

SHARD END WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Shard End	DATE: 7 January 2020
VENUE: Shard End Health & Well Being Centre, Packington Avenue	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.35pm
COUNCILLOR Ian Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 11
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jemma Callow, Clean Air Zone Team Alan Porter, Local Engineer Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Local updates

i) Neighbourhood Policing Team

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Sgt Wilson and a briefing note was circulated to the meeting. Councillor Ward welcomed comments on policing/community safety issues which would be reported back to the police team.

A local resident mentioned damage caused to the perimeter wall by the police station and the road sign had subsequently also been damaged. Alan Porter undertook to arrange for the reinstatement of the road sign.

Residents referred to burglaries in the area and that although reported the police were too busy to attend and the action being taken to reduce burglaries in the area was questioned. Councillor Ward referred to the report circulated and that more officers were joining the team which would help generally and it was recommended that residents change their locks to anti-snap locks to deter break-ins.

ii) Community Groups/Residents

Shard End Community's Group reported that it needed new members and access to some funding. The group met on the third Tuesday of the month in the Library at 7pm. Councillor Ward advised that he had sent funding information to the group.

2. Clean Air Zone Update

Jemma Callow explained the reasons for the introduction of the CAZ which would be going live in July. She emphasised that it was not a congestion charge and only non-compliant vehicles would be subject to the charge. Petrol vehicles that were Euro 4 standard 2006 registration onwards or Euro 6 2015 onwards diesel vehicles would not be charged. It had been acknowledged that this could cause hardship for some residents and low earners within the zone and therefore some exemptions had been made. For example those with non-compliant vehicles living within the zone would receive an exemption of up to 2 years and those working and earning less than £30k would receive up to a year's exemption. Incentives for commuters including scrappage would also be on offer.

During the course of discussion residents made the following comments;

- Birmingham Community Health Care Trust HQ was situated within the CAZ and many lower paid health care staff had to regularly access the building. Concern was expressed regarding these staff having to pay the CAZ charge and although this had been raised by the Trusts CEO a decision had not been forthcoming
- The charges were too high and it was felt that the motorist was always the first to bear any new charges
- The location of the CAZ would not help reduce deaths from air pollution
- Birmingham Allotment Association had for some time been pushing for more greenery in the city but suggestions had been ignored
- Birmingham's lack of an integrated transport system was not conducive to the introduction of the CAZ
- In particular the bus service in Shard End was unreliable and expensive. The number 55 service did not run to timetable and changes to the timetable now meant that the buses arrived 5 minutes after the trains had departed Lea Hall station. People had to wait until 66 years of age to receive a bus pass and it was suggested that the council introduce an annual pass for retirees aged over 60 to encourage public transport use
- There were canals that ran through the CAZ and it was queried if any provision had been made for the canal barges that had diesel engines.
- Concern expressed regarding the knock-on effect of motorists parking outside the CAZ in residential areas to avoid the charge.

In response to some of the points raised Councillor Ward asked that Jemma arrange to meet with the Health Care Trust CEO to sort out

the issue. He said that the Middle Ring Road was where air pollution was at its worse and therefore cleaning up the quality there would improve air across the city. Birmingham along with other major cities in the UK was acting on a Government instruction. Nottingham had introduced a work place parking levy and invested that income into a metro system and the council was looking at doing similar. All of the money generated from the CAZ would be spent on improving public transport.

Jemma added that drop in events were being organised for residents to be able to speak to officers about the CAZ but public transport partners would also be in attendance to answer more detailed questions.

ACTIONS;

- i) Jemma Callow to arrange to speak to the CEO of Community Health Care Trust**
- ii) Councillor Ward to take up with National Express issue of no. 55 bus timetable changes being incompatible with the train departure times at Lea Hall Station**

3. Petitions – none submitted

4. Any Other Business

a) Ward Plan

Councillor Ward spoke about the review and updating of the ward plan to include the Commonwealth Games legacy. He made reference to a CWG Legacy fund for structured small grants to community groups and further funding for residents groups etc to be able to take part in the spirit of the Games.

ACTIONS;

- iii) Update/review ward plan at next meeting**
- iv) Look at available funding to the ward eg HLB spend of the environmental money**

b) Cole Hall Lane

Alan Porter reported on the proposal for traffic calming and dealing with the flooding issue in the dip. The housing developer for the development on the sewage works had agreed to fund the cost of removing the chicanes and installing replacement islands along the road and HS2 had also offered money to help improve traffic flow and this was under consideration. Cole Hall Lane was a priority and Alan undertook to speak to the Amey steward and arrange a visit to see what could be done regarding the flooding that

occurred in the dip.

c) All Saints Square

In response to a query regarding the car park and the shared space issue Alan Porter reported that Barratts were willing to fund the use of different materials to differentiate between the areas. He undertook to get an update on the proposals and report to a future meeting.

d) The Heath Way – In response to a question Alan Porter reported that due to the number of accidents on the road traffic calming was being considered for The Heath Way

e) Longmeadow Crescent & surrounding roads – residents reported the very poor state of the grass verges due to use for car parking. Brownfield Road had a scheme to prevent parking and Alan Porter undertook to bring details of the scheme to a future meeting.

f) Housing Development, Packington Avenue – in response to concerns raised regarding the proximity of the new houses Councillor Ward advised that in view of concerns the angle of the houses had been changed and there would now be 2 units rather than 4. He asked that Cathy Jesson, Housing Officer be invited to a future meeting to give an update on Packington Avenue and the garage site in School Lane.

g) Remembrance Service – during the course of discussion the meeting was advised that funds needed to be raised to be able to hold the service again this year and that the M.P. had indicated that he might be able to help. Councillor Ward undertook to contact the M.P.

5. Date of Next Meeting – 3 March, 7pm at Moorfield Community Centre