

HIGHTER'S HEATH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Highter's Heath	DATE: Thursday 28 th September 2023
VENUE: Warstock Community Centre, 1 Daisy Farm Road, B14 4QA	START/FINISH TIMES: 7:30 pm – 8:09 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Adam Higgs	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 4
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Cross – Kier Highways, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Prosperous Highter's Heath
2. A Safe Highter's Heath
3. A Green Highter's Heath
4. A Local Highter's Heath

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

The Councillor welcomed all to the meeting and advised residents that members of the press or public may record and/or take photographs of the meeting.

2. Councillor Updates

The Councillor addressed the situation surrounding the S114 notice being issued and an emergency meeting was held on 25th September. The Chief Executive, Deborah Cadman, has announced the council recovery plan and due to the commissions now in place at Birmingham City Council, the council has lost some of their powers. Statutory services will not be affected and will continue to run. More information about the S114 notice can be found on the following link [FAQs – published 18 October 2023 | Frequently asked questions \(FAQs\) about section 114 | Birmingham City Council](#)

3. **Stuart Cross – Kier Highways**

Stuart Cross introduced himself to residents and updated them all on the works taking place in the ward and future projects.

- Warstock Lane resurfacing behind the golf course, still awaiting for this to be done and may possibly begin in November.
- New projects from Kier will be announced in November 2023
- The damaged footpath outside the post office has been resurfaced
- Residents commented that some tree's on Maypole Lane have been taken down and not replaced by the park. If the tree's were to remain there then it would act as a barrier for traveller's getting on to the park. Stuart advised that the tree's that were pulled out were diseased and usually when one tree is pulled out another one is put in it's place however the cost implications also have to be considered of maintaining the tree's
- New tree's were planted in the park were vandalised therefore additional funding is required for tree planting. The Councillor suggested to use part of the Brum Breathes fund however costs and quotations are required from Kier before putting in an application to Brum Breathes. Stuart suggested that the tree officer could potentially work with the Councillor
- Gritting routes are starting in November and tree planting will run from November – April
- The Councillor commented that he be informed once a resurfacing date has been finalised for Warstock Lane as it is currently a hazard particularly for cyclists
- S114 notice does not affect Kier and is business as usual

4. **Local Police Update**

The Councillor read out Sgt Twomey's police update. Please see appendices one to view the full police report. Residents commented that it is good to know and hear updates on crime in the area. The problems residents encounter is on the school runs. When police do not attend the behaviour is very bad however when police attend then parents/carers do appear to be on their best behaviour.

Residents commented on the increase in graffiti which happens mostly overnight. The spots recently hit are Highter's Heath Lane, the hairdressers and beauticians have had their window put through. Cars from Beckett's Farm racing on the outskirts of the ward.

5. Funding – Community Chest

A proposal was put forward to purchase a defibrillator out Immanuel Church which will be accessible to all. The approximate costings (subject to change upon finalising) are £1760 + £200 install. The Church will be responsible for this and aligns with priority four on the ward plan.

Reason for this request is that there has always been a need and there are a few others dotted around the ward. The cabinet will be heated for battery protection and lit up so it can be accessed in the dark. It will be a lockable cabinet and the code to unlock this will be given by a 999 operator as the cabinet will be registered with St Johns Ambulance.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Contact tree officer's regarding tree plantings in parks 2. Community chest request – Send all documentation to Preety & Cllr 3. Update Cllr when Warstock Lane will be resurfaced	1. Councillor Higgs 2. Immanuel Church 3. Stuart Cross	1. N/A 2. ASAP 3. Once information is known

Appendices one

Billesley Police Update

	Aug 22	Aug 23	
	Crime	<u>Crime</u>	
Serious Youth Violence	1	1	0.00%
Serious Youth Violence (Knife Used)	0	0	-
Domestic Abuse	49	39	-20.41%
Vehicle Crime (KPI)	31	17	-45.16%
Burglary - Dwelling	20	10	-50.00%
Robbery	5	3	-40.00%
Theft From The Person	1	1	0.00%

FINAL DRAFT

As you can see, the ward has seen a reduction in most crimes, with a significant reduction in Burglary and Vehicle Crime offenses.

With regards to burglaries, a while ago it was mandatory for officers to attend these matters, however the direction in relation to this changed.

As you are probably aware via the media, this has changed once again and, earlier this year, the NPCC committed that all 43 forces in England and Wales were to attend all home burglaries.

With this, the actions taken by officers since the changes have made an impact into the burglary crime figures.

House to house enquiries, CCTV opportunities and Crime Prevention Advice have all played a part in this reduction.

Vehicle crime has also seen a reduction, as part of the Forces Priorities, with specialised teams and operations in place dedicated to such offences.

Youth Violence statistics have stayed the same, as well as Theft From the Person. With this, there's a lot of joint work ongoing with the Youth Offending Team, School Liaison officers and BCC with joint working and visits.

ASB on the ward remains a constant problem.

There has been some good news for the ward, and that is we have been given the opportunity to take part in a pilot regarding ASB. This will see officers patrolling in hotspot areas at relevant times.

With this, I can report some really pleasing results since this started in force at the beginning of Aug.

Officers have recovered a number of stolen vehicles with accompanying arrests.

Seized stolen off-road bikes/ bikes, with arrests, including an offender with a knife.

FINAL DRAFT

Seized drugs from a male, who was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply.

Male arrested for drink drive and vehicle seized.

3 arrested with machetes, balaclavas and knives, for Going Equipped to Steal and Possession of an Offensive Weapon.

Driver detained due to no insurance/licence and car seized.

The feedback from the community has been really positive, as more officers are working on this particular problem which greatly effects our area.

The presence of officers, actively working in the community is hugely beneficial as highlighted above.