

NECHELLS WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Nechells	DATE: 23rd March 2023
VENUE: Free@Last, Nechells Park Road, B7 5PR	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8pm
COUNCILLOR Lee Marsham	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 9
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: PC Cameron Yates & PCSO Waseem Abdo, West Midlands Police Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording:

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

2. Police Update

PC Yates reported the following updates –

- use of nitrous oxide on the increase but hot spots being patrolled and engagement with young people involved

- Car thefts and thefts from cars was increasing, including theft of catalytic converters. Preventative advice given to safeguard vehicles and meeting advised that operations were being increased
- Street Watch – an additional 9 volunteers had been signed up
- Business Watch group set up via Teams to share relevant information and discuss shared issues. Currently working with businesses looking at obtaining CCTV for specific area, details would be forwarded to Councillor Marsham.
- Litter picking – project to target specific areas to commence in June
- Anti-social behaviour in tower blocks (especially Queens & South Towers) – patrols had increased following reports at previous meeting and the response had been positive

In response to resident's comments regarding the main car crime issues centring around 'car cannibalism' and the view that this should be the focus of police activity, the meeting was advised that there was a team that dealt with those types of offences and that the local team did try to respond as quickly as possible to reports of car crime. Residents stated that there needed to be renewed confidence in the police through more community engagement and response to crimes such as burglary and issues associated with exempt and HMO properties. Residents in Stanley Road had been reporting ASB from an HMO property, but no action had been taken. PC Yates acknowledged the points and said that response to burglary was now a higher priority and undertook to report the issues around exempt accommodation on Nechells Park Road & Stanley Road to Sergeant Singh.

Action: Councillor Marsham to meet with residents from Stanley Road and make a hot spot area

3. Ward Action Planning

Councillor Marsham reported that at the last meeting there was a discussion around a plan for the ward and residents helped identify some priorities, goals and actions to better enable residents, organisations and councillor

to work together to achieve local solutions. The previous meeting considered cleaner/greener and safer topics but ran out of time to consider in depth the others that had been suggested and so it had been agreed that the conversation would continue at this meeting.

Councillor Marsham reported that since the discussion on priorities at the last meeting the following actions had been taken –

- In response to the Cleaner/Greener priority suggestions/solutions, a MHRC in the ward each month was now permanent. Community Payback Team would be undertaking a monthly litter pick in Bloomsbury. PCSO Abdo had met with the team and identified 5 hot spot areas to be targeted over the next 4 weeks then they would move onto further hot spots.
- Road safety, parking and pedestrian space had been identified as priority issues and recently an agreement had been given by Aston Villa FC re consultation on match day parking schemes in Nechells. Additional double yellow lines had been agreed for Cooke Street & roads off and funding from HS2 to implement a road safety scheme in the Duddeston Manor/Vauxhall Roads area. Arrangements were also being made for more collaborative work with the police on enforcement around schools and funding/schemes would be focused on school roads

Additional priority for discussion -

Making Nechells Healthy & Prosperous

Residents raised the issue of pollution caused by the number factories etc located within residential areas, the increase in vehicles travelling through Nechells to avoid the Clean Air Zone and the proximity of Spaghetti Junction, A38 and other major roads. The effect on the health of local residents was a cause of concern. Residents called on

the council to review decisions to allow any further heavy industry that affected air quality to be located in Nechells and queried a CAZ for Nechells or that funding from the existing CAZ be used to improve the lives of Nechells residents.

Further priorities should include funding for more places like Free@Last with activities for young people to promote healthy living/sport, especially as Nechells Green Community Centre had been closed. Investment in local parks so that local people had football pitches, basketball courts etc and enable activities such as park runs/walks. Areas such as Mount Street Park had large spaces but no equipment to encourage use.

Councillor Marsham said that there were plans for park improvement and undertook to discuss this further at the next meeting.

John Street advised that Free@Last had secured funding for school holiday activities and the focus would be on healthy eating, growing food and activity.

Next Meeting – 25th May 2023 at 6.30pm at The POD, Oliver Street