

	SOHO WARD MEETING 23 FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7PM AT THE SUMMERFIELD CENTRE, WINSON GREEN ROAD B18 4EJ	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Sybil Spence (in the Chair), Sharon Thompson & Chaman Lal</p> <p>Brendan Duffy, Operations Manager, Fleet & Waste Management Kate Foley, Senior Service Manager, Place Theresa Tamman, Street Scene Co-ordinator Nicci Collins, Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Manager Inspector Noeleen Murrin, West Midlands Police Sergeant Chris Thomas, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>There were 15 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies		
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Notes of Last Meeting</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
4.	<p><u>The Environment</u></p> <p>Residents raised the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An overhanging branch in Ninevah Road (by the sheltered housing accommodation) was obscuring the bus stop – Claremont Road/Selwyn Road – continual rubbish dumping – Former Morrisons store – concern over site being used for rubbish dumping/ASB – The alleyway between 104-118 Ninevah Road was used to dump rubbish and required clearing – Education was the key to reducing rubbish/litter and the schools needed to be involved to help spread the message – Landlords were responsible for a great deal of the rubbish dumping on the streets as they cleared out properties when tenants moved out. – The bulky waste collection needed to be re-introduced as 	

	<p>residents could not afford the £25 charge. A reduced charge in certain wards or free collections during a certain period would have an impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The image of the area was suffering due to the poor state of the environment - The Knightstone Neighbourhood Watch area had suffered vandalism to the cabin, park, bins and fly tipping. The cost to the Council to have to continually clear dumped rubbish was costing more than provision of a free collection service. - It was suggested that leaflets be distributed around the area in various languages explaining refuse collection, collection days, recycling etc. - Dora Road was suffering frequent missed collections. <p><u>Actions:-</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Theresa Tammam undertook to pursue removal of the tree branch and to arrange for clearing the rubbish in the alleyway between 104-118 Ninevah Road. 2. Brendan Duffy re Claremont/Selwyn Rds said signs had been erected but residents needed to work with the Council to find a solution to the problems. He asked residents to keep diaries, log registration details etc so that prosecutions could be made. 3. Bulky waste collections had ceased due to budget cuts. Residents could join together and have one collection and split the cost 4. Enforcement officers were working on the issues associated with private landlords 5. Leaflets had been distributed to residents and Theresa advised she was working on having them translated into 4 different languages. The Street Scene Team were knocking on doors and working with Brendan to find evidence in dumped rubbish – targeting at present Markby, Preston and Willes Roads where fixed penalty notices had been issued. <p>Councillor Thompson advised she had written to all school councils and invited them to the Council Chamber to take part in a debate about the environment. 6 schools were represented with 60 children in attendance who questioned officers and signed up to a charter and agreed to undertake litter picks as a school.</p> <p>The Chair assured residents that officers took all complaints and reports seriously and cleared rubbish as quickly as possible but unfortunately more was dumped in its place as soon as cleared. She thanked officers for their work but said that residents needed to work with officers and councillors to stop the rubbish dumping.</p>	<p>Theresa Tammam</p>
--	--	-----------------------

5.

Community Safety

Sergeant Thomas outlined the police priorities for the area,

- Begging/drinking Soho Road
- Waverhill Park
- Claremont Road/ South Road – drug dealing
- An application had been made for a Public Space Protection Order covering Waverhill, Bacchus, Ninevah and Park Roads and the area outside KFC on the Soho Road – this was currently under consultation
- The incident in Claremont Road was still under investigation

Residents made the following comments;

- Theft from cars seemed to be increasing
- Spring Hill Park was being used for drug taking and police patrols in the area would be helpful
- There were large groups of men hanging around the area which made people feel uncomfortable and intimidated
- Gun crime was on the increase in the area but no information was reaching residents

Sergeant Thomas made the following points;

- An application had been made for a Public Space Protection Order to cover the area of Waverhill, Bacchus, Nineveh, Park Roads and the area outside KFC on Soho Road and was out for consultation.
- The incident in Claremont Road was still under investigation
- Figures indicated that car crime was down on the same time last year but there had been some fluctuations. Residents were encouraged to report any thefts. Patrols would be sent to where there were spikes in crime.

Nicci Collins added that the fear of crime was an issue and that research showed that community cohesion made people feel safer and outlined her role and the activities etc that she organized working with other partners. She added that ASB also needed to be reported.

Inspector Murrin reported 20 gun crime incidents in the last 12 months which had all been highlighted on the police website. Operation Captiva had been working through a multi agency approach to target individuals and 18 interim injunctions had been served and a strong message was being sent out. Social media was used to send out information but any suggestions were welcome. Councillor Thompson said that if the police provided information the Councillors would pass this onto the community.

Information was provided about Crimestoppers.

<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Matters of Local Concern</u></p> <p>i) <u>Petition – Footpath, Nineveh Road.</u> Update on petition submitted requested. Also carriageway condition on Markby & Preston Roads highlighted as very poor.</p> <p>ii) <u>Beat the Street Project</u> – project explained</p> <p>iii) <u>City Road Sports Ground</u> Residents made reference to the planning permission granted to develop the M&B Sports Ground, City Road which residents considered had been illegal. The details had been reported to the City Councils Chief Legal Officer requesting the decision be set aside but no response had been received. The Chair undertook to look into the issue as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>iv) <u>Soho Community Development Trust</u> Andrew Simons outlined the concept behind the formation of the Soho Community Development Trust. The interim group had been consulting on priorities for the ward and was focusing on the environment and community cohesion. Funding had been received from the Community Development Foundation to develop a draft plan which would be circulated around the community to gather support and generate further involvement. New members were required for the group. The Chair of United Communities undertook to contact Andrew.</p> <p>v) <u>Planning Application 2016/01435/PA – 212 Winson Green Road</u> Opposition expressed to the application to open a 20 bed hostel at the above address (former Acorn Pub). Residents asked for support from the meeting and the following objections were raised -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hostel was not compatible with the residential nature of the area • The nature of the hostel would serve to raise the well documented recorded deprivation levels that exist in Soho • Another such hostel would put a stain on resources eg GP surgeries, available to the ward and local community as well as impact on community cohesion and safety due to the transient nature of the proposed residents of the hostel • The over intensification of hostels in the Soho Ward was detrimental to the Ward and had a cumulative effect on levels of crime, fear of crime and anti- social behaviour <p>The meeting also requested that an audit of existing hostel facilities in the Soho Ward so that comparison could be made with other Wards in the City.</p>	<p>Raise with Amey</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Kay Thomas to send to Planning Officer</p>
------------------	--	---

7.	<u>Authority to Act</u>	Agreed
----	--------------------------------	--------

Meeting ended 8.50pm