

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**  
**HALL GREEN WARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018**  
**7:00pm**  
**HIGHFIELD HALL**  
**HIGHFIELD ROAD**  
**B28 0HS**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present:** - Councillors Barry Bowles and Liz Clements

**Officers:** Richard Davies – Service Manager, Library Services  
Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team  
Lucy O’Grady – Amey  
PC Jason Roberts – West Midlands Police (WMP)  
Tony Worton – West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS)

**Guest Speaker:** Cllr Stewart Stacey – Cabinet Member, Transport and Roads

There were 25 residents present.

**Cllr L Clements in the Chair**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Following introductions, the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. NOTICE OF RECORDING**

The Chairman advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

**3. APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Kerry Jenkins, and an apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of Cllr Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member.

An apology for absence was also submitted on behalf of several regular meeting attendees.

**4. NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Agreed and Noted.

**Action Updates:-**

- Reddings Lane Garage Site – work had commenced on the building of the new garage; on-site facilities would also include a Costa Coffee shop.
- The Ford – Cllr Bowles advised of recent meetings with the Fire Service to discuss the possible options. Consultation would have to be carried out with all interested parties, including those in neighbouring Springfield ward.

Permission would also have to be obtained from the relevant body and funding identified before the ford could be closed. Residents would continue to be kept informed of any progress made.

Residents felt that charges should be levied against drivers who instigated an emergency call out due to their own negligence and poor driving practises. Residents suggested that better signage by the ford should be considered as this would make it easier to enforce a penalty notice.

## 5. **RECEIPT OF PETITIONS**

None received.

- KFC Drive Thru – the Chair advised that a petition was being circulated within the community opposing the application. The Ward Cllrs were happy to submit the petition to City Council/Planning Committee on residents' behalf once it had been completed.

A resident advised that a petition had also been started by residents living in Welby Road opposing the application on grounds of traffic congestion; the increase in the number of fast food outlets in the area which was above the 10% guidance threshold, and the increase in obesity and other health-related issues.

It was suggested that an online petition opposing the application should also be set up.

## 6. **FIRE SERVICE UPDATE**

Watch Commander Tony Worton briefly advised of the following:-

- Consultation on the future governance of West Midlands Fire Service had commenced on 11 January 2018.  
Copies of the questionnaire were circulated at the meeting and also available online. Residents were encouraged to complete and return the questionnaire before the consultation ended on 8 March 2018.
- The former Hall Green Stadium continued to be a cause for concern. The site was earmarked for demolition and redevelopment, however it remained insecure and a target for break-ins, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.  
Both the Fire Service and local policing team were regularly called out to the site.

The Chair advised that the Planning Department had been made aware of the issues and asked that site owner was contacted. However, as there were no contact details held on file, all correspondence had been directed to the applicant's agent Euro International Properties.

Councillors would continue to let Planning Officers know of any further concerns.

**Action: All to Note**

### ii) West Midlands Police

PC Jason Roberts advised of the following:-

- Staffing levels for the Neighbourhood Policing Team had significantly reduced for the ward as officers had been moved to assist response teams as well as provide support to areas identified as being a possible terror target. Currently the team was served by one officer; however this was due to be increased to a team of 4 officers in the near future.
- Crime figures for the ward showed there was a reduction in crime for the ward from 114 to 97.
- Vehicle crime – 21 offences had been reported. This included 6 stolen vehicles and 13 thefts from motor vehicles. The theft of the vehicles appeared to be quite random and not targeted or stolen to order. Residents were reminded to ensure any valuable items were kept out of sight/removed from the vehicle.
- Burglary Dwelling – there had been 18 residential burglaries across the ward during the last month, which included sheds/garages. This was a reduction from 27 burglaries compared to the same period last year. Distraction burglaries appeared to be on the increase, with elderly residents being targeted. Aggravated burglaries (classed as home invasions) were also on the increase and a cause for concern, with thieves targeted Asian jewellery. Residents were reminded to remain vigilant, keep windows and doors locked, to always ask doorstep callers for ID and to report any suspicious activities to the police.
- The arrest of a prolific burglar who was being held on suspicion for a number of burglaries within the ward.
- Car-jacking appeared to be on the increase citywide, with high-performance vehicles being targeted and stolen to order. Two arrests in the ward had recently been made.
- Obstructive parking/speeding continued to be a cause for concern. Several operations had been carried out recently on Fox Hollies Road by the Mobile Speed Camera Enforcement Unit. Several residents felt that a number plate recognition system would be very useful in the ward in light of the speeding, obstructive parking and dangerous driving concerns.

Local resident Bob Harvey gave details of a response he had received following his letter to the Chief Officer expressing his concerns at the reduction in police officers for the ward. Mr Harvey had also been informed he would be contacted by the Inspector to discuss the issues raised further; however, this has not yet happened.

The Chair advised that Members would still continue to express their concerns to the Police & Crime Commissioner and MP regarding the lack of policing resources in the ward and encouraged residents to do the same.

Residents were reminded to let Members know of any issues and concerns.

The Chair thanked the Officers from WMFS and WMP for their attendance and updates.

**Action: All to Note**

**7. HALL GREEN LIBRARY UPDATE**

Following introductions, Richard Davies, Service Manager, Library Services advised that:-

- Capital funding had been agreed to carry out the much needed and essential repairs to the library following the damage caused by a major flooding incident.
- Approx. £71,000 had been made available to assist with the repairs to the children's library area and the staff/work rooms.
- An asbestos survey would be carried out before the work could begin, which would help to identify what needed to be done. The full cost of the repairs and schedule of work would be drawn up by Birmingham Property Services following the survey. The contract for the work would then go out to tender.
- A complete upgrade of the building was likely to be approx. £250,000. A number of options were being explored to see how funding could be secured to complete the rest of the works.

Whilst welcoming the news, residents expressed some disappointment the whole building would not be fully renovated, given that most of the internal and external problems were the result of poorly done piecemeal work, which had not stood the test of time. Several residents felt that contractors should be held more accountable and made to rectify shoddy work at their own expense.

Further clarity was sought regarding the repairs to the community room, and felt it should be included in the works as it was a very well used and valued facility.

Responding to residents, Mr Davies explained the funding was not currently available to carry out the full renovation required. Priority had to be given to the areas of the library most affected by the flooding, and as much work as possible would be carried out with the funding that had been made available. Mr Davies confirmed the procurement process would be handled by Acivico.

**Action: Mr Davies agreed to provide a copy of the full breakdown costs to Members.**

Several residents felt that a 'Friends of Hall Green Library' Group would be very useful in helping to support one of the busiest and well used library in the city. The Chair suggested that interested residents should leave their contact details at the end of the meeting. The Library Manager would also be invited.

**Action: All to Note**

The Chair thanked Richard Davies for his attendance and update.

**8. ROBIN HOOD ISLAND**

Members and residents welcomed Cllr Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads and Lucy O'Grady, Customer Relations Manager, Amey.

Copies of an Appraisal Summary Report for Robin Hood Lane/Stratford Road Roundabout Junction were circulated at the meeting.

Introducing the report, Cllr Stacey explained that a detailed study of the roundabout junction had been carried out by senior officers within Highways and Traffic Management Services.

Three possible options had been included in the report for consideration – including a ‘Do Nothing’ approach. However, it should be kept in mind that any amendments to the circulatory road markings lane lines approaching the roundabout or on the roundabout itself could have implications for traffic elsewhere on the roundabout. Also, the removal of the pedestrian footpath or pedestrian lights was not feasible.

Whilst welcoming the report, residents felt it would be useful if more traffic observations/monitoring was carried out at different times during the day and evenings, including the weekends. Other suggestions included relocating the bus stop on the southbound carriageway; adjustments to the traffic light signals and creating lane lines on the roundabout.

Residents added that driver habits and practices needed to change/be better managed if the situation was to improve. The number of drivers using the roundabout junction continued to increase and residential roads nearby turned into rat-runs by drivers trying to avoid the junction and traffic congestion.

Responding to the suggestions made, Cllr Stacey stated these would be passed on to officers for consideration. Cllr Stacey added that any further ideas and suggestions for the island should be forwarded to him for inclusion in the discussions on the best way forward. In the meantime, the situation would continue to be monitored until a suitable solution if possible could be found.

**Action: All to Note**

Members and residents thanked Cllr Stacey for his attendance.

#### **Other Highway Updates**

Lucy O’Grady advised of the following:-

- The drains and gullies around the island/Stratford Road were cleaned on a 3 monthly basis.
- Potholes on Stratford Road (by Waitrose) – inspection and appropriate action to be carried out by Amey
- Parking Bays on Stratford Road by Robin Hood Island – parking restriction signage to be amended. Currently awaiting authorisation from the District Engineer for this to be rectified.
- Robin Hood Lane Pedestrian Refuge – flooding concerns currently being investigated

**Action: Lucy agreed to advise the Ward Cllrs accordingly**

#### **9. RESIDENTS NEWS/UPDATES/ISSUES OF CONCERN**

Residents advised of the following:-

- A build-up of rubbish outside Poundstretchers on Stratford Road

**Action: Cllr Bowles to investigate**

- Cubley Road/Sarehole Road – increase in obstructive/pavement parking; staff at Drucker’s Cake shop were the main perpetrators. Cllr Bowles had written to the manager at Drucker’s, however the problem was still ongoing.

**Action: Cllr Bowles to write again to Drucker’s to advise of residents’ concerns.**

- Highfields Road/Fox Hollies Road/Stratford Road – cars speeding excessively along these roads which made pedestrian crossing very difficult. Residents felt that a speedwatch activity should be considered.

**Action: Cllrs to discuss Speedwatch activity with local policing team**

Update on LIF Project – Re-Imagining Hall Green Parade

Local resident Stuart Daniels gave the following update:-

- The project was doing well
- A Hall Green Summit will be held in May/June 2018 in association with South & City College Birmingham to bring local organisations/agencies/businesses and residents together. Further details of the event would be made available in due course. Everyone was actively encouraged to attend and to share the information with their wider contacts/networks.

There were no other updates or issues raised.

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Residents were advised that the meeting set for 28 March 2018 would no longer go ahead as it was within the Pre-Election Period (Purdah).

The date of the next meeting would now take place after the Local Elections on Thursday 3 May 2018.

Cllr Bowles reminded residents of the wards boundary changes across the city, which would see an increase in the number of wards from 40 to 69. Locally, the changes would create a Hall Green North Ward and Hall Green South Ward. The current Ward Councillors would not be standing for election in either of these wards.

Ward Members thanked residents for their attendance and continued support at meetings and throughout the local community, and wished them well for the future.

**Action: All to Note**

**11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

Noted and Agreed that:-

“In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee”.

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The meeting closed at 9.05pm