

NOTES OF THE
HALL GREEN WARD MEETING
25 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7PM
HIGHFIELD HALL, HIGHFIELD ROAD B28 0HS

PRESENT:- Councillor Kerry Jenkins (Chair), Councillor Barry Bowles & Councillor Liz Clements

ALSO PRESENT:- PC Jason Roberts, West Midlands Police
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager
Garry Dalton, District Engineer

There were 13 residents in attendance

1. **NOTICE OF RECORDING** – Noted

2. **APOLOGIES** – Roger Godsiff M.P., Councillor Stacey, Councillor Mahmood

3. **NOTES OF LAST MEETING** – agreed.

Action Updates

- 3(iii) – Street Light on Bridle Path – this had now been repaired – no further action required
- 3(iv) – The Ford – Chair reported that a meeting with WMFS had taken place and options for the ford discussed but funding was an issue. There had been an agreement that the best way forward would be to block off the ford but before any action was taken there would be consultation with residents. **Action:- Options and funding will continue to be explored and further update to next meeting.**
- v) Robin Hood Island – **Action:- Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads to be invited to next meeting**
- 11 a) Reddings Lane Garage Site – Councillor Bowles reported that the fly tipped rubbish had been removed. He had spoken to the land owner who had confirmed the build would go ahead but he would make contact again for a date and if not forthcoming would pursue recovering charge for removal of the rubbish. Addresses had been found amongst the rubbish and this had been forwarded to pursue a prosecution/warning. **Action:- Councillor Bowles to pursue landowner.**
- 12 d) KFC Drive-Thru – Chair advised that a planning application had been submitted and would advise of the date of the Planning Committee. Councillor Bowles would speak at the meeting and residents were urged to submit their comments. Objections would be made on the grounds that not more than 10% of a parade of shops should be take-away premises, the site was near to 4 schools and the effect on childhood obesity and traffic safety concerns.

4. **PETITIONS** – None submitted

5. **FIRE SERVICE UPDATE** – item deferred to next meeting

6. POLICE UPDATE

PC Roberts gave the following update;

- There had been 137 crimes in the past month and of those burglaries had increased, however this was following the nation-wide trend
- There was an issue with staffing levels for the Hall Green team – currently the team was a sergeant (who was on sick leave and a PC was acting in that role) 2 PC's and 2 PCSO's (3 months ago the team consisted a sergeant, 5 PC's and 6 PCSO's). Officers had been moved to assist response teams. Hall Green neighbourhood team was currently working alone having previously worked in conjunction with Sparkbrook and was based at Moseley & Kings Heath meaning PCSO's having to walk to Hall Green resulting in less time on the patch.
- Arrests had been made in connection to a spate of car-jackings and work was continuing on these crimes.
- In response to concerns regarding burglaries, the meeting was advised that the incidents were across the ward and were mainly day time crimes by thieves targeting homes for car keys and jewellery. Residents were recommended to replace locks on upvc doors for anti-snap locks and details of a company who could provide this service were provided. Residents groups were asked to pass on this information and PC Roberts undertook to ask a PCSO to visit Highfield Hall to talk to community groups. Stechford Police station could be contacted if there was a concern regarding a burglary or 999 in an emergency.
- It was reported that at a police tasking meeting the group had asked Sergeant Cooke to contact the Chief Constable on their behalf to request additional officers. The Chair of the Tasking meeting undertook to follow up that request.

Councillor Bowles said that the councillors would be writing to the Chief Constable in respect of the reduced numbers of police officers currently responsible for Hall Green.

Action: Councillors to write to Chief Constable in respect of the reduction in police officers serving the Hall Green ward.

7. WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE

Councillor Clements reported that regular weekly collections were being restored and that information brought to the attention of councillors last week had meant some action had been taken although it was acknowledged that there was still some backlog. Recycling would also start to be separated from household rubbish. Piles of black bags were reported to the rear of The Horseshoe pub, some of which had been dumped. **Action: Councillors to pursue removal of rubbish**

8. ROBIN HOOD ISLAND

Garry Dalton reported that the petition was with the Cabinet Member.

From accident data studied there had been a few accidents on the island in the past 3 years which was not a high number for the size of the island. Issues with the footpaths, drains etc were longstanding issues – Amey was currently training new highway stewards and as soon as the officer was in place Garry undertook to arrange a site meeting.

The following matters were raised;

- Amey had repeatedly said it would take up the matters around drainage and footpaths

- The bollards outside the bridal shop were constantly being knocked over due to cars using the dropped kerb and damaging the bollard.
- There was also a dropped kerb by the bus shelter with a further bollard obstructing access to other shops. The city council had installed dropped kerbs when the red route was introduced but cars could not use them.
- The traffic light timing for traffic going straight on from Robin Hood Lane or towards Shirley needed adjustment and it was suggested the lights be made part-time to improve traffic flow.
- The statistics used to collect accident information was questioned.
- The camber of the road was the main issue affecting flooding and needed to be addressed.
- The traffic speed needed to be slowed with a better environment created for pedestrians, cyclists and people with wheelchairs/pushchairs

Garry Dalton said that the statistics used were from police records and were used city wide and were the only records available to the council. Residents challenged the use of such statistics as the majority of accidents were not reported to the police. Garry Dalton undertook to raise this with Kevin Hicks.

Action:- a) Cabinet Member to be invited to next meeting to discuss traffic management and other issues concerning Robin Hood island b) Amey Highway Steward to be invited to attend next meeting.

9. RESIDENTS ISSUES

a) Update on LIF Project – Re-Imagining Hall Green Parade

The following update was provided on behalf of Stuart Daniels;

- i) The project was going well.
- ii) There had been a slight re-evaluation/ positioning of the project as result of-
 - Discussion with: traders and local residents and local independent entrepreneurs.
 - Daily observations of The Parade
 - Changes eg refurbishment of Wicks, a new local rail delivery & deliverer, refurbishment of the Horseshoe Bar and Restaurant
- iii) Reading (Birmingham) local press and social media. As well as national / international press on ‘business’ issues.
- iv) Attending a regional meeting of The Association of Town Centre Managers- including the activities of Business Improvement Districts.
- v) An invitation from BCC’ s Senior Regeneration Officer
- vi) Being directly involved in a Lottery bid, on behalf of the Hall Green Action Group, for funds for a large Social Action Project. This work involved linking-up with diverse agencies eg Birmingham Voluntary Service Council, Thrive, PINCh, BCC, as well as direct connection with members of HGAG. The bid was unfortunately unsuccessful but it was hoped other developments might emerge
- vii) Attending the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Autumn Expo.
- viii) Attending the BVSC Funding event. Future funding opportunities for the area.
- ix) The new vision for the project is to place Hall Green Parade at the ‘active’ centre of the Hall Green Community.
- x) To link-up the Parade and its businesses much more directly with the surrounding community.
- xi) To enable all to prosper
- xii) To actively involve- as appropriate- all key, local ‘agencies’, eg The Library, Railway Station, Hall Green Health, Education agencies, Sarehole Mill, places of religion etc

- xiii) More details to be presented at the next Ward Meeting and all ideas/ observations welcome.
- xiv) Project to be presented at the HGAG committee meeting on 13 December.

b) Update on LIF Project – Hall Green Together

Val Dickens provided the following update;

- Arrangements were in place for 3 sessions per week across the ward starting in January to help people access the internet either with the assistance of a tool kit or one to one training.
- The sessions were being run by volunteers and more were needed. Training for volunteers would commence in mid-November and volunteers would need to commit to 2/3 hours per week after training. Anyone interested should contact infohallgreen@gmail.com
- Sessions would be held on Monday's and Thursday's 10-12pm at Highfield Hall & Gospel Oak Community Centre and at the United Community Church 7-9pm.
- Maz Iqbal advised that laptops were available for use at Highfield Hall and the bus would soon be ready to use.

c) 30mph Signs Robin Hood Island – it was reported that the signs from the Robin Hood island to city had been turned round and were therefore no longer flashing. **Action: Councillor Bowles to report**

d) Welby Estate – it was reported that the company building the new houses was no longer in existence and the roads around the estate were unfinished. The Chair reported that the councillors had been working with residents from Welby Road regarding a number of unresolved issues. The road had not been resurfaced as it had not been adopted by the City Council. Street lighting had been agreed and landscaping work was about to commence. Work was ongoing in respect of the unresolved issues and further public meetings would be arranged.

e) South Birmingham Bus Changes – Councillor Clements reported on National Express consultation to reshape certain bus routes which would see changes, amongst others, to the number 5 route away from the college and the abolition of the number 27 service. Resident's feedback had already been sent to National Express and as a result the consultation period had been extended until February 2018. Rationalisation of bus stops had also begun and councillors would continue to work with residents to lobby. Residents commented that older people would be deterred from catching buses if bus stops were further to walk to.

f) Traffic Speed, Highfield Road – residents reported that the new 30mph signs were being ignored by drivers and additional signage, road markings and flashing signs were requested. Garry Dalton undertook to investigate the request and respond to the councillors but said that it was a matter of funding. **Action: Garry Dalton to investigate possibility of additional speed limit signage/road marking for Highfield Road.**

g) Hall Green Library – in response to concerns regarding the Library the meeting was advised that councillors had lobbied to have the library open as soon as possible after the flooding and that other sources of funding and how it could be refurbished were

being considered. The need to re-establish a Friends of Hall Green Library group was highlighted. **Action: Update on Hall Green Library to the next meeting.**

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 24 January 2018 7pm at Highfield Hall

11. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS - agreed

Meeting ended 8.55pm