

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**  
**WASHWOOD HEATH WARD MEETING**  
**TUESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2016**  
**7:00PM**  
**THE MAIN HALL**  
**THORNTON ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**WASHWOOD HEATH**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present:** Councillors Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan and Mohammed Idrees

**Officers:** Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team  
Mushtaq Hussain – Place Manager  
Firoza Loonat – Tenant Participation Officer  
Les Williams – Waste Management

There were approx. 110 residents in attendance.

(A representative from Birmingham Improvement Panel was also present).

**1. ELECTION OF WARD CHAIR**

Cllr Mariam Khan nominated and elected as Ward Chairman for 2016 – 2017.

**Cllr Mariam Khan in the Chair**

**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**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Lucy O'Grady, Customer Services Manager, Amey.

Following introductions, the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly those residents attending for the first time.

The Chair also drew residents' attention to Agenda item 7 – Workshops /Feedback, which would focus on environmental issues, and would be used to help develop a community action plan for the ward.

The Chair welcomed residents cooperation and active participation later with the session.

Several residents indicated they had petitions they wished to submit, but were unable to stay for the duration of the meeting.

Members agreed for the Agenda item to be brought forward, and the following petitions were submitted:-

- i) Ash Road – Removal of 8c Bus Shelter
- ii) Tasty Bake Limited, Ludlow and Hancock Roads - Parking restrictions requested on residential roads
- iii) Tasty Bake Limited, Ludlow and Hancock Roads – breach of Planning Permission Conditions, and calls for urgent remedial and enforcement action
- iv) Dadyal Autos, Bennetts Road – calls for the permanent closure of Dadyal Autos as a result of anti-social behaviour – gangs causing a nuisance, leaving residents distressed; issues of drugs; fly-tipping and prostitution.

**Action: Community Governance Manager to forward the petitions to the relevant Departments for investigation and appropriate action.**

#### **4. FLEET & WASTE MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

Les Williams, Waste Management Services advised of the changes to the street cleansing services, which included the reintroduction of a dedicated street cleansing team for the ward.

The ward had also been chosen as one of the pilot wards for the City Council's Cleaner Streets Initiative, along with Hall Green Ward.

Ward End Park, Ralph, Edmund, Alum Rock Roads, and other surrounding roads had been identified as hotspot areas where more intensive work, including additional collections were required, particularly after the weekends.

The pilot scheme had been running for approx. 8 weeks, and included weekly inspections, removal of rubbish and fly-tipping as well as proactive and preventative actions. Partner agencies and specialist officers including City Council Enforcement Officers were actively involved, and where possible the deployment of mobile CCTV cameras were used in hotspot areas.

A number of areas including Oldknow Road had seen a marked improvement, and 47 Enforcement Notices had been issued during the last month; however it was recognised that more needed to be done.

Cllr A Khan stressed the importance of everyone working together to help improve the cleanliness of the ward, and that proactive and preventative measures included identifying and re-educating those residents putting their bags out days in advance of the collection day; better use of the refuse and recycling wheelie bins; ensuring businesses and trader had the appropriate trade waste contracts and suitable bins for their use.

Cllr Idrees felt that the introduction of wheelie bins had seen some improvements, however more still needed to be done to ensure all residents took responsibility in

disposing of their rubbish/household waste correctly, including supporting and assisting those residents who had recently moved into the ward.

Residents generally welcomed the update and the improvements in cleanliness in the ward, and stressed that the efforts must be maintained. These included more proactive enforcement action, including fines, prosecution and 'naming and shaming' where necessary.

Residents further advised that fly-tipping from outside the ward remained a problem, and expressed disappointment and frustration that the ward was seen as 'rubbish dumping ground'.

Other residents felt that a significant amount of fly-tipping was done by residents living within the ward, with private tenants/landlords and business owners being amongst the most prolific and persistent offenders.

The following further comments/points were made residents:-

- Infrequent cleaning by the road sweepers. Residents in Clemston and Hasbridge Roads had been proactive in picking up and bagging rubbish ready for collection by the road sweepers.

**Action: Les Williams to arrange for the bags to be collected and for the road sweeping rota to be carried out as agreed.**

- It was essential that residents who had volunteered to be part of the Cleaner Streets Initiative were kept informed and their views/opinions acknowledged and taken on-board, and that an update on the role of Street Champions would be useful.
- It would be useful to see how the ward cleansing activities were measured against the City Council's targets.
- Residents views should be used as measure of satisfaction regarding the cleanliness of the ward.
- There were too many fast food outlets/takeaways in parts of the ward, which contributed significantly to the increase in rubbish dumping and vermin, and that there should be a restriction limit on these businesses.
- A more robust and proactive approach to targeting rogue rubbish collection traders should be adopted.
- It would be useful to have the breakdown costs for the rubbish/fly-tipping removal for the ward.

#### Washwood Heath Strategic Partnership Group

Cllr A Khan gave details of the group membership which was made up of key partner agencies, including Police and Fire, Amey, Waste Management, Enforcement Officers, Residents Representatives, local businesses, Faith Groups and Leaders, Schools, and Housing.

The Group had their first meeting on Friday 7 October 2016, and would continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Cllr A Khan gave details of 'Operation Clean Up Day' to take place on 9 November; the event would be publicised and details sent out in advance.

Residents' involvement and participation was essential if the event was to be a success.

**Action: All to Note**

The Chair thanked Les Williams for his attendance and update.

## 5. **AMEY WARD UPDATE**

In the absence of Amey representatives, the Chair briefly advised of the planned programme of works to be carried out by Amey by the end of December. (Copies of the schedule of works were available at the meeting)

The gulley cleansing and tree pruning programme had also been requested. residents advised to let Councillors have details of any concerns.

The following concerns were raised:-

- Alum Rock Road/Saltley Gate – gulley cleansing required
- Hancock Road – the street lighting was particularly poor

**Action: Ward Chair to raise with Amey**

- Clipstone Road – no improvement to the street lighting following site inspection by Amey

**Action: Cllr Idrees agreed to raise again with Amey**

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Meeting adjourned at 8.10pm for the Workshops Session and reconvened at 8.45pm

## 6. **FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS**

Mushtaq's Group

**Key issues included:-**

Litter, general cleanliness, fly-tipping, inappropriate disposal of household furniture; noise pollution; green waste and bulky waste collection charges

**Suggestions:-**

Better awareness/education – involvement of local mosques/schools/churches; changing behaviours and practices; encouraging personal responsibility; addressing cultural issues; more proactive enforcement by officers – naming and shaming where appropriate; use of mobile CCTV cameras in hotspot areas; more beat sweepers; reinstatement of Street Champions; special bulky waste collections every 6 months.

### Ifzal's Group

#### **Key issues included:-**

General litter, missed collections/spillage; fly-tipping; lack of proactive and reactive Enforcement; more visibility/site inspections/walkabouts with Elected Members

#### **Suggestions:-**

Street Champions/empower residents; better support of newly arrived communities; Involvement and engagement of young people through schools/mosques/youth facilities; actively encouraging residents to get involved/fostering community spirit and local pride; support and reassurance for residents providing evidence against perpetrators.

### Firoza's Group

#### **Key Issues included:-**

Fly-tipping/dumping; non collection of black bags; non emptying of street litter bins; better education/awareness; trade waste licences – does the owner have the right licence for the business.

#### **Suggestions:-**

Greater involvement of local mosques and schools in fostering local pride; mobile CCTV camera use for hotspot areas; increased street cleansing/emptying of street litter bins; better publicity highlighting successes and improvements; better communication/information sharing with residents.

Members welcomed the feedback from the groups and thanked everyone for their contributions to the workshops.

## **8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### Changes to Council Services

Cllr A Khan briefly advised of the changes to all Council Services following the reduction in the budgets, and stressed the need for residents and officers to continue to work together to improve their local neighbourhoods/communities.

### Future Meetings

Several residents indicated they would like to have an input/standing item on the Agenda for community updates and that it was essential that youth/young people issues were included.

Residents also suggested the use of Social Media to help advertise/promote future meetings.

Several residents expressed disappointment that people living outside of the ward were allowed to speak ahead of residents, and that priority must be given to those

residents who lived in the ward.

**Action: All to Note**

The Chair advised that future Agenda items would include

Amey Ward Highway Programme Update

Police Ward Update

Littering Issues - Enforcement/Prosecution

Feedback from the Community

**9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS**

Noted and agreed 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 Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and active participation.

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The meeting closed at 9:40pm