

## HARBORNE WARD MEETING NOTES

MONDAY 29 APRIL 2019

6.30PM – 8.15PM

<b>VENUE:</b> The Community Room, Harborne Pool & Leisure Centre, Lordswood Road, B17 9QS	
<b>COUNCILLORS:</b> Jayne Francis & Peter Fowler	<b>ATTENDEES:</b> Approx. 15
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Mo Phillips – Public Health Officer, BCC Jade Hussain – Public Health Officer, BCC  <b>APOLOGIES</b> Marie Brown, District Engineer and Sgt Khalil – Local Policing Team, WMP for absence	

<b>WARD PRIORITIES: Not yet identified</b>
<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>
<p><b>Cllr Jayne Francis in the Chair</b></p> <p><b>1. Notice of Recording</b> The Chair advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.</p> <p><b>2. Councillors News/Updates including Matters Arising</b> <u>Parking Concerns</u></p>

Cllr Fowler advised that the motion proposed at the last meeting had been submitted and that response/outcome would be given in due course.

The parking proposals at the Harborne Primary School annexe on Court Oak Road continued to be a real cause for concern, with little or no information forthcoming from officers. The joint ward meeting with Quinton ward in December did not provide any clarity regarding matters, the further consultation promised at the meeting to find a more acceptable solution to local residents had not taken place and the implication for traffic management issues in neighbouring roads including Grosvenor Rd, Fellows Lane and Queens Park Road not taken into account.

Residents felt that the decision to go ahead with the scheme had already been made regardless of the objections made against it and their views, suggestions and concerns had been completely disregarded by officers. Cllrs Fowler and Francis advised that as local Elected Members they had not supported the scheme and had also called for further consultation/revisions to the proposals.

**Action: It was suggested and agreed that the Ward Cllrs would arrange an urgent meeting with Highway Officers, and that a public meeting would also be arranged to address the concerns raised before the scheme was approved.**

### **3. Policing Issues in the Ward**

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Sgt Khalil who was unable to attend due to urgent policing matters, including the execution of warrant in the ward earlier in the day.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- An increase in drugs and violent crime in parts of the ward; reference was made to a murder which took place in the ward a few days ago. Residents added there was a genuine fear of crime and personal safety in the ward, which left many feeling too afraid to leave their homes.
- Drug dealing being openly carried out in Serpentine and Lonsdale Roads; car registration details, dates and times had been passed on to the police however there was little or no change in the level of illegal activity.
- Increased speeding in Ravenhurst, Wentworth and Lonsdale Roads. Buses were also exceeding the 20mph speed limit on Harborne High Street.
- Neighbourhood Tasking Group meetings with the police no longer took place which was very disappointing. Residents should be able to meet with the local team on a regular basis to raise concerns /share information and receive support/advice if they were to continue to be the 'eyes and ears' of the community.

Cllr Francis briefly advised of a number of projects carried out by Harborne BID to increase community safety and reassurance around the High Street and that an information update on the work of the BID would be given at the next meeting. Sarah Hanson (Street Watch) agreed to raise residents' comments and concerns at the next Street Watch meeting; in the meantime, residents were advised to continue reporting incidents to the police to enable hot spot areas to be identified and targeted action/police resources deployed accordingly.

**Action: BID Manager to be invited to attend the next Ward Meeting**

#### **4. Birmingham Public health Green Paper Consultation**

Following introductions, Mo Phillips, Public Health Officer, BCC advised of the Birmingham Public Health Green Paper consultation launched on 18th March 2019 until 12th May 2019. The Green Paper sets out the proposed Public Health priorities for the next four years which had been informed by the last Census in 2011 and data and intelligence collected on the areas of need in the city over the last few years.

The four priorities were:-

- Child Health – including reducing infant mortality; tackling childhood obesity; supporting the mental and physical health of the most vulnerable children
- Working Age Adults – including addressing the cumulative impact of unhealthy behaviours such as tobacco control, substance misuse and physical inactivity
- Ageing Well – including reducing isolation, developing community assets, providing system wide information, advice and support to enable self- management
- Healthy Environment – including improving air quality; increasing the health gains of new developments and transport schemes; health protection assurance and response including screening, immunisation and communicable diseases

Supporting mental and physical health of the most vulnerable children and adults of all ages was also key feature in all four priorities. Details of the Green Paper consultation could be found on the City Council's Be Heard website and comments could also be submitted to [HealthyBum@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:HealthyBum@birmingham.gov.uk)

Copies of Harborne ward specific statistics were circulated to residents at the meeting along with paper copies of the consultation document and freepost envelopes to enable all residents in the community to be able to take part in the consultation process.

During discussion, the following comments were made by residents:-

- Concerns at the levels of poverty indicated on the fact sheet for the ward, which included some schools closing earlier in the day due to the lack of funding, and children in receipt of free school meals who often went hungry during the school holidays.
- The lack of co-ordination and connectivity with other council departments, particularly the Planning Department regarding new planning applications and how they impacted on local neighbourhoods and shopping areas. Restrictions should also be placed on the number of fast food outlets and takeaways as these all contributed towards the increase in obesity/unhealthy lifestyles.
- Better partnership working with other public agencies to improve community safety, encourage a healthier lifestyle and make better use of public open spaces to help address social isolation
- All partners working together to tackle issues around alcohol/drugs and gambling additions – all of which contribute to the increase in violent crime
- Disappointment that all practical and sensible solutions put forward were hindered by costs and interdepartmental issues

Mo Phillips advised of ongoing discussions with Planning Officers regarding restrictions on the number of fast food/takeaway outlets in the local centres and that these outlets were currently being looked at as part of the wider obesity strategy. Currently, there was no government funding for gambling addition, however this had been recognised as a growing problem and consideration needs to be given on how this should be tackled. Public Health Officers had also engaged with a number of key partner agencies at a strategic level to help discuss, advise, shape and influence future decisions.

Residents were encouraged to submit their comments/complete the consultation questionnaire before the closing date on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

#### **5. Ward Action Plan – Identifying the Priorities**

Residents were reminded that each ward was required to identify and prioritise the areas of concern to develop a Ward Action Plan to see how these could be addressed over the next 3 years (until 2022).

It was suggested and agreed this would be one of the main Agenda items at the next Ward Forum meeting.

#### **6. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns**

- Hospital Trust & University of Birmingham (UoB) Parking Consultation

Residents expressed concerns at the lack of hard copies or public display of the proposals at Harborne Library. A drop-in consultation event should also have been held at the library, which was a very well used facility in the centre of the ward. Harborne Primary School was also another venue which should have been considered. Letters had been issued to households living closest to the various schemes proposed, however given the impact these would have across the wider ward, drop-in sessions would have been a more appropriate way to explain the schemes and address residents' concerns.

- Street Cleansing Team

Residents commended the efforts of the Street Cleansing Team with helping to keep the streets clean on a regular basis and asked for their thanks and appreciation to be passed on.

**Action: Community Governance Team to action accordingly**

**7. Petitions**

None submitted.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm, Harborne Pool & Leisure Centre.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm