

**LONGBRIDGE & WEST HEATH WARD MEETING
NOTES**

WARD: Longbridge & West Heath	DATE: 11 March 2019
VENUE: St John the Baptist Church, Longbridge Lane B31 4JN	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.55pm
COUNCILLORS Debbie Clancy & Brett O'Reilly	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 30+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant David Lamerton, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology – Richard Burden M.P.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Updates from Previous Meeting

- a) **Longbridge Connectivity** – Cllr Clancy - single issue concerns raised at previous meeting had been dealt with.
- b) **Buses Parking outside Sainsbury** – proposal to move buses to alternative area after dropping passengers had raised other issues but the problems were being explored and further update would be provided at the next meeting
- c) **Thurlstone/Sunbury Roads** – works could be explored through the minor works budget but there were also other options that were being looked into. Difficulties with turning onto Longbridge Lane from Sunbury Road were highlighted and also access into Central Avenue due to speeding cars and during busy times cars blocking the junction. Yellow box markings or similar traffic management measures were requested. **Cllr O'Reilly referred to the Longbridge Consultative Group and undertook to look at a meeting being arranged to consider the free flow of traffic around the area. In response to reference to the audible warning on the pedestrian lights at Coombes Lane/Turves Green/ Longbridge Lane not working Councillor Clancy undertook to report to officers.**

2. Police Update

Sergeant Lamerton provided the following up date;

- Recent stabbings – assurance given that this was not an issue for the area and had involved people from outside the area. Licensing division was seeking a Closure Order and video footage and CCTV was available to assist.
- Street Watch – more patrols had been recruited but volunteers could register via the Police website or through Sgt Lamerton
- In response to concerns raised about drug use on Tessall Lane & around the station Sgt Lamerton advised patrols had been sent to the area but nothing had been witnessed. Longbridge Neighbourhood Team had also confirmed that they had not encountered issues in that area. However they remained vigilant and had closed down a cannabis farm and were working with West Mercia on a number of drug related issues along with the college and BCC Housing.
- Knife bin, Northfield – Sgt Lamerton to liaise with Sgt Fryer
- Visit by Home Secretary to Northfield – in response to concerns raised regarding the lack of community representation at the recent visit the meeting was advised that the agenda for the visit had been set by the Home Secretary during a visit to meet the PCC and Police Constable. The visit to Northfield had been an impromptu stop for him to meet people on the street and there had not therefore been time to arrange for groups to join in. Residents asked that the PCC be invited to Longbridge & West Heath to speak to the community. **Councillor O'Reilly undertook to send an invite to the PCC & Metro Mayor who had made a commitment to work together.**

3. Waste Dispute Update

Cllr O'Reilly gave an update on the current industrial action and the history leading up to the strike. Talks were currently ongoing and there was a Cabinet meeting on 15 March when it was hoped to resolve matters. During the industrial action refuse collections would be fortnightly on recycling days but would revert to weekly once the strike was resolved. Mixed collections would also then end.

Complaints were made regarding the contingency plan and the details for collection on the website not bearing relevance to actual collection days resulting in residents being without a collection for weeks. There had been no green waste collections and leaving bins out permanently made manoeuvring cars difficult. Cllr O'Reilly referred to the use of contractors who did not know the routes and said that as 2 weeks notice had to be given to stop the use of the contractors there would be a period when they would be working at the

same time as the crews and this would enable the backlog to be reduced and then weekly collections re-started. Cllr Clancy asked about assisted collections and requested every effort be made to assist where assistance had been requested.

4. Ward Planning

Cllr Clancy explained the ward planning process and undertook to arrange for details to be sent to residents so that they could forward their suggestions for ward priorities.

Concern expressed that the manufacturing jobs promised for the Longbridge redevelopment had not materialised and whether they would ever be created or would the land still available be given for further retail. Cllr Clancy referred to 200 new technology jobs coming to Devon Way and that manufacturing courses were offered at Bournville College.

Cllr O'Reilly declared an interest as he worked for South & City College and said unfortunately a factory earmarked for the site had gone elsewhere but St Modwen was continuing to pursue such use of the land and were hopeful of some manufacturing or technology use on the land.

With regard the ward plan – more litter bins & dog bins were requested.

With regard to involvement by St Modwen Councillor Clancy said that a representative would be invited to a future meeting to give an update.

Residents felt that there should be some provision for young people made in the ward plan. **Councillor Clancy suggested inviting a youth worker from The Factory to tell people about what was going on in the ward. Councillor O'Reilly suggested holding a ward convention to put ideas in the plan into practice.**

There was further discussion regarding priorities for the plan and it suggested that the priorities suggestion form be put onto B31 Voices so that more people across the ward could be involved. **Kay to contact B31 Voices to ask if the form could be uploaded onto their site.**

Update on the Ward Plan to be provided to the next meeting.

Any Other Business

Residents raised the following issues;

- a) Tessall Lane paving slabs – many were broken and presented a hazard to the number of elderly people in the area. The matter had been reported last December but no action taken. One side of the road had the pavement tarmacked but the other side had been left with broken slabs. **Councillor Clancy to report to Amey Highway Steward.**
- b) Selly Oak Retail Park – number of complaints received therefore any issues to be reported to Cllr Clancy to forward to the Transport Infrastructure Team
- c) VELO Cycle Race – details of the route circulated
- d) C&K Autos – Cllr Clancy to follow up
- e) Common Wealth Games – residents queried how the Games would benefit the south of the city and what legacy projects would be available. A presentation on the CWG and the changes happening around the stadium was requested. It was also felt that this would help to enthuse local people & encourage volunteering. It was hoped that local schools could also be involved. Councillor O'Really to ask the Leader to attend a future meeting and make a presentation.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):