

	<b>KINGS NORTON WARD FORUM MEETING</b>	
	<b>WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2017 AT 7PM AT HAWKESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, EDGWOOD ROAD</b>	
	<b>ACTION NOTES</b>	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Peter Griffiths (Chair) and Councillor Simon Jevon Austin Rodriguez, Neighbourhood Development &amp; Community Support Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>There were 17 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Councillor Seabright	
Agenda Item		<b>Action</b>
1.	<b><u>Notice of Recordings</u></b>	Noted
2.	<b><u>Petitions</u></b>	None submitted
3.	<b><u>Police Update</u></b>	Apologies from the police, defer
4.	<b><u>Fire Service Update</u></b>	Defer
5.	<p><b><u>Local Innovation Fund Presentations</u></b></p> <p>The Chair gave a brief outline of the LIF and Austin explained the criteria and process for proposals. The following proposals were then presented to the meeting;</p> <p>a) <b><u>Kings Norton Together</u></b></p> <p>Alicia Wilkes, Jacqui Deeley &amp; Becki Woodcock presented a proposal to address isolation and loneliness and bring people together through inter-generational projects but also bring community groups in the ward together and provide residents with information about what was going on in the ward. It was proposed to produce a newsletter, involve children from Kings Norton Primary school teaching older people IT skills, intergenerational tea dances including children's and St Nicholas Place choirs, use the Kings Norton Festival to promote and encourage volunteers, create a Facebook page and bid for other funding sources to carry the project forward. Councillor Jevon commented that this idea had brought together different groups to work together who had already started on the projects. In response to questions the meeting was advised that groups from all parts of the ward were welcome. The school had kept the registers of all classes dating back to its opening and it was</p>	

planned to have open days when ex-pupils of the school could meet either at the school or at other venues such as the fire station, church etc and could talk to the children about their lives/history. It was suggested that the scout group be contacted re delivery of a newsletter.  
The proposal was broadly supported by the meeting.

b) Northfield Arts Forum

Fran Littlehales explained the idea of holding a monthly arts Café similar to that held in Northfield. It involved a pay as you feel café and various arts to draw the local community together. It was proposed to use Hawkesley Community Centre and Northfield Arts Forum would help run it until it could stand alone.

A full proposal form with costings was required.

The meeting felt that this was something that could be incorporated with Kings Norton Together and therefore would consider on that basis but a costed break down was required in the first instance.

c) Smart Works

As a representative from Smartworks had been unable to attend Austin outlined the proposal and the request for £5,000 each from the 4 wards in Northfield District. In response to a question the meeting was advised that Longbridge ward had decided not to fund any cross ward proposals. The Chair noted that Smartworks was also involved in another proposal.

d) Northfield House

Reverend Tubby explained the proposal put forward by the Northfield Stakeholders Group to support Northfield District by regenerating Prices House to provide a space for organisations offering support, advice, engagement as well as community space and training opportunities. The funding was to help get the project off the ground and £4,000 was being sought from the 4 wards. In response to questions the meeting was advised that official notification that Longbridge was not supportive had not been received but if that was the case it would not affect the amount being requested from the other 3 wards.

Residents felt that there were organisations offering advice within Kings Norton and that the ward should utilise existing facilities. It was also considered that the LIF should be kept within the ward and not used outside Kings Norton. Funding allocated to Kings Norton should be spent in Kings Norton in view of the neglect that the ward had suffered in the past. It was also noted that when the ward boundaries changed Kings Norton would no longer be within the Northfield District.

Reverend Tubby assured the meeting that it was not the intention to take resources from Kings Norton but to ensure the service benefited and supported Kings Norton residents and could work with local community groups and provide a satellite in the ward.

e) Early Intervention Homeless Prevention

Helen Sephton outlined the project proposal that was in partnership with the Sweet project. The project was based on the need for early intervention to support people before they slipped into crisis. The advice and support would be brought into the heart of the community via a programme of events. The events would be free and all advice was quality assured.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that referrals could be made direct to the project. The cost to wards would depend on the event package and how many were wanted.

There was some concern that advice services already existed in the ward but it was explained that The Project offered advice on inter-connected issues and not just benefit or housing advice as many organisations did.

The Chair commented on the impact of Universal Credit and the need for advice around that and therefore a need for advice in the ward could probably be identified.

f) Fast Aid

Andy Carr outlined the work undertaken by Fast Aid as an emergency response directed by the Ambulance Service to people in need of medical assistance. The LIF funding proposal was to assist with the purchase of dummies to enable further training in schools of local school children and to assist with the purchase of a vehicle (volunteers currently used their own vehicles) to enable more advanced equipment to be carried and a more efficient radio system. Andy answered a number of questions on the work of Fast Aid and advised that he had been into local schools to provide training and had been called to emergency situations in the Kings Norton ward. Northfield Ward had agreed to allocate LIF to Fast Aid.

The meeting showed considerable interest in the proposal and support for LIF funding.

g) West Heath Hayes Football Community

David Hopkins said the aim was to bring the under used West Heath Park and Oddingley Hall into use while addressing deprivation and lack of community spirit through a football community, giving West Heath an identity, through involvement of whole families. Northfield had offered funding provided that further funding came from another ward. He was working with other groups eg was looking at a CAT for Oddingley Hall with NAF Café and the Redeemer Church and had also had discussions with the police and volunteers wishing to set up a Friends of West Heath Park group. The idea of the 'football community' was to involve everyone and would include other sports, sports for women and girls and para-sports to generate a community and bring down anti-social behaviour, bullying etc.

	<p>Concern was expressed regarding the benefit to the wider Kings Norton area as West Heath Park was on the edge of the ward and the effect of the boundary changes. Councillor Jevon pointed out that West Heath was in Kings Norton and more of West Heath would come into the ward in 2018. The meeting was advised that by David that he would be linking with Kings Norton Together and contacting Fast Aid for some training sessions. The meeting acknowledged the need for some organised activity amongst children and the wider community.</p> <p>h) <u>Workers Educational Association</u></p> <p>Ona Burca explained that the proposal was to provide training courses at 2 levels to assist women into employment – 1) soft skills to get them job ready 2) CV, interview skills etc, then sign post to Smart Works. Training would be adapted dependant on funding and need. In the longer term the aim was to help the community to develop its own learning group and create a sustainable presence. If this project proved successful a men's only provision would be started.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that the courses would be run in Kings Norton at community venues such as churches, community centres, schools. The proposal had been discussed informally with the Weoley councillors. Funding was received from the Skills Funding Agency but the criteria for the funding was very specific and would not allow for small group courses. The pilot would enable links to be made with other groups in Kings Norton and for relationships to be built locally. It was suggested that this could link with the Naf Café and courses run from Hawkesley Community Centre.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the presenters for explaining their proposals and said that from the comments made the opinion was that preference should be given to projects that delivered from Kings Norton or could show strong outcomes in Kings Norton and worked with people of Kings Norton.</p> <p>Residents said that the money allocated to Kings Norton must be spent in the ward and that work already being done should be promoted and pride developed in the area.</p> <p>The Chair explained the next steps and assured residents that their views had been heard.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Residents Issues</u></b></p> <p>a) <u>Gangs/Anti-social Behaviour</u></p> <p>Residents expressed concern regarding the issues associated with gangs and teenage anti-social behaviour in the area. The regeneration of Kings Norton had 'ripped apart' the community and action was needed to bring it together. Positive role models</p>	

	<p>and changes to expectations were needed in the area so any money allocated to the ward must be spent in the ward and used by groups who already operated here.</p> <p>b) <u>Update on Regeneration</u>  Reference was made to the garages in Medway Grove that had recently been set on fire. The future of the garages was questioned. The Chair advised that the garages were not due for demolition but undertook to look into the damage caused and to have an item on the regeneration at the next meeting with an officer in attendance to answer questions.  A resident queried the future of the houses in the regeneration programme as he had been advised that properties to the rear of his were being demolished but his property would remain and whether those properties that were left would be improved. In particular those in Mersey Grove. The Chair undertook to speak to the resident at the conclusion of the meeting and to find out what repairs were needed to properties in Mersey Grove.  Residents stressed that tenants moved out where their properties were being demolished should be able to move back into the new properties so that some community cohesion could be retained.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding</u>  Residents expressed concern regarding speeding vehicles along Shannon Road and Green Lane and also cars parking close to the traffic lights during school dropping off/picking up time. Motorbikes were also being driven around the area at speed. The Chair suggested the matters be raised at police tasking meeting. Complaints were also made regarding cars being raced around the traffic island at Green Lane in the early hours of the morning and then racing onto Redditch Road. The Chair said he would ask for the police to patrol the area.</p> <p>d) <u>Travellers</u>  Complaints were made about the continued return of travellers to the area. The travellers had moved on from Swale Grove and left considerable amounts of rubbish behind but were now camped on the pavements. With regard to Swale Grove the Chair advised that access to the public highway could not be prevented while someone was still residing on one of the properties. When they vacated the road would be sealed. The Council was limited in its powers and had to follow procedure to move the travellers on but there was no transit site at present to move them onto.</p> <p>e) <u>Shops, Hawkesley Square</u>  On behalf of the shopkeepers on Hawkesley Square it was reported that there were issues in respect of drug dealing, travellers, condition of the roads and appearance of the 3 Estates which needed to be addressed.</p>	<p>Regeneration item on agenda for next meeting</p> <p>Police Tasking Meeting</p> <p>Chair to request a police patrol</p>
4.	<b><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></b>	Agreed

Meeting ended 8.55pm