildings and assets for local use; supporting residents' requests for retention.

- **Crime & Community Safety:** more visible patrols and increase in officers locally; better interaction with residents through public meetings/social media and community led groups like Neighbourhood Watch Groups.
- **Education:** increased provision of school places for local children; developing an action plan for the wider Yardley District to encourage local children into higher education/access to universities.
- **Community Cohesion:** reducing social isolation across all ages; providing support and activities for everyone to encourage better integration, foster goodwill and civic pride as well as improving mental and physical health/wellbeing.
- **Environment:** more awareness of climate change; greater efforts needed to encourage/increase recycling, composting, re-use of furniture/household equipment; reducing carbon emissions and footprints by improving the public transport offer; more floral enhancements and initiatives (like Stechford in Bloom).

4. Residents News and Updates

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Blakesley Road – the street bins by the No 11 Outer Circle Bus stop had been removed.

Action: Cllr Eustace agreed to chase this up with the Street Cleansing Team

- Old Yardley Park – bins were rusting away and in need of replacement.

Action: Cllr Eustace to chase up bin replacement programme with the District Parks Manager

5. Petitions – None submitted

6. Any Other Business

None raised.

7. Dates of Next Meeting

Thurs 19th Sept

Thurs 5th Dec } all to be held at 6.30pm, St. Edburgha's Church

Thurs 19th March 2020

Meeting closed 8:15pm