

HEARTLANDS WARD FORUM MEETING NOTES

WARD: Heartlands	DATE: Thursday 22 November 2018
VENUE: Saltley Leisure Centre	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.00pm
COUNCILLORS: Shafique Shah	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 10
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Chipman – Service Manager, Fleet and Waste, BCC Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Pat Whyte – Neighbourhood Development and Support Unit, BCC PCSO James Jerome, PCs F Spencer and N McGrath – Local Police Team	
APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Sgt Adam Chatsworth	
WARD PRIORITIES: To be discussed at a future Ward meeting	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
Cllr Shafique Shah in the Chair Following introductions, Cllr Shah welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Heartlands Ward since the changes to the ward boundaries across the city and the subsequent Local Elections in May. 1. Notice of Recording Residents were advised that they were able to record and/or take photographs of the meeting. 2. Local News/Updates i) Ward Councillor Updates – ward now represented by a single Elected Member for the next four years. Residents should continue to report issues and concerns to Cllr Shah.	

ii) Ward Plan Ideas and Suggestions – it was suggested and agreed that a separate meeting would be held to concentrate solely on developing a workable ward plan for Heartlands for the next four years.. All sections of the community were encouraged to contribute – and the views of young people in particular were very much needed. Meeting details to be circulated once the date, time and venue had been agreed. In the meantime, a Ward Plan Ideas and Suggestions would be circulated to residents which they were actively encouraged to complete and also to remain realistic on what was achievable. Several residents felt that environmental issues were a real cause for concern and that the use of green/open spaces, particularly the allotments should be encouraged.

iii) West Midlands Police

Residents were advised of the following:-

Recent firearms incidents at McDonalds – investigations still ongoing; details of the individuals involved had been confirmed and a Firearms Warrant had been secured and a full property search carried out. No further details could be given at this stage as the investigations were still ongoing. Increased patrols – visible and covert would continue to be carried out in and around this area and other known hotspot areas in the ward as part of Operation Lawbridge. Residents reminded to remain vigilant and to continue to report incidents to the police.

House Burglaries/break-ins had seen a slight reduction however residents must continue to ensure that windows and doors were secure and fit anti-snap locks to patio/French doors where possible.

Street Begging – residents reminded not to give money directly to street beggars. Officers continued to work with local partners including Homeless Heroes to provide support and advice to street beggars/homeless - many of whom had chosen not to accept practical offers of support or were deemed to be ‘professional beggars’. Heartlands Hostel /Asda/Church Road/Aldi were particular problematic and known hot spot areas – staff at Heartlands Hostel were aware of the practises of some of their residents and had issued warnings to them regarding their behaviour. Criminal Orders had also been sought for the more persistent and problematic perpetrators around Asda and Aldi supermarkets.

West Midlands NOW (WMNOW) – residents were reminded of the messaging service and encouraged to register their details to receive alerts/useful information relevant to their area.

Cllr Shah and residents thanked the officers for their attendance and information update and welcomed the steps being taken to increase patrols and reassurance in the ward.

3. Waste Collection Service

Following introductions, Michael Chipman, Service Manager, Fleet and Waste Management advised of the following:-

- The change in the working arrangements for the crews from 4 days to 5 had been challenging and resulted in a number of issues with the waste collections in the ward. Ongoing efforts and discussions were being made to resolve matters as quickly and amicably as possible so that weekly and fortnightly collections could resume.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- An increase in fly-tipping by the Avenues/Colonnial Road/Broadway Avenue and Heartlands Hospital. Sand bags containing building waste and rubble had also been dumped. Residents agreed to email the specific details to Mr Chipman following the meeting so that a referral could be made to the Enforcement Team for further investigation/bag search.
- Shop Owners/Traders – several continued to be problematic; did not appear to have the appropriate trade waste arrangements and were dumping their waste alongside domestic collections. A more proactive approach, including ‘name and shame’ and details of prosecutions should be publicised.
- Street Cleansing -several roads were in need of deep cleaning on a regular basis such was the build up of flytipping, littering and unemptied street bins.
- CCTV cameras should be re-installed in hotspot/problematic areas with any fines from prosecutions reinvested in more cameras for the ward.
- Consideration should be given to reintroducing Street/Neighbourhood Champions as a number of residents had expressed an interest in getting more involved to help keep their respective areas clean and tidy.

Responding to residents, Mr Chipman advised that targeted enforcement action regarding trade waste was ongoing in several roads in the ward (including Alum Rock/Washwood Heath/Churchill/Cauldwell Roads). Shop/business owners were visited by Waste Enforcement Officers to check that the appropriate waste collection arrangements were in place and fines issued where necessary. Street cleansing in the ward was carried out Mondays and Fridays, however the cleansing vehicles were not always able to access the roads due to obstructive parking.

Residents were reminded to let Cllr Shah have details of any concerns they have regarding missed collections, fly-tipping or street cleansing.

Cllr Shah and residents thanked Michael Chipman for his attendance and update.

4. Petitions

None submitted.

5. Residents News/Views/Updates

The following matters were raised:-

- The redesign of the roundabout and relocation of the pedestrian crossing by Belchers Lane/McDonalds had worsened traffic congestion and compromised pedestrian safety. Cllr Shah agreed to send details of the scheme to the resident concerned and discuss the matter further as necessary.
- Local supermarkets Aldi, Asda and Lidl should be actively encouraged to be better local neighbours and be invited to attend future meetings.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

To be agreed.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm