

## ASTON WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Aston	<b>DATE:</b> 18 October 2018
<b>VENUE:</b> Broadway Academy, The Broadway B20 3DP	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm to 8.10pm
<b>COUNCILLORS:</b> Nagina Kauser & Mohammad Afzal Also Attending Councillor Sharon Thompson, Cabinet Member For Homes & Neighbourhoods	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 30+
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Jim Crawshaw, Service Head Of Homeless & Pre Tenancy Services Sergeant Scott Edwards, West Midlands Police Keith Smith, Highway Steward, Amey Michael McMillan, Housing Officer Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Election of a Chair

Agreed that Councillor Kauser act as Chair for the 2018/2019 year

#### 2. Police Update

Sergeant Edwards gave an update and highlighted priorities as burglaries (car key), robbery & drugs, although there had been no real increase in crime numbers compared to the same time last year. Arrests were being made and resources were being brought into the area for specific operations. A patrol plan in conjunction with King Edwards School had been arranged in connection with robberies from school students and there would be an increased police presence in Aston Park over the coming months. Local intelligence from the community was key to solving/reducing crime and it was hoped to hold a meeting at The Lighthouse soon to improve engagement. The PCSO's were

also trying to establish a faith forum and involve younger people.

Residents raised the following concerns;

- Stones being thrown at people in Aston Park
- Double parking around Witton Road and on zig zag markings causing obstruction and difficulty for pedestrians
- Vehicles being parked on the pavements around Barry Jackson tower causing children to have to walk in the road. The contractors also parked on corners affecting visibility and causing obstruction. The councillors and police were requested to speak to the contractors.
- Arden Road/Freer Road parking issues – double parking, pavement parking
- Knife crime – reduced police resources for the area therefore councillors requested to lobby to stop more people being housed in the area such as Barry Jackson Tower

**Action: Sergeant Edwards undertook to take details at the conclusion of the meeting. With regard parking issues on Witton Road, officers had been enforcing parking restrictions yesterday and attempted to patrol that area as often as resources would allow.**

**Reference made to Operation Park Safe and it was agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.**

### **3. Cabinet Member for Homes & Neighbourhoods**

Councillor Sharon Thompson gave an update on Barry Jackson Tower. She advised that Barry Jackson Tower was for families and single pregnant homeless women and had been brought back into use in view of the dire shortage of accommodation across the city. She was aware of local representation and advised that there would be 24 hour staffing and night time security at the block and each resident would be fully assessed before being housed. The M.P. had asked that update meetings be arranged with local residents and she undertook to do this.

On behalf of local residents concern was expressed that offers of meetings were now being made after all of the decisions had been made and the work started. Residents should have been consulted before decisions had been taken. The tower block was not suitable for families and the police did not have the resources to patrol the area and the additional issues that would result. The block should have been demolished as originally approved and new houses for families built on the site. Local residents felt they had been disregarded and become a dumping ground rather than regenerating the area. There was already too much congestion, too few school places, medical centres and

the infrastructure to support existing families.

Councillor Thompson said that the M.P. had wanted residents kept informed moving forward. In response to concerns expressed all centre such as Barry Jackson Tower, regardless of area had 24 hour staffing/security and there were other similar centres across the city.

**Councillor Thompson gave an undertaking to continue to speak to residents, visit Barry Jackson Tower with residents and councillors and to attend a future meeting to discuss general housing and homeless matters. She suggested that the issues raised could be part of the ward plan and that she would discuss priorities with residents.**

#### **4. Waste Management Update**

An apology was submitted from officers.

Residents made the following points;

- Considerable fly tipping was occurring around 152 Freer Road/ Fentham Road.
- Household refuse was not being collected
- The streets were not clean
- An environmental warden was needed for the area to investigate the fly tipping and prosecute those responsible. The cost of an environmental warden was acknowledged but this would be offset against the cost of continually clearing fly tipped rubbish. When the area previously employed an environmental warden with enforcement powers the roads were cleaner.
- Businesses did not have trade waste collections and this added to the problems
- Aylsbury Gardens, Freer Road – refuse collectors did not return bins to the point of collection but residents had received letters asking them to keep the area tidy
- Victoria Road residents did not have bins therefore left their black sacks at a collection point but the bags were not regularly collected and other rubbish was added to the pile. Due to the amount of rubbish that then piled up the refuse collectors refused to collect.

**Councillor Kauser advised on trade refuse collections and that inspections were made but undertook to find out how many prosecutions had been made. She also undertook to invite the Cabinet Member to a future meeting to address the issues raised.**

**Councillor Kauser advised that she had reported the recent missed collections and was waiting for a response.**

**5. Residents Issues**

**a) Tesco S106 Funding**

In response to concerns raised regarding the amount of S106 money spent and what was remaining Councillor Kauser outlined what had been allocated and what was left to be spent. With regard to gym equipment for Masefield Park £180,000 had been allocated for a Local Community Initiative and following consultation this was to be spent on gym equipment at Masefield & Aston Parks. The work was due to start on site this year. The Chair of the Perry Aston Residents Association advised that any remaining funds needed to be spent by 2022 under the terms of the agreement and that an assurance was sought that the money would all be spent and not lost.

Councillor Kauser said that she would try to arrange for an officer to attend a future meeting to discuss further.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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