

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Weoley Ward Forum
Saturday 25 February 2017 at 10.30am at St Gabriel's Church Centre, Marston Road

Present: Councillor Steve Booton (in the Chair), Councillor Julie Johnson & Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn

PC Richard Barber, West Midlands Police
Austin Rodriguez, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 30+ residents also in attendance

1. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
2. **Apologies** – none received
3. **Notes of Last Meeting** – Noted

The Square Club – Councillor Johnson advised the building had been sold at auction for £282k. A proportion of the funds would be made available for youth provision in Weoley. Reverend Harrison-Smith asked that the community be involved in determining spend when the funding was available. The Chair undertook to give a further update at the next meeting.

4. **Police Update**

PC Barber updated on the recent changes in the police force and that the focus was on neighbourhood policing. A dedicated team for the Weoley ward based at Longbridge Police Station was made up of the sergeant, 4PC's and 4PCSO's and was working locally focusing on prevention of crime through schools, offender management and work with the community and partners. With reference to the Active Citizens Fund further information was available from PC Barber.

A local resident referred to a forthcoming licensing application for premises on Shenley Green to sell alcohol. BVT had objected but had been advised that the police were satisfied with the conditions proposed for the licence. Residents did not want a further shop selling alcohol, especially as it was contrary to the BVT ethos. PC Barber undertook to feedback the comments to the relevant officer.

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators advised that they were not receiving crime statistics for their areas. PC Barber undertook to ensure this was rectified.

Several residents complained about parking issues around Northfield Manor School and that inconsiderate parking made it, at times, impossible to get off drives and wheelchair users were unable to use the path. Police patrols were required in Swarthmore Road as the situation was becoming dangerous. PC Barber said that an educational approach through schools and the children was being taken as enforcement was not working although the City Council had been asked to enforce around the school. A resident suggested that through the road safety partnership and with the help of the police and councillors schools be contacted to sign up to Mode Shift Stars. It was stressed that it was a few drivers who were causing

problems and that the majority were responsible. Councillor Johnson said this was a city wide issue and needed to be tackled as such with everyone playing their part.

Actions: a) PC Barber to take back comments regarding the alcohol licence application for the premises in Shenley Green

b) PC Barber to arrange for information/crime statistics for Neighbourhood Watch groups

5. Local Innovation Fund

Austin Rodriguez gave a brief introduction to the Local Innovation Fund, the purpose, criteria and process for proposals. He also made reference to funding available to community groups from other sources.

In response to questions the meeting was advised a number of organisations could apply separately or could work together to submit a larger proposal, cross ward working was welcomed and groups were encouraged to write down their thoughts/proposals so that the suitability for the LIF or other funding sources could be judged.

The Chair said that the councillors from across the district were meeting on 9 March to discuss cross ward working.

It was proposed and agreed that a meeting be held to look at the Local Innovation Fund, priorities for the ward and proposals/ideas for spend.

Austin advised that Weoley ward had been chosen by some of the larger funding organisations to look at how support could be given to community groups and an event was being organised on 27 March. Invitations would be sent out soon.

Action: Ward workshop meeting dedicated to the Local Innovation Fund to be held on Saturday 8 April 10am at St Gabriel's Church Centre to look at priorities, ideas and proposals

6. Discussion on Bus Services in the Ward

a) Update from the last meeting on the number 48 bus service

Councillor Johnson advised that the no. 48 bus service would not be changing to a single decker service and the service would be decreasing. National Express was undertaking a consultation on bus services in the south west area. The Chair added that at the previous meeting there had been a good discussion regarding the issues with the service and the meeting had been advised that West Midlands Travel would consult on the service, look at introducing a single deck bus but had not indicated that the service would be reducing to a half hourly service. It had been maintained that the service was busy, (the reason for the operation of a double deck bus) and therefore to reduce the frequency of the service was contrary to the information provided. The Chair said that he would invite a representative to the next meeting to discuss the matter further.

Residents were angry that their views had not been listened to, especially as when the previous change to the no 48 service had taken place there had been no consultation and the previous service had been well used by local residents.

Actions:- Chair to invite representatives from National Express/Centro to the next meeting

b) Discussion around no 39 bus service, speeding & heavy traffic in Long Mynd Road

Deferred to next meeting.

7. Review of Public Appointments Register

Action: It was agreed that Councillor Julie Johnson be appointed as the Weoley ward meetings representative to serve on the Northfield Business Improvement District.

Residents said that a BID or similar was needed for The Square. The Chair said that he would invite the traders to attend ward meetings and have input into discussions.

8. Any Other Business/ Residents Issues

a) Travellers

Councillor Johnson advised that arrangements were being made to remove the travellers from the car park at Shenley Academy and the notice would be served that morning giving 48 hours for the site to be vacated. There were implications for the school and parents had been contacted.

b) Litter Pick – Weoley Residents Group was organising a litter pick on 28 March at the hill, rear of Jervoise Road.

9. Next Meeting

Saturday 8 April 10am at St Gabriels Church Centre to discuss LIF proposals and an update on the bus services..

Councillor Douglas Osborn indicated he could not attend on this date and suggested the meeting be held on 1 April

10. Authority to Act Between Meetings

Noted & Agreed

Meeting ended at 12.10 pm