

WYLDE GREEN WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES

WARD: Wylde Green	DATE: 10 th October 2023
VENUE: Wylde Green Community Hall, Emscote Drive, B73 5ND	START/FINISH TIMES: 18:01 – 20:08
COUNCILLOR/S: Alex Yip	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 130
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mel Coton	VISITING SPEAKER(S): Sgt Neil Marsh, West Midlands Police

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. Community Safety
2. Community Safety- including fly tipping waste and pavement parking, and environment.
3. Birmingham Road Public Transport Hub- encourage green travel, promotion of public transport connections and their use. Beautification.
4. Waste collection service
5. Road Resurfacing
6. Road safety and speeding Neighbourhood policing / community safety
7. Ongoing planning development

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Local Policing Update

- Cllr Yip thanked WM Police for attending the meeting, the strong working relationship and thanked the Sergeant and PCSO team for their work across the Wylde Green ward and dedication
- Cllr Yip opened the floor for comments and questions from residents.
- The following topics were raised:
 - Drug dealing and usage on Emmanuel Road/Green Lanes/ Beech Hill development/
 - Needle usage on Florence Avenue, over railway bridge and outside the school gate
 - Speeding on Penns Lane and Little Green Lanes
 - 20mph scheme for side roads
 - School muggings

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- Trespass in gardens, attempted break ins and attempts to steal cars
- Residents evidence of crime. What to collect and how best to contact WMP police with information
- Update on future of Sutton Police station
- Littering
- Begging around shops and cash points. Who is responsible for moving Beggars on?
- Sgt Neil Marsh provided an update and answered questions on the above topics
 - Sgt Marsh's teams covers Four Oaks and Newhall wards. There are still officers at both Erdington and Sutton Coldfield Police stations. Erdington no longer has response teams, but neighbourhood teams work out of there. Sutton Coldfield have both neighbourhood teams and response teams.
 - There is a correlation between drugs, begging, theft and rough sleeping. There has been a change in police personnel. Previous work in the area around these issues may not have been picked up after these changes.
 - It is not illegal to use drugs but it is illegal to hold drugs, although people generally are only holding small amounts.
 - Community Protection Warnings (CPWs) can be issued to people in the first instance. These allow exclusions to certain areas to be imposed. If CPW is broken, police can move to a Community Protection Notice (CPN). This allows arrest and further action. These criminal behaviour orders have replaced ASBOs.
 - No immediate answers regarding the drug issues, Police are looking into options. Sgt Marsh is working with Cllr Yip to get the old Norman Laud site secured. Police are considering civil action.
 - It is unclear as to whether begging is illegal. Those using a cup, not asking for money, is not illegal. Once money is asked for, that becomes aggressive begging. CPWs/CPNs can be used. Police are currently using CPWs to stop people coming to the area. Officers are working with British Transport Police on the busses to disrupt travel into the area.
 - Police are working with schools to better protect students. Suggestion to set up a 'School Watch' to get information to students, teachers, parents around safety and safeguarding. This is a piece of work across Sutton Constituency led by the Inspector. WMP don't do random knife searches – it is the responsibility of the school to search young people. WMP can't just stop anyone. There has to be a reasonable suspicion or intelligence to do so. Scenarios are being provided for children to learn more about how to protect themselves and the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU) is engaged with this.
 - Cllr Yip is a trustee with the Arthur Terry Partnership and advised that work is being done regarding how to support students in terms of these issues.
 - A concern was raised around the sale of weapons in the indoor market. Sgt Marsh confirmed there had been changes in legislation around

Zombie knives and possession of those – even in your own home – is now an offence. Sgt Marsh asked residents to report sales of weapons.

- Car thefts and stripping started in 2017 and focussed around Corsas, Fiestas and Toyotas. Cars are targeted based on the age of the vehicle and the availability of parts. The best advice is to get parts stamped as it is very difficult to do anything without evidence. Usually have to wait for recovery of the car and hope for forensic evidence.
- Vehicle crime and burglary is a priority as its people coming into your home and taking hard-earned belongings and assets.
- Sgt Marsh will speak to PCSOs to try and organise a crime prevention fair at Wylde Green Community Hall to provide advice and distribute safety items.
- Sgt Marsh recommended to go back to ‘old style’ security items like steering wheel locks. For keyless cars residents should consider a metal box or faraday bag that blocks the signal. Alternatively, the key fob can be placed in the fridge.
- Residents raised frustrations around wait times with reporting crimes and queried the best method for reporting crime or evidence. Residents were encouraged to report all crime so that there is a log. This should be via 999 (in an emergency) and via 101 or WM Chat function on the webpage at all other times. Residents reiterated concerns around getting evidence and intelligence to police as many had used 101 but felt that information wasn’t always taken on board or passed on.
- Sgt Marsh said he was very aware that a lot of the local intelligence goes to Cllr Yip and so Sgt Marsh made a commitment to hold Beat Surgeries to allow more conversations like this and help residents to pass on information that the neighbourhood team can take forward. He advised that also the neighbourhood team start the investigation. They are then handed over to CID because they are trained. Sgt Marsh is focused on neighbourhood policing.
- Sgt Marsh advise that burglars don’t like gravel, dogs, nor burglar alarms.
- Sgt Marsh then gave an update on local crime statistics and urged residents to look at the new force plan.
- Sgt Marsh closed by saying that they are seeing more people being charged with multiple offences and on the topic of shop lifting, security services have been advised not to stop shop lifters in case they are carrying a weapon.
- Cllr Yip asked residents to continue to send information to allow him to follow up and understand where the hotspots are.
- Cllr Yip thanked Sgt Marsh for attending.

2. Birmingham City Council’s Financial situation

- BCC has effectively declared bankruptcy relating to a £750m equal pay liability. Liability up by £14m per month. Two Section 114s and a Section 5 have been issued.
- Cllr Yip focussed on what the impacts might be to residents. Likely to see:

- A rise in council tax
- Changes to bin collections
- Sale of assets - Cllr Yip attempting to get any Wylde Green assets listed as community asset to delay the sale process.
- Statutory services will be protected, and funding will be protected. Seeking clarification on what constitutes as statutory services.
- Cllr Yip also mentioned the in-year budgetary challenges and the issues surrounding the new HR and finance system, Oracle, which have additional financial challenges attached.
- More information regarding the s114 can be found here:
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50306/commissioners_intervention_and_improvement

3. Wylde Green Transport Hub

- Cllr Yip is working to develop a hub to join up busses, cycle lane, train station. This project may be at risk now, given the s114 challenges.
- Cllr Yip asked for residents to [sign petition on his website](#) as he plans to take that to the November Council meeting.
- Cllr Yip said speeds bumps are now out of the question. Cllr advised that SCTC funds should not be used to get speed bumps where it should be BCC work.
- Moving towards what the council needs to do rather than what's nice to have. Extra work will be hard and maintaining the work it is doing now will be hard.
- Challenges around parking issues were raised. Suggestion that School Streets initiative can be extended to Bearwood Farm.

4. Road resurfacing update

- After two petitions, the whole of Penns Lane has been resurfaced. It was completed in one go rather than sections.
- There are reports of speeding since the resurfacing. Cllr Yip is aware of this.
- Cllr Yip asked if residents would support an average speed camera down the length of Penns Lane. Majority of attendees supported this by show of hands.
- Cllr Yip asked for support in signing a petition and circulating the petition. Aim is to get the camera via Police Crime Commissioner.
- Residents asked if there will be a crossing on Bham Road with the new development. Cllr Yip confirmed there would be and he we will check when that will be in place.
- BCC are consulting residents as to whether there should be a blanket 30mph roll out. Cllr Yip invited residents to [respond to the consultation](#).

5. Sutton Coldfield Town Council Update

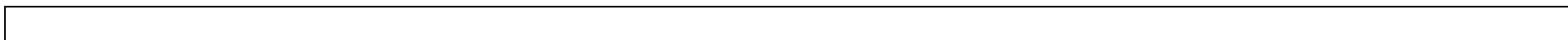
- Request for residents to not put too much pressure on SCTC.
- Position on Ramada Hotel: No jurisdiction as boundary for Wylde Green is at the river. Walmley and Minworth Councillors are unable to get involved as it is Home Office matter. Decision imposed from the Home Office without any local consultation.
- Query regarding sweeping roads and leaves as Autumn/Winter approaches. Is it statutory or is it safety?
- Resident has been flooded twice on Holifast Road and has contacted Highways on more than one occasion.
- Cllr Yip stated that flooding works may be classed as an improvement/additional to current situation. Kier are contracted to maintain current situation. Given the financial situation, funding additional measures may be challenging or not possible.
- Cllr Yip to find out whether gritting of roads will continue. Is it under Keir contract or statutory function?

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Sgt Marsh to provide email address for residents to send evidence regarding issues raised	Sgt Marsh	
2. Sgt Marsh to speak with PCSOs to try and organise a Crime Prevention Fair at Wylde Green Community Hall	Sgt Marsh	
3. Sgt Marsh committed to holding beat Surgeries in the future.	Sgt Marsh	
4. Cllr Yip to confirm when the new crossing on Bham Road is due to be installed	Cllr Yip	
5. Cllr Yip to confirm whether gritting of roads will continued	Cllr Yip	

AOB:

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