

	NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM	
	15 JANUARY 2018 AT WEST HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HAMPSTEAD HOUSE, CONDOVER ROAD B31 3QY	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Debbie Clancy (Chair), Randal Brew and Brett O'Reilly</p> <p>Phil Richards, West Midlands Fire Service Zoeta Manning, Network & Commissioning Manager, B'ham & Solihull CCG Jon Hayes, Head of Network Delivery, TfWM Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>Approximately 45 residents were in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Richard Burden M.P. Ravinder Sahota, Sgt Lamerton	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<p><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>Longbridge Connectivity – Councillor O'Reilly referenced the service road on Longbridge Lane which was not fit for purpose - vehicles could not manoeuvre, especially out of the church. Rev. Corke said the specification of the service road was wrong as it was only wide enough for one car and was therefore not very user friendly. The Chair said that the officers from the project team would be attending the next meeting when this could be discussed further.</p> <p>Northfield Pool & Leisure Centre – the Chair advised she had written to the Director for Public Health but had not yet received a response.</p> <p>West Heath Library – Councillor Brew reported that a CAT was being arranged for Oddingley Hall and he expressed his concern regarding the future of the library service. Two previous attempts to secure a CAT had been unsuccessful. It was hoped to have a further update to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Longbridge Lane Service Road – next meeting</p>
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
4.	<p><u>Waste Management Update</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that there was no officer in attendance but undertook to pursue for the next meeting.</p> <p>A local resident spoke in his capacity as a refuse collector and explained that a shortage of staff and vehicles over the Christmas period coupled with the bad weather had resulted in delays and missed collections. The amount of rubbish put out over Christmas was considerably more than usual and crews had been instructed to take black bags which had added to the problems. Councilor Brew pointed</p>	Next meeting

	<p>to organizational issues rather than any fault of the crews for the poor service being provided recently.</p> <p>Residents referred to issues in Bodenham Road and commented on the need for permanent staff rather than agency workers. There had been problems renewing garden waste collections and assisted collections were an issue. Attention was drawn to the communal waste bins for Lawrence Court which had not been emptied for 6 weeks.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding attendance by a senior representative for waste management at the next meeting and it was agreed that the councillors invite the Cabinet Member and senior waste management officer to engage with residents.</p>	<p>Councillors to invite Cabinet Member & senior waste management officer to the next meeting</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Fire Service Update</u></p> <p>Phil Richards gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There had been fewer arson fires. The service was currently focused on RTA's – Road safety for the elderly as raised at the previous meeting – looking at ways to assist including use of the Ring & Ride service and taxi firms. Producing a leaflet with useful phone numbers including taxi firms where the driver would stay at an appointment and then make the return journey. – Consideration being given to the police neighbourhood team being based at the fire station – Advice provided around what drivers should do when an emergency vehicle needed to pass. <p>The Chair advised this was Phil's last meeting as he was retiring from the Fire Service and on behalf of the meeting thanked him for his valuable contributions and assistance and wished him a long and happy retirement.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Policing Issues</u></p> <p>The Chair read an update from Sergeant Lamerton and highlighted the following main points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alvechurch Road – garages checked and found to be secure. No sign of recent activity and the lock put on one garage was still in place. Local shop keepers had been visited and a spike in thefts reported from local shops in November & December. Also reported use of telephone box for drug dealing. Actions: arrests made in connection with thefts. Discussion with BT re removal of phone box & consideration being given to providing shop keepers with crime prevention guidance. Targeted patrols would continue. – Prices Square – joint work led by BID and supported by Northfield & Weoley teams to deal with asb & disorder was continuing. Main issues caused by street drinkers who gather on the Square – investigating rehabilitation, alcohol treatment, banning notices and action by BCC & social landlords. Also feasibility of a PSPO to also include all of town centre & Victoria Common to reduce displacement issues – Licensing Visits – number of visits made to local off-licences to ensure premises adhering to their obligations eg; to reduce crime/asb/protect children. Where any problems found action 	

	<p>plan issued to rectify matters. Aim was to work with businesses but where compliance was not forthcoming the council's licensing section would be contacted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Crime – remains stable, although a small rise in total recorded crime but not in line with the significant rise across the city & nationally. - Advise on police website re lock snapping. <p>The meeting was advised that the Northfield Arts Forum was setting up a group for vulnerable young women and would continue to work with the street drinkers.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Falls Prevention Project</u></p> <p>Zoeta Manning outlined the project being undertaken with ROSPA to look at fall prevention and support those who had a fall in a pilot project across Northfield District. People at risk would be identified and encouragement given in activity & healthy living. A steering group was focusing on people at moderate or severe risk of falling working with 4 libraries that had been given books and DVD's – 'Move it or Lose It'. When returned, a voucher for an exercise class to continue the exercises would be provided. Funding had also been obtained to do similar in care homes.</p> <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for such a project was endorsed - It was queried how people who were unable to get to a library could access the books/DVD - Footpaths around Northfield town centre were dangerous and a risk to falling - It was suggested that day centres also be contacted <p>Councillor Brew suggested contact be made with churches who had community out-reach and elderly groups and Hampstead House. The Chair urged Zoeta to contact the councillors to help with the best way to publicise the project.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Bus Service Re-Organisation & Bus Stop Rationalisation</u></p> <p>Jon Hayes outlined the bus changes and bus stop rationalization currently out for consultation in response to the effects of congestion and increased journey times. The original consultation results showed a need to go back and understand what was needed by customers while still making improvements. The West Midlands had the highest density of bus stops in Europe so bus stop rationalization had been considered along 4 main corridors in south Birmingham and 60 stops removed. Only 130 complaints had been received. However due to extensive responses regarding the removal of the stop outside the Grosvenor Centre this stop was to be reinstated next week. The study had also highlighted how important the bus service was to Northfield and therefore TfWM/National Express had been engaging with the BID in respect of ensuring a better service and it was hoped to use the data/evidence gathered as a model for future use.</p> <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The no.49E service terminated at Longbridge & the 49 runs to Northfield therefore turn the 49 service into Central Avenue so that there was a service every 15 minutes. The 49E should be changed to a full service, especially on Sunday in view of the 	<p>Grosvenor Centre bus stop reinstated</p>

	<p>limited number of buses running</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Changes to the 27 route – People relied on buses to get to a destination and the speed at which it travelled was less important than the convenience of being able to get on a bus – The real time GPS system was welcomed but it needed to be more reliable and this would encourage people onto buses – The bus stop at Maryland Drive had been removed but a number of elderly residents relied on the bus service so a request for reinstatement was made. – West Heath was ‘cut off’ and needed an express service – Information about the special service available to pensioners using a pass but able to pay £1 out of the hours of their pass needed to be provided to drivers as not all appeared to be aware. <p>Jon Hayes undertook to feed comments in relation to bus services into the consultation. The Chair requested an update to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Update to next meeting.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><u>Great Stone Traffic Issues</u></p> <p>A briefing note was circulated.</p> <p>The Chair of the Great Stone Residents Association felt the information submitted to be negative and urged that action be taken to make life more pleasant for residents living on Great Stone Road as currently lives were adversely affected by the volume and speed of traffic which was not acceptable for a residential road. It was acknowledged that Great Stone Road was a ‘blue route’ however the number of ambulances that travelled along the road in the early hours of the morning using sirens was not acceptable for a residential road. The Chair undertook to write on behalf of the residents to see if any action could be taken. Councillor Brew requested that the District Engineer be invited to the next meeting to discuss the matter further and in the meantime undertake a traffic count especially during peak times.</p>	<p>Chair to write on behalf of residents re emergency vehicles using sirens in the early hours.</p> <p>District Engineer to be invited to attend next meeting & undertake traffic count</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Issues of Local Concern – for Residents</u></p> <p>a) <u>Wordsworth House</u> – in response to concerns raised regarding anti social-behaviour of a tenant, Councillor O’Reilly undertook to meet with tenants to discuss further.</p> <p>b) <u>Fairway Day Centre</u> – the imminent closure of the day centre was highlighted. The Centre provided an essential service to a group of service users who could not be catered for elsewhere. Details of the decision made to close the Centre had been sought but there were no minutes of meetings and although contacted, the Cabinet Member, Leader of the Council and Director of Adult Social Care & Health had all failed to respond. The service users were being let down and did not know what the future held. The Councillors help was sought. Councillor Brew said there had been a lack of</p>	<p>Councillor O’Reilly</p>

	<p>consultation with councillors and advised he was meeting with the Directors Deputy the following week and would feedback the outcome of that meeting. Councillor O'Reilly commended the campaign by service users and carers and undertook to meet with the group.</p> <p><u>Other Urgent Business</u></p> <p><u>Northfield Business Improvement District</u> It was agreed that Councillor Randal Brew be re-appointed to the Northfield Business Improvement District.</p>	Councillor Brew re-appointed to BID
11.	<p><u>Items for Future Agendas</u></p> <p>a) Waste Management Update b) Great Stone Road Traffic Issues – Great Stone Road c) Bournville College d) Update on buses</p>	
12.	<p><u>Dates of Future Meetings</u></p> <p>19 March 2018 at 7pm at Hampstead House</p>	Agreed
13.	<p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p>	Agreed

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm