

**NEWTOWN WARD MEETING
NOTES**

WARD: Newtown	DATE: 5 December 2019
VENUE: St Georges Church Centre, Bridge Street West B19 2YX	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.05pm
COUNCILLOR Ziaul Islam	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 15
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Croxford, Head of Environmental Health Les Williams, Principal Operations Manager, Waste Management Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology – Sgt Edwards & Rev. Cozen

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Police Update

A briefing note send by Sergeant Edwards was circulated to residents at the meeting.

2. Update on Travellers Transit Camp

Mark Croxford circulated a Cabinet Members briefing note relating to unauthorised encampments that explained the actions the council could and was taking and provided contact details in the case of an unauthorised encampment. Mark explained the actions that the council took when an unauthorised encampment was identified including requests to travellers to move within 7 days (if on land of no value) or 2 days (from land of value). A transit camp had now been set up in Nechells and the police had powers to move the travellers to the authorised site or make them leave the city area – they were not allowed to return to any other land within the city for 3 months. The transit site had been set up to lessen complaints and no issues had

been raised since the site opened or complaints received from local residents.

Residents outlined the problems experienced when travellers had set up camp on the land outside St Georges Church Centre, including ASB, fouling on the steps to the church and the surrounding area, damage to the barrier & bollards to gain access, damage to resident's fences, sheds and intimidation.

Mark, in response to questions, said that prosecutions were made but that evidence was required and injunctions could be used where ASB was an issue. CCTV could be installed and from the issues raised at the meeting it could be set up at St Georges but evidence was required from residents. However now that the transit site was operational and travellers could be directed to it, it was unlikely that the travellers would return and if they did would only be able to stay for 12 hours before being moved on.

Residents advised that all of the incidents had been reported to the police and log numbers received and it had been assumed that this had been passed onto the police. Mark apologised that those logs had not been received but said that residents should report any recurring incidents to the numbers provided.

3. Waste Management Update

Les Williams gave an update on the change to service delivery following the strike and that while it had not gone as smoothly as hoped matters were now improving. New staff were being employed and new trucks purchased, although due to the specialist nature of the vehicles the first would not be delivered until May and a rolling programme would see all vehicles replaced within 5 years. Steps were being taken to improve missed collections.

Residents made the following comments;

- There was no road sweeping being undertaken in the area, especially around Stainsby Avenue & Markford Walk areas
- Drains also needed cleaning
- Missed collections were happening across the ward
- Crews did not pick up spills when collecting the household rubbish
- Paper pods from the recycling bin were often 'lost' as they were not put back into the bins properly after a recycling collection
- Porchester Drive – black bags put at the side of the bin on collection day were not collected.
- Query regarding work with schools and education around litter, rubbish dumping etc

- Lack of mechanical sweepers in Newtown
- Stainsby Avenue – shrubs behind the maisonettes had not been cut back and this was encouraging rubbish dumping. This had been reported and it was queried whether statements etc would be collected.

Les Williams responded that mechanical sweepers would be providing a 2 weekly service as part of the service changes and that this would start after the leaf collection had finished. He had taken a note regarding the shrubs as street cleansing was merging with Parks and would report it on behalf of residents. He continued that the crew now had the technology in the cabs to deal with missed collections, requests for assisted collections etc and urged people to speak to the crew. With regard to education, members of the Waste Reduction Unit visited schools and welcomed invites to schools or community days. Les undertook to provide Councillor Islam with details of involvement with schools in the Newtown ward.

During the course of the discussion residents thanked Les for providing information regarding waste management and recycling and said that Birmingham's successes should be shared more widely as many people believed that their recycling went to landfill.

Les said he would welcome introductions to faith leaders and could possibly arrange limited visits to the recycling plant.

ACTION: Les Williams to be invited to the next meeting to present ward specific information, details on prosecutions and information/representative from the Waste Reduction Unit

4. Ward Plan

Councillor Islam shared the ward plan with residents and outlined the priorities as discussed at previous meetings. The Plan was an ongoing document that would be reviewed regularly to see the progress of actions and whether new priorities needed adding.

Residents made reference to the highways priorities and in particular the inclusion of double yellow lines in Unett Street. It was agreed that as the CAZ would lead to residents parking permits for residents in Unett Street and surrounding roads the double yellow lines would not be needed. Councillor Islam agreed to discuss options further with the residents.

5. **Local Issues/Residents/Councillor Updates**

- a) The Drum Proceeds of Sale** – Councillor Islam said he was still trying to arrange a meeting and would respond to those residents who had expressed an interest in attending as soon as he had a date.
- b) Drinkers Wheeler Street Shopping Centre** – it was brought to the meetings attention that the situation had not improved since having raised the issue at a previous meeting. Councillor Islam to raise with Sergeant Edwards.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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