

NEWTOWN WARD MEETING

WARD: Newtown	DATE: 28 June 2022
VENUE: St Georges Church Centre, Bridge Street West B19 2YZ	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8pm
COUNCILLOR Ziaul Islam	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 14
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Sergeant Liam Fulton-Marshall, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apologies received from Selina Ellis (Love Your Streets) and Christopher Robinson, Local Housing Manager

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Notice of Recording

Councillor Islam welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press and public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

2. Love Your Streets Initiative

The meeting was advised that unfortunately the officer due to speak about Love Your Streets was unable to attend. Councillor Islam asked that she be invited to the next meeting.

Pat Whyte said there had been a clean up recently around Melbourne and Ventnor Avenues by a group based outside Newtown and the group was willing to undertake more and Councillor Islam said that hot spots needed to be identified.

It was agreed to invite the group to a future meeting if they planned to carry out more clean-ups in Newtown.

There was some discussion around Love Your Streets and residents felt that before they volunteered the council needed to clean the streets to a satisfactory standard and then resident's groups would maintain them if Love Your Streets provided equipment.

Residents highlighted the amount of fly tipped rubbish and that the HMRC had been in the ward twice recently but there was only so much the council could do and the community needed to play its part. Councillor Islam encouraged residents to report fly tipping but added that to ensure prosecutions residents needed to be willing to provide statements etc. He added that this could be a ward priority for the Ward Plan.

3. Police Update

Sergeant Fulton- Marshall gave a brief overview of the work of the local neighbourhood team. He explained that the Team covered Newtown and Aston and that a double crewed car was deployed to each area to patrol the streets where data showed most crime was occurring. It was hoped to bring Community Pay Back into Newtown and Aston to undertake clean ups and a meeting was scheduled with the Probation Service to discuss further. The Sergeant, in response to questions advised that the best way to report a crime was via the on-line reporting form that generated a crime number and progress could be followed – www.westmidlands.police.co.uk

Recently there had been arrests made in respect of a cannabis farm found on Great Hampton Row, recovery of drugs from a dealer on Princip Street and a significant haul of cannabis had been removed from Shadwell Street.

A local resident referred to a recent accident on Hospital Street caused due to the number of cars parked on either side of the road, especially on the bend, affecting visibility and that unless some action was taken regarding parking further accidents were likely. The meeting was advised that a report on the accident would be generated and if a number of accidents occurred it would become a hot spot area and the council and police would look at solutions such as enforcement.

Reference was made to the new bus lane leading to Six Ways island, Aston and that due the location of the bus lane cars were parking on either side of the road making it difficult to avoid driving in the bus lane. Concerns were expressed that an accident would be caused. Pat Whyte advised Aston Ward meeting would be taking up the issue at its next meeting.

In response to questions about fly tipping at Teviot Tower the meeting was advised that the police were aware of the issue and was looking at the best times to patrol. Residents advised that the rubbish dumping was occurring when it became dark and overnight. Councillor Islam stated that there was also a considerable amount of fly tipping around James House.

4. Housing Matters

Apology submitted from Christopher Robinson, Housing Manager.

Sergeant Fulton-Marshall advised he had attended last night's Neighbourhood Forum meeting and had met the new housing manager who had taken away issues raised regarding the tower blocks. He added that he would raise the issue of S106 funding as he wanted to find out more information about where and how it could be spent.

5. Residents Updates and Community Forum Updates

a) Burbury Park Community Forum

The meeting was advised that the Forum had been running for the past 12 months and covered the Melbourne Avenue, Ventnor Avenue, Rosalin Grove area. The 4 Community Forums established in the Newtown ward were working together along with Councillor Islam and Pat Whyte to improve the area but it would be more effective if more people got involved with their local Forum. There were monthly meetings and focus was on cleaning up the environment as a result crime levels were decreasing and community spirit was improving. The Forum had a stall at the Burbury Park Funday which had been a good event, bringing the community together and helping to get residents involved. It was hoped that it would become a regular event.

b) Central Newtown Community Forum

The Central Newtown Forum covered the Wheeler Street/Porchester Drive/Newtown Shopping Centre area and the meeting was advised that the residents involved were passionate about their area and keeping the local environment clean and tidy but more residents were needed to help with Forum and to create community pride in the area. Thanks were extended to Emma Price the previous Housing Manager for her hard work, reliability and all the things she had managed to get done in Newtown.

Councillor Islam urged all residents to get involved with their local community forum and thanked the community forums for all of their hard work.

c) Communications

A resident of Teviot Tower said that for a number of residents, English was not their first language, and suggested identifying what language were spoken in the ward so that information could be written in those languages to aid communication regarding rubbish disposal etc. If that was not possible pictorial leaflets would also be helpful. This was something that the meeting felt schools and the community could become involved with. Councillor Islam said he would look into this.

Keith Shayaam-Smith, CEO, Legacy Centre of Excellence, said that fly tipping around the Centre was a constant problem and therefore would support any clean-ups with volunteer staff and he would like to attend future community forum meetings. Pat Whyte said that attendance at future meetings by Legacy would be welcomed to advise about the work that they undertook and how they could support the community.

With regard to keeping the local environment clean, holding community workshops to explain about what local clean up groups were doing and encourage more residents to join in was suggested. Sergeant Fulton-Marshall queried whether it would be possible to obtain street cleaning data on when and which streets were due to be cleaned so activities could be arranged around the rotas and parked cars could be moved etc. Pat Whyte said that could be investigated and suggested using a certain area of Newtown as a pilot to see how such suggestions could work. Residents said that using WhatsApp to circulate information and raise awareness amongst those that did not attend meetings would be useful.

Keith from Legacy said that he was working with Inspector Everitt on a family fun day event on Saturday and hoped to work with all the local groups on planning for next years event. On 6 July free CSS card training was being held to help people into employment and further details were available on social media but he undertook to send further details to be shared with this group.

6. Councillor Updates

a) Housing Matters

Councillor Islam said he had a meeting arranged with the Assistant Director for Housing to discuss housing related issues in the

Newtown ward and representatives from the community forums would also be attending. He undertook to update at the next ward meeting.

b) Petitions

Guild Croft re parking problems and further petition re conditions in the tower blocks would be submitted to next available city council meeting

c) Councillor Advice Surgeries

Would be starting again and would alternate between Wallace Lawler Centre, St Georges Church Centre & Huda Centre

d) MHRC

Tower Street Friday 1 July 7am – 12pm

Sutton Street 22 July 7am – 12pm

Also requested Guildford Drive area as a future location

ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1.		

AOB:

Councillors (s) Signed:

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