

# **Birmingham City Council**

**Oscott Ward Meeting**  
**Wednesday 29 March 2017**  
**19:00hrs**  
**610 Community Centre**  
**Kingstanding Road**  
**Kingstanding, B44 9SH**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillors Barbara Dring (Chair), Tristan Chatfield and Keith Linnecor  
Councillor Marje Bridle, Assistant Leader

**Officers:** Sergeant Gary Blackman, West Midlands Police  
Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer  
Margaret Sullivan – Asset Manager  
Lucy O’Grady, Amey  
Kay Thomas – Community Governance Manager

There were 60+ residents present.

**1. Notice of Recording**

Noted by all.

**2. Apologies** - Maureen Byrne, Bob Wilde, Brian Hicks

**3. Notes of Previous Meeting**

Noted

**4. Petitions**

None submitted.

**5. Police Issues**

Sergeant Blackman gave the following update;

- He had recently taken over as sergeant for the area and his email address was [g.blackman@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:g.blackman@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)
- Overall crime had increased by 26% however reported crimes that had not previously been recorded were now given a crime log eg anti-social behaviour, arguments, neighbour disputes. These were victim lead so if the victim felt a crime had been committed it would be recorded even if no action was taken.
- Violent crime had increased slightly but this was in line with the national trend
- Burglary had reduced which was contrary to the trend for the city. Arrests had been made in the ward and the police were working with Hawthorne Traders Association.

- There had been a lot of work on parking and speeding, with Councillor Linnecor and further operations would be undertaken.

Councillor Linnecor asked that particular attention be paid to parking on the corners of roads, especially the Kings Road/Lambeth Road junction and the continued work with WMFS on Aldridge Road re the anti-social driving campaign.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Chatfield regarding groups of young cyclists Sergeant Blackman advised that residents use the 101 number or 999 in an emergency. He was liaising with the Kingstanding sergeant who was working on this.

A local resident advised of a nuisance beggar operating in Kingstanding Road/College Road asking for money but encouraging people to go to the garage to make a purchase so he could have the change. Concern was expressed that he was doing this when it was dark. Sergeant Blackman undertook to follow up.

## **6. Local Innovation Fund**

The Chair spoke about the local campaign by councillors to retain services at the libraries and that the Local Innovation Fund had provided an opportunity to take this idea forward.

Councillor Bridle outlined her role as an Assistant Leader and the council's agenda for devolution and more say locally. The Local Innovation Fund was a way forward to allow local people a way to generate projects that were innovative and sustainable. The meeting was advised of the criteria and process for the LIF.

The Chair then introduced representatives from Witton Lodge Community Association – Afzal Zain, Linda Hines & Sarah Blackstock - and a proposal for the Local Innovation Fund.

Liz Parkes, Community Librarian outlined the current situation with libraries and advised that after consultation a tiered offer had been put together and therefore from next week both Perry Common & Kingstanding libraries would be opening for 21 hours per week. The library service would be working with Witton Lodge to provide longer hours and other services.

Afzal outlined the proposal that would make the library into a community hub, offering a range of alternative services including – job club, well-being service, family work, housing advice. The services would be developed at both libraries to maintain and eventually extend hours, deliver more services and develop a volunteering programme.

Councillor Linnecor said that the decision to support the proposal had come from listening to resident's concerns about the future of the libraries. Councillor Chatfield added that this was a way of protecting community resources.

The Chair sought the meetings support for the proposal and by a show of hands the majority of the meeting was in favour of the proposal put forward by Witton Lodge Community Association.

## **7. Burford Road Playing Fields**

The Chair advised the meeting that there would be no development of the playing field and that it needed to be declared public open space to protect it for future generations. The development of the playing field had been proposed due to anti-

social behaviour but councillors had argued that the loss of the field would move the ASB elsewhere.

Margaret Sullivan confirmed that Burford Road was an education school playing field and protected by the Secretary of State. The issue of football being played without formal booking had been addressed however there had been issues around access to the site identified by both local residents and police. The situation had been re-assessed and a new access considered but residents opposite had opposed in view of parking issues, litter, mud etc. Residents were also unhappy with any access opposite driveways or opposite the gulley. The meeting was therefore asked if any residents on Burford Road would be willing to discuss a site for an entrance.

The use of the playing fields needed to be increased and now that the future of the site was more certain the elimination of ASB needed to be addressed.

Some residents expressed their thanks for closing the old entrance as they had not encountered ASB or parking problems since the closure. Other residents living near to the closed entrance said they now had to walk around the field to gain access and queried if the entrance could be open during the day and closed at night. Easy access was required to encourage use of the fields. ASB would not be stopped by having locked gates therefore they should be open for certain periods of time and the council maintain control. This had worked well in Doe Bank Lane. There was also concern that open access would allow travellers onto the site. It was suggested that all gates be open for football matches and cars allowed to park on the field and then the gates closed. The bridle path should be opened. It was generally agreed that allowing parking on the field during football matches would alleviate parking problems for residents.

In response to comments from Councillor Gary Sambrook the meeting was advised that the report on playing field development had been withdrawn.

Councillor Linnecor said that there was agreement that there needed to be a further opening onto the playing field. Initially advice had been that cars should not park on the field due to the state of the land but during organised football matches this would help the situation. Councillor Chatfield urged that a compromise be reached so that the future of the playing fields could be protected as there was little open public space in the ward. The council needed to find more uses for the field to protect it as a community asset.

**Action:-**

- The Chair then summed up and asked residents to advise Margaret of suggestions/ideas.
- Margaret gave her contact details as [margaret.sullivan@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.sullivan@birmingham.gov.uk) or 07766 923639
- Update to be provided to a future meeting

## **8. Highway Issues**

Lucy O'Grady provided the following updates and in response to concerns raised confirmed;

- Thornbridge Avenue would be resurfaced this summer
- Tree survey – this was being undertaken during spring/summer so the trees would be pruned late spring/early summer

Residents made the following points;

- Kingstanding Road – from The Circle to Crossway Lane – road surface in very poor condition/large potholes
- Ansty Road – depression in the highway
- The Tree Officer had said in October that the trees in Ansty Road would be pruned but there had been no action.
- When trees were pruned could Amey remove all of the debris
- Signs needed to be removed as soon as work had been completed.

Lucy advised she had taken note of the comments and would report back to the Councillors. Locations of signs not removed to be reported to Amey. In response to comments from Councillor Linnecor Lucy reported that it was hoped to publish a programme of pro-active works in June.

Councillor Chatfield reported the following;

- Thornbridge Avenue carriageway was in a poor state and needed attention
- Thorncliffe Road – part had been repaired, would the remainder be repaired?
- The junction of Dyas Road/Atlantic Road – potholes had been repaired but were reappearing after only 6 months
- Grindleford, Haversage, Beeches Roads – pavements replaced with tarmac but the surface was deteriorating where it met drives.
- Councillor Linnecor reported that pot holes in Cooksey Lane needed urgent attention and the road resurfacing. Pavements had been replaced with tarmac but the surface was not level causing standing water. This was an issue not only in Cooksey Lane but elsewhere where tarmac had been used on pavements.

The Chair said she had been promised by Amey that details of the long term plan for Cooksey Lane would be made available to her but they had not been forthcoming. She asked that the District Engineer follow up work undertaken by Amey.

- Greenholm Road pot holes required urgent attention

**Action:- Lucy O’Grady to note issues raised above and report back to councillors on action taken.**

## **9. School Parking & Road Safety Update**

Councillor Linnecor gave the following update;

- Quarterly meetings had been held with schools, police, fire service and officers to discuss parking problems around schools.
- Most but not all schools had been represented
- Feedback from the meeting held yesterday included -
  - Issues with parking on grass verges along Aldridge Road
  - Schools were able to fund installation of bollards to prevent pavement parking
  - Investment was available from government to assist Great Barr school in providing a drop off/pick up point
  - Discussion about Mode Shift Stars
  - WMFS very active – working with children, parents & promoting bus use
  - Working with police to determine the main times each school required help
  - Pupils had also attended the meeting and gave an insight into road safety.

A local resident referred to Kingsland School where cars were being parked on the brow of the hill. The Chair advised that this was being investigated and Councillor

Linnecor asked that anyone with connections to the school encourage representatives to attend future road safety meetings.

**10. Any Other Business**

Councillor Linnecor on behalf of the meeting extended congratulations to Councillor Chatfield on his new role of Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality.

**11. Authority to Chairman and Officers**

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm