

KINGS NORTON NORTH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Kings Norton North	DATE: Wednesday 31 st May 2023
VENUE: Oddingley Hall, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 3BS	START/FINISH TIMES: 6:00 pm – 6:40 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Alex Aitken	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 8
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Adrian Delaney, Councillor Mary Locke, Karen Cheney – Head of Service, Melanie J Coton – Community Support & Development Officer, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S): Sergeant Simon Wheeler, Shafqat Khattak – Kier Highways

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

Ward Plan currently in progress

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome, Introductions & Notice of Recording

Councillor Aitken introduced himself and welcomed residents for attending the ward forum meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting. The Councillor opened the table for everyone to introduce themselves to all.

2. Local Updates and Information from Neighbourhood Police Team

Sergeant Simon Wheeler introduced himself to all and stated that he'd like to have conversations with residents to raise any concerns or questions they may have. He explained that with new Chief Constable joining in December 2022, they would be adopting a new way of operating to focus on local policing in local areas so that there are more officers available and they are able to build relationships with local residents more efficiently. He explained that in the past they were failing on answering calls due to the lack of police force however there is now a new plan to resolve this issue with the local policing to be implemented soon of which more details will be shared soon.

The Sergeant can be contacted directly with any issues on simon.wheeler@westmidlands.police.uk however for any emergency issues to call 999 or 101. The Sergeant opened the floor for any questions and concerns to be raised by all attending. Councillor Aitken commented that car thefts and responsiveness to reports were an issue in the past however this has now improved as it has been addressed and complimented the Sergeant and the

wider police team thanking them for this. The Sergeant commented that unfortunately car thefts and car cannibalism is on the increase in the ward but across the whole country too. He explained that there is a designated team tackling car cannibalism and car crime to reduce this from happening and to catch the “chop shops” where stolen cars are taken and stripped down to individual parts. The Sergeant stressed the importance of having CCTV and ring doorbells to residents explaining that in the past these have been helpful with catching car thieves previously. Video footage aids the police in their car theft investigations and with more people having CCTV installed on their premises, the police are able to put more time into investigating crimes. He encouraged all that don't have CCTV equipment to have them installed to protect themselves and their neighbours. The Councillor commented that offenders are fast with these sorts of crimes but is happy to hear that the police are being proactive.

A resident living in the ward for 10 years commented that in the past there was a higher police presence which acted as deterrent for criminals however the police presence has reduced over the years and he has seen crime increase in the area since. He explained to the Sergeant that drug dealing on his road had increase, groups of people congregating on street corners, workmen and public urinating in alleyways, drug users throwing used needles and other items on the pavements and how it affects how safe young families and children feel. He suggested that maybe police have regular drive arounds at different times in the day to act as a deterrent. The Sergeant responded that increased police presence is something they are working on and that he would speak to the resident at the end of the meeting to take down more details of the issues raised so they can be addressed.

The Sergeant explained that there are two teams covering the King's Norton area working more heavily in three estates as they are the highest risks areas due to a high number of calls and crimes reported in these estates. He explained that he spoke with the local MP, Gary Sambrook yesterday regarding this. The Councillor suggested that the police hold a separate public meeting, due to car crime and burglaries on the increase, and the Crime Commissioner could attend along with inspectors to advise residents on how to keep their cars and home safe and to discuss crime prevention. The Sergeant agreed with this and explained how the police does want to get out and engage more with the community.

3. Local Updates and Information from Kier Highways

Shafqat Khattak, from Highways, introduced himself to all. He started by listing all works done in the area funded by the last budget using the Minor Transport Money 2022-2023

- Double yellow lines put in on Rednall Road and Worden Way
- A public consultation is due to take place soon for works taking place on Bracy Close
- A consultation is due to take place soon to put in drop kerbs on Rednall Road, Worden Way, Highwood Croft Junction and Nesfield Close
- A new street sign to be put in St Nicolas Gardens, off Westhill Road, to indicate it is a cul-de-sac

- A trip rail/guard rails to be put in on Grange Farm Drive, approximately 600/700 mm high from the ground

Shafqat opened the floor for any questions. The Councillor asked when the electronic speeding signs were to go up on Westhill Road and Wychall Lane as these had been promised a while ago. The Councillor also asked that the road safety scheme on Rednall Road was due to be fast tracked back in 2019 however there has been no action. He asked when this would be happening. Shafqat stated that he would look into this and get back to the Councillor.

A resident asked the question of what the process is to have speedbumps put onto roads. Shafqat explained that roads with high collision rates are prioritised due to the lack of funding. If there are 9 or more collisions then this would be considered as a priority to have speed bumps implemented to reduce the rate of collisions occurring as it would naturally slow drivers down.

The Councillor thanked all for attending and would keep everyone posted for the date of the next ward meeting to discuss the ward plan.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Time frame on when electronic speed signs would be put on to Westhill Road and Wychall Lane 2. When the road safety scheme would be implemented on Rednall Road	1. Shafqat Khattak 2. Shafqat Khattak	1. To provide an update to the Councillor 2. To provide an update to the Councillor