

YARDLEY EAST WARD MEETING NOTES ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

THURSDAY 15TH APRIL 2021

6.00 – 7.30PM

Cllr Neil Eustace in the Chair

Officers in Attendance

Rachel Chapman – Birmingham Public Health Officer

Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team

Pat Whyte – Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Notice of Recording

Residents were advised that the online meeting would be recorded and made available for public record on the City Council NDSU (Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit) YouTube Channel within 5 working days.

2. Covid-19 Latest Information Update

Following introductions, Rachel Chapman, Birmingham Public Health gave details of the latest Covid-19 statistics for the City and advised of the following:-

- Locally, infection rates had fallen significantly compared to the last 12 months; hospital admissions and deaths due to Covid-19 had also fallen, which was excellent news.
- Mixing of households and social interactions; lack of social distancing indoors including the workplace and schools continued to be hotspot areas for the spread of the infection.
- Covid-19 Champions currently 6 in the ward, more volunteers needed to help disseminate information to the wider community

including 'hard to reach' groups as well as giving feedback and relaying any community concerns to the Birmingham Public Health Team. Details on how to sign up were available on the City Council website.

- The take-up of the Covid-19 vaccinations in the ward was also very good, with a 90% success rate in the 60+ age group and 80% in the 55 to 59 age group. Residents who had not yet been offered the vaccine or have concerns should contact their GP

Ms Chapman further advised that everyone should continue to wash/sanitise their hands on a regular basis, observe social distancing guidance and wear face coverings where appropriate in order to minimise the spread of infection as well as to keep themselves and loved ones safe. Regular Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) should also be carried out (approx. twice per week) if returning to the workplace, school or college as not everyone who had contracted the virus displayed symptoms. Where symptoms were displayed, a PCR Test (Polymerase Chain Reaction) should be carried out as soon as possible to determine whether the individual had contracted Covid-19. Rachel added that where a variant strain had been identified, intensive testing was carried out in households and businesses in close proximity to where the virus had been detected and everyone in that area encouraged to come forward for testing.

Cllr Eustace and residents thanked Rachel Chapman for her attendance and comprehensive update. Cllr Eustace also thanked residents for their own efforts in following the guidance and helping to keep Covid -19 infections in the ward low.

3. Local Councillor News and Updates

Cllr Eustace advised of the following:-

- An increase in fly-tipping, litter and graffiti/tagging in the ward, which was very disappointing. Residents were reminded to remain vigilant and to report any incidents to Cllr Eustace. Car thefts and abandoned vehicles had also increase during the pandemic -these should continue to be reported to the police.
- Queens Road surface was very poor. Cllr Eustace had asked for resurfacing works to be done as a matter of urgency. Residents would continue to be informed when the work was due to start.
- Ward Plan- a draft of the Plan and priorities had been completed and would be circulated to residents for any further comments or additions they wished to see included. The Plan was a working document and required to be reviewed on a regular basis – 6 months or so as priorities were complete or new ones identified.
- A special thank you to all residents – individuals as well as voluntary/community groups for their ongoing efforts with regular litter picks and helping to keep the streets and areas within the ward clean.

4. Commonwealth Games 2022 Celebrating Communities Fund

Details of the Celebrating Communities Fund was given to residents. Each Ward had been allocated a small amount of funding to help residents, community and voluntary groups celebrate and make the most of the Games.

The amount allocated per ward had been based on the Indices of Deprivation and the amount for Yardley East Ward was £14,300

The funding was available to help deliver projects/events under the following themes:-

Getting Active

Ready, Steady, Fun

Celebrating Culture.

There were three levels of funding for projects/activities:-

Between £100 and £1,000

Between £1,001 and £5,000

Between £5,001 and £10,000.

There were two funding rounds in which interested groups could submit their application for funding – the first round was currently open 1 June 2021, and the second round being 1 October – 30 November 2021.

Events/activities would also have to comply with relevant Covid-19 restrictions/social distancing measures in place at the time.

Support/advice and guidance for groups interested in submitting an application was available from Birmingham Community Matters and Locality – two organisations appointed by the City Council specifically for this purpose. Full details could be found on the City Council website.

Cllr Eustace and residents welcomed the Fund and felt that environmentally friendly projects would be an excellent and lasting legacy for the Games.

5. Residents News and Updates

Following interest from several residents regarding getting involved with organised litter picks, Cllr Eustace explained these were often carried out by individual residents or organised local groups - including Stechford Village Neighbourhood Forum on a regular basis – all of whom wanted to keep their local road/area clean and tidy. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Cllr Eustace.

Former Cascades Site – Nadeem, Chair of Stechford Village Neighbourhood Forum briefly advised of the ongoing discussions with the YMCA and Stechford Baptist Church regarding trying to secure the site as a Community Asset for the ward. Several meetings had been held with council officers and residents would continue to be kept informed. The Forum was also working closely with officers involved with the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy to see how key assets and areas in the ward could benefit/be improved by the Strategy.

There were no other updates.

Cllr Eustace thanked residents for their attendance and active participation.

Meeting closed 7:00pm