

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Diane Donaldson, Mohammed Idrees, Majid Mahmood and Fiona Williams

ALSO PRESENT:-

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Beverley Edmead	- Community Governance Manager
Phil Grainger	- Place Manager, Shard End Ward
Carl Hides	- Senior Service Manager, Place
David Bromley	- West Midlands Fire Service
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

422 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

423 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Marge Bridle, John Cotton, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan, Shafique Shah and Ian Ward for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

424 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2017, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

CCTV CAMERAS – UPDATE

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Phil Grainger, Place Manager, Shard End reported that the cameras were now in operation in 6 'hot spot' areas across the east quadrant. There were 5 Place Managers and 6 Regulatory Enforcement Officers that had got access to the cameras due to them being encrypted.

He reported that a community impact assessment had to be undertaken before deployment of any camera could take place and subsequently detailed the process that this involved.

He confirmed that each camera had got a movement capability of 8 times per year within their respective ward which continues for the next 2.5 years. He highlighted that the service level agreement with regard to the cameras was for 3 years which included services, upgrades and the provision of free training for operatives.

Phil Grainger and Carl Hides, Senior Service Manager, gave examples of where the cameras had assisted with tackling anti-social behaviour however both highlighted that they were only one small element of a wider tool box. Carl Hides stated that the cameras were successful not in terms of prosecution but more as a deterrent. It was highlighted that Place Managers should as a matter of courtesy be consulted on the deployment of the cameras as they knew where the 'hot spots' areas were.

Councillor Mahmood referred to the camera that had been placed on the corner of St Margaret's Road and Washwood Heath Road and suggested that it would be interesting to see if there had been any cautions carried out, and if any individuals had been prosecuted as a result of the camera. He highlighted a problem with the a white van and the 'hot spot' area being Hodge Hill Common and requested information relating to the community impact assessment form, in order for members to be aware of the process of what was required before cameras could be deployed elsewhere.

Councillor Idrees requested an update of where the cameras had been deployed in Washwood Heath Ward and where they were looking to move the cameras.

In response to the above, Phil agreed to circulate to members the criteria of the impact assessment form.

He confirmed that Mushtaq Hussain, Place Manager, Washwood Heath Ward had been monitoring Phillimore Road over the last few months. It was noted that some fly-tipping had been captured on site however they had not been able to identify the perpetrators as no vehicles had been used. It was suggested that fly-tipping was being done by local people who were leaving the items in the middle of the night and disguising their identities whilst fly-tipping.

He confirmed that they were intending to relocate the camera to Tarry Road over the next few months.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Phil Grainger and Carl Hides for attending the meeting and reporting.

IDENTIFICATION OF A TRANSIT SITE FOR TRAVELLERS – BROMFORD RECYCLING SITE – LACK OF CONSULTATION

- 426 The Chairman agreed to write to the department due to the fact that there had been no consultation with local residents, elected members and partners in this regard.

David Bromley, West Midlands Fire Service confirmed that the fire service had not been made aware of the above-mentioned proposal.

At this juncture, Councillor Mahmood suggested that the letter to the department should include that the fire service had not been informed of a proposal and highlighted that a petition in excess of 500 signatures objecting to the proposal had been presented by himself and Councillor Donaldson. He highlighted that if the site was surplus to requirements that it should return back to its previous use as a football pitch. He added that they had not committed the Ward's local Innovation Fund due to the fact that they were looking at using the assets within the ward and therefore required a clear indication from the City Council what those assets would be used for before allocating any funding.

LOCAL INNOVATION FUND PROJECTS – UPDATE

- 427 Beverley Edmead, Community Governance Manager provided a brief update by highlighting the following:-

Shard End Ward:-

Community Caretaking - £18,561
Community Buddying and Respite Sitting service - £19,000
Balance approximately £10,400

Looking towards a joint project with Stechford and Yardley North - looking at ways to support Glebe Farm Library.

Washwood Heath Ward:-

Allocated £48,000 funding to YESS Project – which is Youth Empowerment and Support Services.

Beverley reported that Hodge Hill and Bordesley Green Wards still needed to set dates for their Local Innovation Fund (LIF) discussions which could be scheduled at ward meetings or separate meetings.

She introduced Pat White, and stated that if members needed any assistance with regard to proposals for the funding that Pat would be happy to help. She added that the proposals must be submitted to Cabinet Committee Local Leadership Committee

by 20 December 2017 or the funding for the ward would be lost, and therefore, it was important that discussions needed to take place as soon as possible. She added that once the funding had been approved it could be carried forward to 2018/19 financial year.

The Chairman thanked Beverley for attending the meeting and reporting.

At this juncture, Councillor Idrees and Williams declared a non-pecuniary interest.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

428 Dave Bromley, Station Commander, Ward End Fire Station provided an update.

He reported that they continued to strive for an average 5 minutes attendance standard to all category 1 life risk emergencies as part of the Service Delivery Model. He confirmed that they currently at 4 minutes 27 seconds for Ward End Station, which had improved from the previous quarter report by 5 seconds.

He stated that arson continued to be a challenge, in particular:-

- 36 vehicle fires. The 3 year average for this period is 18
- 56 rubbish fires. The 3 year average for this period is 56
- 6 dwelling fires – The 3 year average for this period is 3

He reported that they were continuing to work closely with the police and various council departments by reporting void premises, vehicles and fly-tipping.

He confirmed that there had been 22 accidental fires in dwellings which were slightly above the average, adding that there continued to be no fire deaths or injuries as a result of fires this year.

He further confirmed that there had been 36 road accidents, 6 reports of verbal abuse to the crews and one involving an egg thrown at the vehicle

Dave confirmed that they had undertaken 607 safe and well visits which were:-

- Bordesley Green 122
- Hodge Hill 201
- Shard End 150
- Washwood Heath 134

He stated that they were keen to connect with any groups, agencies that worked with vulnerable people in order to look at creating good quality referral pathways that helped the service reach the most vulnerable in the community.

He reported that they had had the first station Open Day for 12 years which had been a great success and subsequently thanked everyone who had attended the event. He emphasised that it had been a very special day and it had created some good relationships with other agencies. He highlighted that Councillor Mahmood had

taken part in a rescue operation from the drill tower and confirmed that they hoped to repeat the event next year and expand in having more community involvement.

Dave reported that Ward End Mega Mela had been a great success and the fire service had had many referrals for safe and well visits as a result of this. He stated that he would like to thank all the volunteers that had helped make the day a success and gave a special mention to 'The Future Melting Pot' who have started a campaign called Halt Heartache who was supported by a family that had lost a brother and son in a road accident. He thanked the councillors that had spoken to the brave family and confirmed that they would continue the work with Estella from the Future Melting Pot to raise awareness of the causes, consequences and solutions to reckless driving amongst young people.

Dave confirmed that they had visited all high rise residential buildings in Hodge Hill district and had not found any issues with regard to cladding. He stated that they continued with the high rise reassurance referral system which provided safety information to residents and encouraging safe and well visits. He highlighted that Warstone Tower, Bromford would soon be released and be available for use for training purposes.

Councillor Mahmood suggested that the fire service, if required, could use the vacant towers in future for training purposes if they so required. He highlighted that Ward End Fire Station was one of the most neighbourly stations within the city and subsequently referred to the community events that they had been involved with in the district which had been very successful. He thanked the fire service for visiting all the high rise blocks across the district and emphasised that members were always happy to provide support to the fire service in any way that they could.

In response to the above, Dave Bromley thanked Councillor Mahmood for the support offered. He highlighted the various ways in which they were looking to showcase the service in order to reflect the diverse community that they served.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Dave Bromley for attending the meeting and updating.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

429 Mike Davis highlighted that due to lack of officer representation, a written update had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. He informed members that if they had questions that they be forwarded to Helen Bailey.

Councillor Mahmood thanked West Midlands Police for the work they had carried out regarding Ward End Park and the issue relating to prostitution.

It was noted that there was a community event scheduled on 28 September 2017 at the Khidmat Centre in order to try and work with the community in tackling this issue of prostitution in Bordesley Green and Washwood Heath Wards.

Following concern raised by Dave Bromley regarding youth activity at the old DSS building, Councillor Williams confirmed that it would be raised with enforcement.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

430 Mike Davis reported that partnership activity across the district as part of the East Community Safety Partnership was still ongoing with Councillor Mariam Khan as the Community Safety Champion. He referred to the meeting that would be taking place on Friday, 29 September 2017 which was the first East Birmingham Employment and Skills Board. He confirmed that Councillor Bret O'Reilly was leading this area of work and was arranging for 4 summits to look at the way employment and skills partnerships move forward in the city.

He confirmed that there had been a North South, East and West Skills Partnership meeting and further to those there are now 4 boards being set up. He added that they had previously tried to have a district specific employment and skills board and would now be encouraging partners in the district to support the wider East Birmingham Employment and Skills Partnership. He suggested that anyone with an interest in employment could attend the meeting.

In response to Councillor Mahmood's enquiry relating to funding, Mike believed that there was still a small amount of funding available and agreed to investigate and advise accordingly.

PETITION –

A Church of God of Prophecy, The Family Centre, 522 Alum Rock Road, Washwood Heath, B8 3HX

Residents from near Alum Rock Road and Fernbank Road submitted a petition relating to loud and excessive noise coming from the above-mentioned property.

431 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be forwarded to the Regulation and Enforcement for attention and response.

DATE OF NEXT HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

432 The next meeting of the Hodge Hill District Committee will be held on Thursday, 23 November 2017 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 2, Council House.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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RESOLVED:-

That in an urgent situation between meetings the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer, has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 14:55 hours.

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CHAIRMAN