

	NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM	
	MONDAY 19 MARCH 2018 AT WEST HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HAMPSTEAD HOUSE, CONDOVER ROAD B31 3QY	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Debbie Clancy (Chair), Randal Brew and Brett O'Reilly</p> <p>David Miller, Waste Management Laurent Bouissonnade, Transportation Steve Jones & Richard Flanagan, Fitzgerald Contractors Helen Mansbridge, Alzheimer's Society Glenn Smith, District Engineer Matt Hageney, Parks Partnership Manager Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>Approximately 40 residents were in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Richard Burden M.P., Sergeant Lamerton	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<p><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>Northfield Pool & Leisure Centre – Chair to chase Director of Public Health</p> <p>Policing Issues – BT had not yet responded to the sergeant. Update to the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Longbridge Connectivity</u> – Laurent Bouissonnade said that he had been in discussion with residents re Longbridge Lane service road and an agreement had been reached to widen the dropped kerbs. Rev'd Corke thanked Laurent & Fitzgerald's for their response to the complaints and that the dropped kerbs had made an improvement but there was still very little room for manoeuvre. Two residents had no rear access to their properties therefore moving vehicles around was difficult, large vehicles could not pass and there was no room for visitors or deliveries. The road had been made narrower making it impossible to turn around. Laurent advised that the road had not been narrowed. The Chair sought an assurance that once the work was complete the church and neighbours would still have contact with officers if the problems persist.</p> <p>Councillor O'Reilly suggested that residents, councillors and officers meet to sort out a way forward. Councillor Brew agreed with that suggestion but said that a senior road planner should also be invited. The Chair asked that Fitzgerald's organize a meeting.</p> <p>Residents then queried and expressed concern that the bollards at the end of the Cofton Road service road had not been fitted reportedly due to a petition from residents in Longbridge Lane objecting. Residents from Cofton Road said they had requested the bollards to prevent rat running through the service road and asked why other resident's</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Sgt Lamerton</p> <p>Fitzgeralds to organize a meeting</p> <p>Laurent Bouissonnade to pursue action re Longbridge Lane service road</p>

	<p>wishes out-weighed theirs. Laurent said the situation would be reviewed after 6 months and further consultation undertaken. Residents referred to the safety aspect of speeding vehicles along the service road and that previously it had been agreed that the bollards be installed and first they had known of a change to that decision was through social media. It was generally felt that if the bollards had been agreed as part of the plan that decision should be honored. Councillor O'Reilly said that he did not feel the petition was sufficient to overturn a decision that had already be made. The Chair asked if the meeting supported the installation of the bollards and the majority of the meeting was in favour. Laurent undertook to investigate as a priority and report back.</p> <p>Action:- That the above issues be referred to the Board for further consideration</p>	<p>Cofton Road Service Road bollards – Laurent Bouissonade to investigate and report back.</p>
3.	<p><u>Petitions</u></p> <p><u>St Laurence Church</u> – asking for action to stop cars driving along the one-way system, clean the one-way signs and re-position, the Give Way sign to be replaced with a Stop sign & the pavement extended.</p>	<p>Chair to submit to District Engineer/Transportation</p>
4.	<p><u>Police & Fire Updates</u> – apologies submitted</p>	<p>Deferred to next mtg</p>
5.	<p><u>Alzheimer’s Society Side by Side Project Update</u></p> <p>Helen Mansbridge explained the idea of the Side by Side project was to match people suffering with dementia to volunteers to enable them to carry on with activities they enjoyed such as swimming, theatre etc to prevent isolation and loneliness. Volunteers from the community were being sought.</p> <p>Northfield had a high number of dementia sufferers and had numerous groups and activities taking place although people did not necessarily know about them.</p> <p>Information about the project and about the services offered by the Alzheimer’s Society was circulated to residents.</p> <p>Councillor Brew suggested that Helen be invited to the Northfield Partnership group meetings.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that anyone with concerns about someone could pass on the Society’s contact details to a family member of the person as consent was required to make contact or recommend they visit their GP. There was a national help line that could be used anonymously.</p> <p>The meeting was advised that dementia services for sufferers and carers would be starting at St Laurence Church again soon.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund Project Updates</u></p> <p>a) <u>Welcome Job Club</u> Marie Henry advised that the Job Club had started on 1 March and registered as an official ‘Learn My Way’ centre to run on line courses, job searches etc. The job club would offer free advice to help get people back into work and after Easter a 4</p>	

	<p>week course would begin offering help with preparation into work, CV writing, interview skills, application form etc leading to an accreditation to obtain a qualification. Help would continue to be provided to Job Seekers with travel costs, interview clothes etc. Volunteers were needed.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that contact had been made with Smartworks. People could use their own laptops with the centre code to continue learning at home. The accredited qualification would be in for example Health & Safety or First Aid and if the person was a regular attendee a character reference could be provided. Links were being forged with local businesses to try to find work experience placements.</p> <p>b) <u>Prices Square</u> Rev Dave Tubby (Chair, Stakeholders Group) advised that the idea had been to use Northfield House as a community hub to support the community by offering advice and support through various local groups. The LIF allocation had helped to start the process and the building had been open since August. Groups working from the hub included the Arts Forum, Parents Support, Mental Health Forum, drama group, radio station and Smartworks. There was a board room for use by charities etc and other meeting rooms and spaces. The intention was to continue to grow and make more effective use of the space. The building was open office hours but NAF used it during the evening and they were keen to extend this to other groups. In response to a question the meeting was advised that a more cohesive approach to marketing was being tried as presently each group advertised their services separately.</p> <p>c) <u>Smartworks</u> – A briefing note had been provided and was circulated to the meeting.</p> <p>d) <u>Northfield Arts Forum</u> Olly Armstrong updated on the progress of the Arts & Culture Café that was operating from Prices Square where local artists were running, for free, workshops for local residents. Local artists had also been employed to do the art work at Prices Square. Anyone wanting more information could speak to Olly at the conclusion of the meeting.</p> <p>e) <u>Edible Gardeners</u> Olly Armstrong referred to the small community garden opposite Sainsbury that was attracting numerous volunteers to grow vegetable and fruit which once established would be open for the community. More volunteers were required and contact details would be available at the conclusion of the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Waste Management Update</u> David Miller thanked residents for their patience over the strike and recent bad weather which had caused delays in the service. Collections were now almost back on track and the green waste collection service had started on 1 March.</p>	

	<p>A resident thanked crews for the service in Condover Road but referred to the cul-de-sac opposite where the wagon found it difficult to get in and out and was driving over the grass and pavement causing damage. David said he had visited with Councillor Clancy and spoken to the crews and gave an assurance it would not happen again and the grass would be repaired. David noted comments that it had been repeated that week.</p> <p>Residents made the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was not a consistent approach to picking up spills. (Cressage Avenue) - Assisted collections had been missed on Hawkesley Mill Lane for 5 weeks despite phoning to report - Photographs of rubbish piled up outside the flats in Fountain Close were shown to the meeting. This was attracting foxes, cats and rats and residents had to step over the rubbish to access the flats. The refuse collectors had said they only had to collect the rubbish that was in the bins, however the bins were full and could not store anymore rubbish. It was suggested a wall be built to shield the bins, larger bins be provided or a resident be appointed as caretaker. - Persistent fly tipping, Church Road opposite the library. - Beeches Farm Drive – due to bad parking the wagons had difficulty accessing therefore the crews took bags of rubbish from the bins but if rubbish was not in a bin it was left. Broken glass had also been left on the pavement after a recycling collection. - Recycling in Eden Close had not been collected for over 2 weeks despite it being reported and the contact centre advising a collection would be made within 3 days. - The crews working along Longbridge Lane, the service road and around the road works & Cofton Lane were commended for doing an excellent job. The meeting showed general appreciation for the service the crews were now delivering - There was an issue with black bags put out by people living in flats above shops and in particular around Bodenham Road & School Road. <p>In response to the comments above David Miller undertook to investigate the particular concerns raised. With regard Fountain Close there were no dropped kerbs which caused a problem for crews accessing the bins. Housing had agreed to install dropped kerbs and confirmation was awaited. He was aware of the fly tipping on Church Road and the Waste Prevention Team was involved but witnesses were required. Residents living in flats above shops would be given striped bags to differentiate from trade waste. Officers were working on communication with the Call Centre and now had operators based in the depots which had helped to improve information provided.</p>	<p>David Miller to take back and investigate the specific issues raised by residents</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><u>Great Stone Road Traffic Issues</u></p> <p>Glenn Smith referred to the briefing noted submitted to the last meeting and advised that traffic calming could not be justified in view of the accident statistics. The results of the speed & traffic loop survey requested would be available in 4-6 weeks and would be presented at the next ward meeting. A response had been circulated from Great Stone Road Residents Association.</p> <p>The Chair of the Great Stone Residents Association reiterated the</p>	<p>District Engineer to report back on survey results.</p>

	<p>misery being caused to residents from the amount of traffic, speed and size of vehicles, pollution and congestion and urged the councillors to ensure that action was taken.</p> <p>Councillor Brew welcomed the survey to provide up to date statistics so that residents, officers and police could then meet to look at a way forward.</p> <p>Residents suggested air quality monitoring and Glenn undertook to investigate. It was requested that the survey show when in the day the information was collected.</p>	District Engineer to investigate air quality monitoring
9.	<p><u>Parks Update</u></p> <p>Matt Hageney outlined proposals for parking charges at Lickey Hill Park. The money collected would go back into the service to maintain and improve parks. Charges had already been implemented at Canon Hill Park. Parks would remain free of charge but there would be a consultation exercise after the election regarding charging to park at Lickey Hills. Residents were urged to take part in the consultation and submit their views/comments on the proposal.</p> <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If charges were made the car park needed to be re-surfaced - The level of charging was queried - Concern that car park charges would create more on street parking - Season tickets would be a good idea for regular users - Charging might discourage people from using the park - Charging bands should discourage people parking all day to go to work but have free parking for an hour or people might be discouraged and this would also have an impact on local cafes etc. <p>Matt said it would be useful to incorporate the comments in the consultation so that full consideration could be given.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Issues of Local Concern – for Residents</u></p> <p>a) <u>Accident, Fairfax Road</u> – in response to concerns expressed by a resident regarding a hit and run accident the Chair said that she had written to the Sergeant regarding the situation.</p> <p>b) <u>New Ward Boundaries</u> – Councillor Brew thanked residents, officers and colleagues for their work and support in Northfield and the way in which working together had benefited the ward. He extended his thanks to Councillor Clancy for ably chairing the ward meetings.</p>	
11.	<p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p>	Agreed

Meeting ended at 9.30pm