

	NECHELLS WARD MEETING	
	1 DECEMBER 2016 AT 6.00PM AT NECHELLS GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, MELVINA ROAD	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (in the Chair), Councillor Tahir Ali & Councillor Chauhdry Rashid Ken Brown, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager Sergeant Pete Snape, West Midlands Police Paul Johnson, West Midlands Fire Service There were approximately 35 residents in attendance	
Apologies	Councillor Rashid for lateness	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Notes of the Last Meeting</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u> <u>Pedestrian Crossing – Bradford Street/Alcester Street</u> In response to queries regarding the progress of the above petition the meeting was advised that a scheme had been designed to introduce a pedestrian phase onto the existing signalised junction at Bradford Street/Alcester Street. The scheme still had to be approved through the highway governance process which should be done before the end of the year with the expectation that the scheme would be implemented on site in the early part of 2017.	None Submitted
4.	<u>Nechells Green Community Centre</u> Residents attended in support of retaining Nechells Green Community Centre. The Chair confirmed the councillors support for the community centre and transfer of the building to the management committee, with the retention of the boxing club and possible library service. She explained the budget situation facing the city council which had put the Local Innovation Fund in jeopardy but if the funding was not available there were other funding sources that could be explored. In response to questions the Chair said she had discussed with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing & Homes and advised of the Nechells councillors support for a CAT to the management committee so the community now needed to organize a group to take this forward.	

Residents then made the following comments;

- The Chair of the Highgate HLB advised that he had spoken to Wates Construction who would be willing to undertake a community project at the community centre to improve the appearance of the building. He undertook to speak to the Chair of the local HLB for assistance.
- It was acknowledged that a structured management committee was required
- The centre should act as a community building for all of the community not just a few groups
- Something was needed for young people; a place where they could go and feel safe.
- Nechells Green Community Centre committee, residents & local businesses had worked hard but this needed to continue and more people join the campaign to keep the community centre.
- The timescale for a community asset transfer was queried and whether the land would be leasehold or freehold
- How long would a decision be in forthcoming and would others be able to apply for a CAT?
- If the LIF was available there should be higher amounts for areas where the need was greater.
- Concern that similar situation would arise as with Nechells Baths – community groups were now priced out and could not afford the hire costs £100 per hour or £10k for a year for regular meetings and an office
- It was up to a management board/organization to apply for funding and funding was available from a range of sources. The Council could not be relied on as it was suffering major budget cuts year on year and therefore all of its services were at risk. The council tax paid by individuals contributed a very small amount to council finances and were also used to help fund other services such as police and fire.
- The proposed loss of the community centre was not the fault of the council and it had to be a sustained community effort to keep it open. Volunteers could also be used to maintain a library service.
- An experienced manager needed to be in place at the community centre to ensure it was managed correctly and maximize its potential

The Chair said that a plan was needed that showed how the building would be maintained, costings etc and suggested that a charitable organization be brought on board to assist and the level of support shown be built upon. There was also an option to set up a Trust and involve a partner to then buy the building.

In response to questions Councillor Ali explained the statutory process for a CAT and that it would be open to any organization. An assessment would be made to determine the best organization to take over the building. The land would not transfer

	<p>but the CAT would continue while a community facility remained.</p> <p>With regard timescales for a decision on the Nechells Green Community Centre, the Chair undertook to advise residents as soon as possible once the future of the LIF had been determined. The meeting was also advised of other funding sources that the Nechells Together Committee could apply for.</p> <p>Nechells Together committee was meeting the following week and all were encouraged to attend to lend their support to the community running of the centre.</p> <p>Action:- Update to future meeting</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Update to future meeting</p>
8.	<u>Authority to Act</u>	Agreed

Meeting ended 7.10pm