

**ALLENS CROSS WARD MEETING  
NOTES**

<b>WARD: Allens Cross</b>	<b>DATE: 11 April 2019</b>
<b>VENUE: Shenley Lane Sports &amp; Community Centre, Shenley Lane B29 4HZ</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 7-8.35pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR Eddie Freeman</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 40+</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Susan Lowe, Public Health David Morgan, Bournville Village Trust Sergeant Richard Fryer, West Midlands Police Chris Richards, Amey Highway Steward Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	<b>Apology – Richard Burden M.P.</b>

<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Police Update</u></b></p> <p>Sergeant Fryer responded to residents issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– He was aware of the issues with youths on scrambler bikes riding around Ley Hill Park and pavements of neighbouring roads and welcomed any information from residents regarding ownership or where the vehicles were stored so that they could be seized.</li> <li>– <b>Action:</b> Councillor Freeman to speak to Sue Amey regarding installation of trip rails to prevent access by bikes to the park</li> <li>– Residents felt that there were insufficient police to patrol the area and that criminals were aware of this</li> <li>– Drug dealing happening openly in Bramble Close every day. It had been reported to the police and Bournville Village Trust. Sergeant Fryer asked residents to contact Crimestoppers or to use the Weoley Neighbourhood Team email address to provide car registration details, house numbers etc. He added that a number of plain clothes officers and officers from the road traffic unit had been drafted into the area due to the number of car key burglaries and anti-social behaviour issues in the area.</li> </ul> <p>A local resident referred to the re-launch of the local Neighbourhood Watch Group covering 150 properties that had a network of</p>

cctv cameras but queried how information could be passed onto the local team. Sergeant Fryer asked that information be sent to the team email address.

## **2. Public Health Consultation**

Susan Lowe gave a brief outline of the role and responsibilities of Public Health and provided information regarding health inequalities across the city and statistics for the Allens Cross ward. She advised the meeting about the current green paper consultation that could be accessed via the council's website and urged residents to submit their comments.

Residents made the following comments;

- Not all residents were able to access the internet and would therefore be unable to take part in the consultation. An alternative way of providing comments was requested and concern expressed that this had not been considered by Public Health before starting the consultation.
- Activities in the area were limited and this had an impact on mental and physical health
- There was increasing use of log burners and the impact on air quality was questioned
- Would comments/suggestions influence the budget?

Action: Public Health to consider how residents were able to influence decision making if the only way to interact was via on-line consultation.

## **3. Bournville Village Trust Update**

Residents raised a number of issues relating to Bournville Village Trust properties, management & land and felt that they had been let down by BVT officers who had been made aware of a number of issues and difficulties that residents were experiencing.

In particular reference was made to anti-social behaviour, drug issues and other acts of criminality that stemmed from BVT tenants that were not being addressed. The issues related to the Spiceland Road garage area and residents had requested that the gates be closed for security and to deter people from accessing the area. However they had been told by BVT that the gates must remain open and if residents did close them they would be removed. The gates had initially been installed to stop vandalism and drug issues with the agreement of all residents on the proviso that they be closed and locked at dusk but this was no longer happening.

Other issues raised as follows;

- Bramble Close – 3 grassed areas – one was cut by BVT and two were cut by BCC so 3 teams came out – could there be some

joined up approach

- Drug dealing around Bramble Close had been reported to BVT but no action taken and no support given to residents. Also issues with fly tipping that had also been reported with information regarding the person responsible but no action taken.
- Almond Close garages - BVT property used for drug dealing, stripping cars etc so other residents had vacated his garage.
- Residents call for a multi-agency approach to tackle the problems they were suffering
- Green area off Shenley Lane opposite Spiceland Road belonging to BVT was no longer being maintained

A further issue affecting a number of residents was a lack of consistency on implementing the design guide for BVT properties.

There had been changes made to the policy but residents had not been informed. It was felt that BVT needed a different approach to their more modern properties situated away from Bournville Village where properties had been purchased and families were trying to improve them. Residents felt 'bullied' by BVT for trying to improve their property, keep vehicles off the road or protect their home. Some flexibility was called for.

David Morgan, BVT, undertook to take back the points raised. With regard to issues of ASB these should be reported to the ASB Team so that complaints could be investigated and a multi-agency approach taken with regard criminal activity. He added that tenants had been evicted as a result of ASB. With regard to the design code more estate inspections were being undertaken and residents were advised to make retrospective planning applications. The estate inspectors did work with tenants.

Councillor Freeman suggested that all tenants who had a garage should be written to requesting that the gates be kept closed. He also suggested a walkabout around the area with the police, Amey & District Engineer to look at parking issues.

After some further discussion, it was agreed;

**Action: that Councillor Freeman arrange a meeting with David Hughes & David Morgan, BVT, and residents to discuss the issues raised. Residents to put questions in advance so that details responses could be provided.**

**Councillor Freeman to arrange a date and advise residents.**

#### **4. Amey Update**

Chris Richards gave an update on inspections undertaken around the ward and advised that defects could be reported on 303 6644.

It was reported by residents that pavement slabs had been replaced on roads around Bramble Close but cars had been parked on them and they had been damaged. Chris advised that as the area was part of a Conservation Area repairs etc had to be like for like and

therefore tarmac could not be used but if any slabs were hazardous they would be replaced. In response to other issues raised the meeting was advised that carriageway repairs were due to be undertaken in Merritts Brook Lane.

Reference was made to the condition of the carriageway on Bristol Road between Selly Oak and Woodlands Hospital. The meeting was advised that Amey were not currently undertaking re-surfacing work but safety inspections were carried out.

**5. Ward Plan**

During the course of discussion on priorities for the ward Councillor Freeman circulated a ward plan suggestion sheet and asked residents to pass these onto others who were unable to attend the meeting. Completed forms to be sent back to Councillor Freeman for inclusion in the Ward Plan. The Plan was an evolving document and therefore there would be opportunities to discuss further at future meetings.

**6. Residents Issues**

- a) North Worcester Golf Course** – Councillor Freeman advised the appeal decision had been postponed
- b) Ambulance Noise Complaint** – Councillor Freeman referred to the issue raised at a previous meeting and said he had met with WMAS and had received an undertaking that crews would be more considerate when driving on Frankley Beeches Road. It was noted however that for insurance purposes the ambulances had to sound sirens when responding to an emergency.
- c) Merritts Brook Lane** – complaints of cars parked in the lane with occupants smoking drugs and preventing residents access to the houses. Sergeant Fryer to add to patrol list.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print): .....