

# **Birmingham City Council**

## **Oscott Ward Meeting** **Wednesday 26 October 2017** **7pm at 610 Community Centre** **Kingstanding Road** **Kingstanding** **Birmingham B44 9SH**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillors Barbara Dring (Chair) and Keith Linnecor

**Officers:** Sergeant Hunt, West Midlands Police  
Inspector Noeleen Murrin, West Midlands Police  
Eddie Fellows, Amey  
Lucy O'Grady, Amey  
Kay Thomas – Community Governance Manager

There were 18 residents also in attendance.

**1. Notice of Recording**

Noted by all.

**2. Apologies** - Councillor Chatfield & Bob Wilde, Oscott Residents Association

**3. Notes of Previous Meeting**

Noted

**4. Petitions**

None submitted.

**5. Police Issues**

Sergeant Charlotte Hunt provided the following update;

- There were ongoing operations with motorway colleagues in connection with burglaries and motorbike nuisance.
- With assistance from residents warrants had been issued on the Bandywood Estate and arrests in connection with drugs made and drugs seized.
- Non-molestation orders had been issued in connection with victims of domestic abuse
- Decades old neighbour disputes had been solved through partnership working and work through the Troubled Families scheme and further preventative work was ongoing
- Overall crime had increased year on year by 8.1% which was well below the national average. Robbery had reduced by 33%, burglary had increased by

30% and public place violence had also increased. Burglary was therefore the team priority. Advice given on replacement locks and car security.

- Patrols focused on hot grid areas – Kingstanding Circle, Hawthorne Road and Asda (Queslett)
- It was hoped to set up a street watch, anyone interested was asked to contact the team

Councillor Linnecor thanked the team for their work and for arranging the tasking meetings. He expressed concern regarding groups on bikes riding along Aldridge Road and queried staffing numbers.

Inspector Murrin advised the team should have 4 PC's and 2 PCSO's but had a PCSO vacancy. When the team was not on duty the Handsworth Wood team monitored the wards hot spots. In view of reduced staffing some of the issues that the team had previously addressed, such as parking, were not priorities at the moment.

In response to comments regarding the former Kingstanding pub Sergeant Hunt said that the racist graffiti had been removed and that efforts were being made to find out from the community the motivation behind it.

Residents commented on speeding along Anstey Road at school times, motorcycles being driven dangerously including along pavements and cars parked at the junction of Elmbridge/Kingstanding Roads by the crossing were obstructing the corner. The Chair confirmed this was a particularly dangerous corner due to parked cars but also the issue of damage to the highway and she had reported the matter.

#### **6. Safety & Parking Around Schools**

Residents expressed concern that cars were being parked on Beeches Road even where there were school restrictions and over residents drives causing considerable inconvenience as residents could not leave their homes. Sergeant Hunt undertook to arrange for the traffic enforcement team to attend and support residents. The Chair referred to meetings arranged with schools in the area to look at school parking and that Perry Beeches had been invited.

Councillor Linnecor referred to the partnership meeting arranged to look at parking issues around schools across the ward in an effort to get police, BCC, safety officers, WMFS and schools to work together to look at what schools can do, where funding might be available etc. Mode Shift Stars had been discussed and ways to involve parents through children in school. Safe cycle tracks, school buses and parking restrictions were all being discussed. Double yellow lines on Greenholme Road would be put down but due to one objection the process had to be re-started.

**Action: Chair and Cllr Linnecor to pursue parking issue on Beeches Road.**

#### **7. Tree Issues**

Eddie Fellows referred to previous discussion of a tree survey for the ward which had now been completed. Planned maintenance would see 1758 trees pruned and 115

replaced and 123 removed with work being undertaken between now and summer 2018.

Councillor Linnecor made the following points;

- When the trees were pruned could the branches be taken away
- In 2010 the government downgraded the standards for tree pruning, would it therefore be beneficial to lobby government for changes or can Amey act with discretion?
- Scrutiny Committee Tree Policy Task & Finish Group was meeting to look at the overall policy

In response Eddie Fellows made the following points;

- Trees were pruned so not over hanging property and taken 3mtrs away from a building.
- Plane trees were cut back more frequently
- Amey had to work to the guidance provided by BCC. Trees were pruned so as not to hamper property but not necessarily to reduce size. Trees were shaped to a certain extent and not pollarded.

Residents then made the following points;

- Goodway Road – property had an extension over 2 years and trees from the main road were overhanging the property and had caused damage to the roof. An additional tree had now been planted on the road and while the trees had been pruned from the trunk nothing had been removed from the height or overhanging branches. Further details were supplied and **Eddie Fellows undertook to arrange to visit the homeowner.**
- Trees in Weybourne Road required attention. Eddie advised 12 trees would be pruned and 1 removed in Weybourne Road.
- Anstey Road – trees had last been pruned 9 years ago and therefore required attention. The plane trees were losing bark and there was concern the trees were diseased. Eddie advised that 19 trees in Anstey Road would be pruned and 6 removed. If trees were losing bark it usually signified disease so he would ask for them to be checked and removed if necessary.
- Due to the number of trees in the area the pavements were dangerous due to fallen leaves. The meeting was advised that Amey did not provide leaf removal but had responsibility for flooding/ponding so co-ordinated action with BCC's street cleaning/gulley cleaning.

## **8. Residents Issues/Matters of Local Concern**

- a) Fly Posting – request made for fly posting to be removed from trees along Aldridge Road. Other hot spots were Burnham Road & Kingstanding Circle. The Chair referred to the enforcement policy for regular offenders. Advertising banners also reported in Old Horns Crescent. Lucy O'Grady referred to the launch of the new Highway Stewards at January full council and said she would advise the councillors of the details of the steward for Oscott who could look at these issues.
- b) Pot holes - attention required on pot holes on Kettlehouse Road (outside Bingo Hall), Cooksey Lane, Beeches Road (jct with Shady Lane) & Shady Lane.
- c) Central Reservation (by motorway bridge, Queslett) – broken tree reported, trunk left in ground and children playing on it. Eddie Fellows to request an inspection.

9. **Authority to Chairman and Officers**  
Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

DRAFT