

	SOHO WARD MEETING 27 MARCH 2018 AT 7PM AT SOHO COMMUNITY HALL, CHAPEL STREET B21 0PA	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Sybil Spence (Chair), Chaman Lal & Sharon Thompson</p> <p>Also in attendance:- Novlette Balela, Alzheimer's Society Diane Mansell, Soho Road Business Improvement District Manager Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>And 30+ residents also attended the meeting</p>	
Apologies		
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recording</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Notes of Previous Meeting</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
4.	<u>Police/ Fire Update</u> In the absence of officers the item was deferred to the next meeting. The meeting was advised that the next tasking meeting was on 5 April at 7pm at Summerfield Police Station.	
5.	<u>Alzheimer's Society Side by Side Project</u> Novlette Balela explained a new project being launched and gave the following details; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Side by Side Project used volunteers to take people suffering with early onset dementia out into the community for 3-6 hours once a week to do things they enjoyed such as cinema, cricket, football, walking. – Volunteers were currently being recruited. – This also improved quality of life for carers – The project had been piloted in Coventry and had proved successful – Side by Side volunteers were matched with a dementia sufferer who had been assessed – Few referrals were received from the Soho area and more were to be encouraged. Details of the project and contact 	

	<p>details were circulated</p> <p>Diane Mansell asked for details to be sent to her and undertook to circulate via social media.</p> <p>The Chair of Knightstone Neighbourhood Watch asked for more information as the Neighbourhood Watch group could work with Novlette to raise awareness.</p>	<p>Novlette (Alzheimer's Society) to send details</p>
6.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund Project Update</u></p> <p>Adella Pritchard said that information about Soho First was on their web page and contact could be made through that site. Details of events etc were also posted on Twitter. Contact details were circulated. Soho First did not want to duplicate work that was already being undertaken so wanted to connect with existing groups and urged groups to get in touch.</p> <p>Members of Soho First gave the following update;</p> <p><u>Environmental Group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – every 6 weeks 'Soho Litter Action Heros' litter picks with residents, partnering with Winson Greeners – preparing a clean street competition – recycling workshops – walkabouts around the area with housing officers – working to improve the area around the prison visitors garden <p><u>Bringing People Together</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Two Know Your Neighbourhood events had been organized so far and had been successful – Connections had been made with local schools, fire service, Birmingham Opera Company – Number of members on the tasking groups had increased – Arrangements were being made for Soho's Got Talent and a community picnic <p><u>Thriving Soho</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – This group had recently held a workshop at Soho House to launch a Community Economic Development Plan – The group was looking at ways of helping to build the local economy such as increasing local procurement, hiring locally, creating new businesses, free use of community spaces, pop-up shops & community cafes, market places and improving the profile of the area. <p>Soho First had also promoted the HMO Licensing consultation</p> <p>The Chair thanked Soho First for the presentations and the work they were undertaking to improve the ward. She stressed the importance of resident involvement and welcomed future updates.</p>	<p>Further updates to future meetings</p>

7.	<p><u>Environmental Pilot and Summit Update</u></p> <p>Councillor Thompson reported that when a hot spot area for rubbish dumping had been identified from Heath Street along Dudley Road where despite regular clean-ups the rubbish continued to be dumped, residents called for action. Residents, officers from waste management & enforcement, Amey and housing held regular tasking meetings and delivered letters to residents regarding the condition of the area, stating that continual rubbish dumping was not going to be tolerated and explaining that 6.5tonnes of additional rubbish above that normally collected had been collected in a week. The tasking group had discovered issues around street cleansing, gulley cleaning and rubbish from flats above shops. Enforcement officers spoke to businesses and residents in the flats above. By week 3 the amount of collected rubbish had reduced and the drains had been cleaned and lighting in alleyways repaired. Unfortunately after week 3 there was a spike in dumped rubbish again so residents continued to meet and recently there had been a reduction in collected rubbish.</p> <p>As a result of the work of the tasking group it was decided to hold an environmental summit to address the situation, open to all residents from the Ladywood constituency. A group of volunteers had come forward from the summit, from across the constituency, to take matters forward.</p> <p>Conversations also lead to arranging a jobs fair for young people centered around HS2.</p> <p>Residents then made the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The number of missed collections had reduced as a result of the summit – There were a number of groups in Soho who worked hard to keep the area clean but had not been supported by the council, the summit had helped to make officers listen to the concerns of residents – Groups had funded additional litter bins but these were not being emptied and the good will of residents was being lost – The environment was the main issue raised at ward meetings and was a priority for residents – New communities to the area did not always understand the rules for putting out wheelie bins etc – New communities were not aware of the meetings etc taking place so community leaders needed to communicate the information and also involve schools and encourage young people's involvement. <p>Councillor Thompson concluded by saying that anyone wishing to be involved in the constituency group should contact her for more details.</p>	<p>Residents wishing to be involved in the constituency environmental group to contact Cllr Thompson</p>
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8.	<p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>Soho Road Business Improvement District</u> Following issues raised at the previous meeting Diane Mansell, BID Manager attended the meeting and explained the role of the Business Improvement District (BID). The main objectives of the BID related to 5 areas - area management, business & community safety, regeneration, marketing & promotion and the environment. Social media was used to promote the BID and could be used to advertise community meetings.</p> <p>On 14 February the BID organized an all-out day with partners and councillors to litter pick, remove fly posting and graffiti and talk to traders. Work had been undertaken with the council following receipt of S106 to replace litter bins and hire 4 street cleaners. In respect of the broken paving slabs work was progressing with Amey. In response to feedback from an annual survey 30 benches in just over a mile was considered too many and were an issue for residents and traders in relation to ASB/drinkers therefore 7 were removed and replaced with new benches. The dedicated bench had been damaged and was being replaced.</p> <p>The BID was working with highways on the car park and it was now cleaned weekly, bins had been replaced and the toilets were due for removal. In October (with S106) 120 planters had been installed to help stop access to pavements and 3 ambassadors in uniform worked 10am-6pm Monday to Friday. In response to points raised the meeting was advised the Council was also seeking funding to install bollards to prevent pavement parking but cars were not always ticketed as the 'no parking' regulations did not cover the entire pavement. Parking enforcement officers spent 2 days per week on Soho Road.</p> <p>In response to other comments the meeting was advised that the police phone box had been removed due to lack of resources but the BID was considering taking it on as a community hub. Consideration was being given to a scheme for businesses with public facing toilets to be open to shoppers and bins had been re-sited to take account of take aways but there was little that could be done to limit the number of chicken shops.</p> <p>Reference made to the issues highlighted at the last meeting and the Chair thanked Diane for attending and addressing those concerns and hoped that regular updates could be provided.</p> <p>b) <u>Holly Neighbourhood Watch</u> The Chair of the Neighbourhood Watch reported that it was working on illegal parking, fly tipping and crime. Work to educate residents by doing door to door visits and it was hoped to send out a letter with information in different community languages. Hot spots had been identified but</p>	<p>Issues raised at last meeting addressed. Further updates from the BID Manager to future meetings</p>
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	<p>intelligence from the community was required to take action. Councillor Thompson made suggestions for help with translating the letter and that schools be approached to help with distribution.</p> <p>c) <u>Grassmere Road & Nineveh Road</u> In response to concerns raised Councillor Thompson asked that the details regarding the cleanliness of the tunnel in Grassmere Road be forwarded to her, similarly details of the issues with the off licence in Nineveh Road.</p>	
9.	<u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u>	Agreed

Meeting ended 8.45pm