

## HIGHTERS HEATH WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD: Highters Heath</b>	<b>DATE: 9<sup>TH</sup> December 2022</b>
<b>VENUE: Warstock Community Centre, Daisy Farm Road B14 4QA</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.05pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR Adam Higgs</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 4</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Sergeant Dawn Twomey and the Billesley Police Team</b> <b>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Councillor Higgs welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items

#### 2. Local Police Update from Sergeant Dawn Twomey

Sergeant Twomey introduced her team of officers and outlined their range of duties and shift patterns. The team covered Highters Heath & Billesley and due to changes in community policing over the years had to fit that around other duties such as assisting response teams with burglaries, violent crime and domestic abuse. Community involvement with speed watch, street watch etc was invaluable to the team and volunteers were always needed.

Residents expressed their concern regarding an incident at Daisy Farm Park on the previous Saturday involving a number of quad bikes and cars being driven around the park. A crowd, including children had gathered giving rise to safety concerns and there had also been concern for the safety of park users who had been enjoying the park at the time. The barriers to the park had been damaged so the vehicles could gain access but had been swiftly repaired by the Parks Manager. The disorder and anti-social behaviour had been reported to police but there had been no attendance. The initial call had been made to 101 but was not answered, on-line reporting had

also not generated a response so a 999 call had been made due to the dangerous situation posed by vehicles driving around the park users. The call had been diverted to West Mercia force but there had been no police attendance. Residents were concerned that this sent a message that the Park could be used for such activities without repercussions. The meeting was advised that photographs etc on the Teams Twitter page had shown bikes being seized and residents said that more publicity around seizures etc would be helpful.

Sergeant Twomey explained that on that night she and her team had not been on duty and that as a neighbourhood team and not a response team would not have responded to a 999 call, but the intelligence received from the calls regarding the incident had led to a joint operation being undertaken with traffic colleagues. It appeared that there had been a 'gathering' and other parks in other areas had also been affected. Registration details had uncovered stolen vehicles but the vehicles were not from the local area. Residents expressed frustrations over the inability to get through to the police on a Saturday lunchtime in connection with the incident. Sergeant Twomey acknowledged the points being made and assured the meeting that from the information received investigations were ongoing. Daisy Farm Park had previously experienced issues with travellers accessing the Park and working with the council a court order had been granted to prevent encampments in South Birmingham and had provided police with additional powers if the order was breached.

Addressing other issues, Sergeant Twomey advised that officers were now attending every burglary to offer re-assurance which had not been the case previously. CCTV in Ravenshill Road in response to anti-social behaviour would be installed after Christmas and at Braceby Avenue (Billesley) when funds had been raised. In response to questions from Councillor Higgs, the meeting was advised that the cameras for Ravenshill Road were temporary.

In response to queries regarding anti-social behaviour and how the police dealt with it, Sergeant Twomey said that ASB was a neighbourhood team response but was not a Force priority. The Team did not choose what it responded to but when able addressed ASB through schools, social workers etc and undertook work, details of which could not be shared with the community. The Team would respond but it might not be immediately if not logged as a priority at the time.

A local resident then raised a number of matters relating to an issue involving anti-social behaviour caused by a neighbouring tenant and the detrimental effect it was having on her life. She commented on, what she believed to be, a lack of response to the problems she had reported to the police and that she was not receiving replies to emails/phone calls. There had been a lack of support for her situation.

Sergeant Twomey said that the Team had worked hard on the case, had responded to all emails and had supported the resident and involved other agencies to provide additional support. She continued that unless express permission was given by the resident concerned to continue discussing the issue, she was unable to continue responding to the comments being made as it was a personal matter that was being dealt with and was not a suitable conversation to hold in a public meeting. Permission was not provided, therefore Sergeant Twomey advised that a meeting had been arranged with Inspector Strong and she was unable to respond further.

Councillor Higgs said that this was not a matter for a public meeting and was difficult for Sergeant Twomey to continue the discussion as there had been an agreement for a meeting with the Inspector. He undertook to meet with the resident separately.

With respect to Daisy Farm Park, it was suggested investigations be made into securing a grant to purchase CCTV as a deterrent to ASB as funding was available for park improvements. Sergeant Twomey said that she would have a look at the logs in relation to the Park and raise this at the joint partners meeting.

In response to questions from Councillor Higgs, the meeting was advised that a group had been arrested in regard to the spate of burglaries in Sladepool Farm Road and some had recently been found guilty of the robberies and others were awaiting charge. The noise from Sainsbury car park affecting residents in Henlow Road had been investigated but due to the gym that also used the car being operational 24hours per day, Sainsbury would not close the barrier at night.

### **3. Creating a Friends of Daisy Farm Park**

Councillor Higgs said that he was working with Birmingham Open Spaces Forum to set up a Friends of Group and was seeking volunteers. Anyone interested was asked to contact Councillor Higgs who would pass on details to BOSF. PCSO Tony said he would be happy to be part of the group.

Sergeant Twomey said that the Friends of Trittford Mill could offer assistance in setting up a group for Daisy Farm Park and she was trying to set up a Cadets Group, which if successful, could also help with litter picks, park activities etc.

**4. Ward Plan Discussion**

Councillor Higgs said that at the previous ward meeting there had been a discussion on key priorities/themes for inclusion in the ward plan. He asked residents to forward to him any further suggestions and Sergeant Twomey and the team undertook to also forward some ideas.

**5. Residents Have Your Say**

In response to a query regarding a recent car accident at the junction of Yardley Wood Road and Prince of Wales Lane where the hedging had been destroyed, Councillor Higgs said that the council had tidied the area of debris and he would chase regarding the hedging.