

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
HODGE HILL WARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY 27 JULY 2016
7.30PM
AMBRIDGE HOUSE
FOLKESTONE CROFT
BROMFORD DRIVE
B36 8QY

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Diane Donaldson, Majid Mahmood and Fiona Williams

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
PC Sarah Jones – West Midlands Police
PC D Turnbull – West Midlands Police
Sgt R Webb – West Midlands Police

There were approx. 80 residents present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Diane Donaldson was elected Ward Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016 – 2017.

Cllr Donaldson in the Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. NOTICE OF RECORDING

Noted by all.

Residents were reminded that permission must be sought from members of the public prior to taking their photograph or recording their comments.

3. APOLOGIES

None submitted.

4. LOCAL NEWS/INFORMATION UPDATE FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

Members and residents welcomed Cllr Donaldson who had been successfully elected to serve as Ward Councillor following the Local Elections in May, and wished her well in her role.

Cllr Mahmood advised that updates would be given on the following matters of concern:-

The Public Right of Way at Twycross Grove/Bromford Road
Warstone Tower GP Practice
Ashford Avenue

- Public Right of Way - Twycross Grove/Bromford Road

Residents advised of a number of concerns regarding anti-social behaviour, acts of criminality and vandalism; these included trees being set on fire, smashed windows to the houses adjacent to the walkway, verbal abuse and general threatening/abusive behaviour towards the occupants.

Several residents advised of trespassing in their gardens by youths gathering in the alleyway, abusive language, used needles/condoms thrown into gardens/left strewn on the path and open drug dealing/use witnessed on a daily basis, and felt that nothing had been done to address the ongoing issues and residents' fears/concerns.

Another resident advised of regular activities involving prostitution and the specific times/evenings it had been taking place. Calls had been made to the police on several occasions, however the officers always arrived after the offence(s) had been committed and the perpetrator(s) had fled the scene. Residents felt that the closure of the pathway or the installation of CCTV cameras was the only way to resolve the matter.

Responding to residents' concerns, Sgt Webb advised of the following:-

- It was important for all residents to report the nuisance as soon as possible – not all residents had reported any of the incidents/nuisance.
- It was essential to identify the patterns of behaviour of the perpetrators so that police resources could be used and the nuisance targeted effectively.
- Extra patrols had been carried out in the hotspot areas, including the walkway, and the residents most affected by the nuisance were aware of the steps being taken to address the problems.
- Where possible, it would be useful if descriptions/registration numbers etc. could be provided; however it was important that residents did not put themselves at risk.

Sgt Webb further advised the use of police powers included Dispersal Orders, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBOs), Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (CrASBO) and injunctions could also be considered where the identity of the perpetrator was known, and worked closely with City Council Officers on these matters.

Residents felt that consideration should be given to the installation of CCTV cameras or the use of mobile CCTV cameras, and that in the meantime, warning

notices/signage should be put up, the bushes cut back and a general clean- up of the walkway carried out.

Cllr Mahmood advised of the procedure for any restriction/closure of any public right of way, which would include court action and that strong, tangible evidence was essential to support any request made.

Action:

- **Sgt Webb to contact residents regarding information/evidence gathering and issue diary log sheets as appropriate.**
- **Sgt Webb to arrange for extra patrols to be carried out in the hot spot areas.**
- **Sgt Webb to look at providing appropriate signage for the walkway.**
- **Cllr Mahmood to raise the concerns at the forthcoming Hodge Hill District Committee.**

- Warstone Tower GP Practice, Bromford Lane

Cllr Mahmood advised of the impending closure of the practice, which had been rated as inadequate by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and was due to be re-inspected. A decision had been taken by the GPs to dissolve the partnership, which ended the Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) contract with the practice to provide medical care/deliver services to its service users.

Arrangements were being made for service users to be register with an alternative medical practice.

Residents felt that medical provision in Bromford was essential, and feared that many residents would be left without a local GP. In addition, many of the residents were elderly and would not be able to access the services of other medical practices further away as they did not have their own transport and public transport services was unreliable.

Several petitions had already been started by residents requesting that a local GP service was provided. Cllr Mahmood offered to help the residents with their petitions, and to present them on their behalf to City Council.

Residents felt that the CCG should be asked to reconsider their decision as another GP had expressed an interest to provide/deliver medical care locally, and agreed to provide the details to Cllr Mahmood following the meeting.

Action: All to Note

Good News Stories

- The recycling units across the ward were being removed as requested by residents.
- Highway improvement works to create a second lane by Bromford Lane were due to be undertaken by March 2017.
- Former Amber Windows site, Bromford Lane – 14 new houses to be built on the site.

5. RESIDENTS ISSUES AND CONCERN

The following concerns were raised:-

- Heathland School parking – Ashville Avenue

Parking problems were still ongoing, with many parents blatantly disregarding residents' requests and concerns, as well as being verbally abusive. Proactive enforcement action had made some difference, however this was not sustainable as the daily presence of officers was required.

Following a site meeting/observation with Highways Officers and residents, it was suggested that wooden bollards could be installed along the grassed verges if funding could be secured.

Residents felt the closure of the school entrance on Ashville Road was the only workable solution.

Cllr Mahmood advised of the change of Head Teacher at the school and proposed that a meeting was held with the new Head Teacher.

Actions:

- (i) Cllr Mahmood and local residents to arrange a meeting with the School Head - matters to be considered:-**
 - a) Drop Zone within the school grounds**
 - b) District Engineer to advise on update for restrictions/traffic congestion issues**
 - c) The introduction of Children's School Panel/Court where persistent parent offenders would be asked to explain their actions**
 - d) The school to encourage parents to use the car park at the Hunters Moon Hungry Horse pub**
- (ii) Sgt Webb to look at/discuss increased police patrols and proactive enforcement action with the Civil Enforcement Officers around the school at peak times.**
- (iii) Cllr Williams to raise concerns regarding the school's traffic management Plan and the revised location of the school extension with Planning Enforcement**

- Cheltenham Drive: an increase in dumped rubbish/fly-tipping. Also the bushes/trees were in need of cutting back.

Action: Cllr Mahmood agreed to contact Amey. Road also to be added to the list of hotspot areas for the mobile CCTV camera use.

- Former Clock Garage site remained empty; an information update was requested.

Action: Cllr Mahmood to contact the site owners for an information update.

- Brockhouse Road/Madison Avenue: residential roads being used as a turning circle by lorries delivering to Tesco Hodge Hill Superstore. Complaints had been made to Tesco on numerous occasions as the roads were totally unsuitable for lorry use, and there was a lack of cooperation by the store in ensuring their gates to the loading bays were open to prevent congestion on these roads. Speeding along these roads was also a common occurrence

Action: Cllr Mahmood agreed to raise the concerns with the Tesco Store Manager

- A number of trees and bushes across the ward in need of pruning/cutting back.
- Bromford Drive – storm drains/gullies blocked and in need of clearing; a number of pot holes on the stretch of road behind the row of shops were also in need of attention.

It was suggested that Amey should be invited to attend the next meeting.

Action: Amey to be invited to the next meeting

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETING

The following were suggested:-

Amey/Highways Issues

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Noted that:-

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

The meeting closed at 21:15hrs