

SHARD END WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Shard End	DATE: Monday 3 rd June 2024
VENUE: Shard End Wellbeing Centre, 170 Packington Avenue	START/FINISH TIMES: 6:30 pm – 20:01 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Ian Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 15
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pat Whyte – Community Support & Development Officer, Yazmin Akhtar – Neighbourhood Action Coordinator, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager, Helen Creepy – Housing Officer	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cost of Living Crisis 2. Inclusive/Healthy Living 3. Road Safety – including speeding/obstructive parking 4. Protecting and Maintaining the Green Open Spaces 5. Cleaner Streets – rubbish/fly-tipping/litter

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome & Notice of Recording Cllr Ward welcomed all to the meeting and residents were advised that members of the press and/or public may record and/or take photographs of the meeting. 2. Matters Arising from the Last Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heath Way/Brownfield Road – The Councillor is continuing working with the Highways engineers to work on a solution with the junction being redesigned. There was another serious Road Traffic Accident that happened at this junction again a few weeks ago. There is an active petition set up for this junction, however it does need refining. Details of this petition will be shared once this has been refined. People are continuing to drive over grass verges on Brownfield Road to access their drives ruining the appearance of the grass verges and with it being illegal as homeowners are not taking the appropriate action for getting drop kerbs installed.

- Off road bikes continue to be an issue in the ward however there is no police presence or action being taken to catch or deter the offenders. The police have mentioned previously that the traffic department will get involved, with the use of drones however none of this has happened.

3. City Council – Budget Cuts and Savings Updates

No changes or further updates regarding the financial position of the council since the previous ward meeting in March.

4. Councillor Ward Updates

- The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) on Pencroft Road is now active for it to be a car free street. However there has been no feedback on this from anyone and there is a lack of enforcement.
- The restriction sign on Hillstone Road has now been removed due to the number of complaints.
- The petition on Heath Way – Petition has begun however the current one is not valid. For a petition to be valid, the signee's Name, Address and Signature is required. Ideally a door-to-door petition is required to ensure local people sign it as anyone from further afield, their signatures would not count. Residents present at the meeting said that they would help the resident leading the petition to be able to execute this effectively. The resident who is leading the petition has unfortunately been a victim three times of Road Traffic Accidents at the junction of Brownfield Road and Heath Way where their car has been written off after each incidence. Residents shared their ideas on how to redesign the junction to make it safer. The Councillor advised all to email their suggestions to the Councillor so they can be shared with Alan Porter to be considered.
- The consultation is live on the library closures however the Councillor is unsure on the position of the Shard End library. Shard End is in the top 10% deprived wards in the country therefore cannot see the library closing, however he urged residents to take part in all consultations for the library.
- The Council is attempting to sell the car park off Pittall, next to no 18 Pittall Road by the police station – this was formally announced as of 1st May.
- Alexander Stadium are in talks with Birmingham City University and the University wants to run public events from there – unsure on what discussions are taking place.
- Reduced bin collections are not taking place until early 2025.

5. Other Local Updates

- A resident mentioned that water levels are significantly low in the Lake in the local park. Water is gushing our and is 6 inches below what it should be. The Councillor advised that from the previous minutes last year, the Parks Manager has confirmed that there is no slew skate, and the lake was of an appropriate height. Other residents commented that the bushes have been cut on the side by the gate and as the gate is now exposed, it may have been vandalised and damaged which will cause the water to leak. The path also need to be cleared up and roots are coming up through the pavements. The Councillor advised that he will speak to the Area Park Manager to look into this matter again, as other residents present also

commented on the low water levels of the lake which fluctuates often.

- Residents mentioned the lack of grass cutting on the grass verges with Brownfield Road being the most overgrown grass verge. It is said that someone wanted to plant daffodils on the grass verges and the cut has been delayed until they've died. The Councillor explained that the grass can only be cut 6 weeks after the daffodils have died, otherwise they will not grow again the following year. "No Mow May" also contributed to the over growth of grass verges, to promote wildlife. The Councillor did receive correspondence on 2nd June (day before this meeting) from the Parks Manager stating that the teams are now out mowing and will get to Heath Way and Brownfield Road as soon as possible.

6. Any Other Business

- A resident shared their views of how Shard End shopping areas are looking so run down, a constant hot spot for drug dealing and fly tipping is out of control. The Councillor explained that people are less responsible and dump rubbish everywhere and most of the time, people fly tipping in Shard End are not necessarily from the ward and come from further afield to dump out of their own area. The Councillor explained that to prosecute someone for fly tipping, photographic evidence is required and you must go to Court to give evidence if required to do so.
- There was a stabbing recently at the Heath Way shops and the shops were blocked off after the incident. There were reports of increased police presence in Shard End since the recent stabbing however no police patrol were to be seen the following day.
- Residents continued to mention the various drug dealings they have witnessed, however the Councillor explained the importance of reporting all such incidents to the police as action will be taken, especially if there is photographic evidence and license registrations reported.
- Cars are being stripped for their parts in the car park of Bradford Arms and the cars/drivers who come to strip the cars are using cloned plates.
- A resident living in the tower blocks on Heath Way asked who is responsible for cleaning the windows in the corridors of the tower block as the first floor window was extremely mouldy and could not see out of it therefore a resident took matter into their own hands and cleaned it themselves. The Housing Officer present stated that there is a contract for cleaning of the blocks and maintenance. However the Housing Officer did advise to complain to housing about the lack of maintenance of the public spaces in the tower blocks.
- £20 million has been allocated to improve social housing. There is currently a big job ongoing in Tile Cross where a lot of work is being done with new windows, roofs, bathrooms, extraction fans and other maintenance work being carried out to individual flats. Residents mentioned how the housing system and waiting list is flawed and asked who sets the point systems and regulations on allocating housing and The Councillor explained that there is a National Law Framework and additional regulations added on by the local governments.
- Shard End Neighbourhood Community is back up and running. They have a treasurer however are looking for a secretary. They are meeting at All Saints Church on 11th June at 7pm. Fund raising events to be arranged to generate income and all residents are welcome to join.
- Residents reported planters outside All Saints Church are not being maintained.
- The speed traffic signs on Brownfield Road are not working as they should. Councillor advised he will look in to this to get them to work again.

Councillor Ward thanked all for attending. There has been a reduction in ward forums from 4+2 to 3 a year now. The dates for the next ward forums are 7th October 2024 and 10th February 2025 – locations tbc.

Meeting closed at 8:01pm.