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| | SOHO WARD MEETING 1 DECEMBER 2018 AT 4.30PM AT THE SUMMERFIELD CENTRE, WINSON GREEN ROAD B18 4EJ | |
| | ACTION NOTES | |
| In Attendance | <p>Councillor Chaman Lal</p> <p>Also in attendance:- Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager And 15 residents also attended the meeting</p> | |
| Apologies | Councillor Sybil Spence | |
| Agenda Item | | Action |
| 1. | <u>Notice of Recording</u> | Noted |
| 2. | <p><u>Local Innovation Fund</u></p> <p><u>Handsworth Celebration & Legacy Project</u> Dolores Pinkney outlined the proposal which had 3 parts –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To celebrate key leaders from the diverse community in the area with an awards event – To undertake consultation on the need for a community hub – To explore the feasibility of developing Hockley Adventure Playground. <p>The project was designed to educate, encourage and empower the community and this would be achieved through working with local residents and partners.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that schools had been visited and the project had acted as the 'voice' of students who had been excluded. The community hub would enable additional levels of support to be provided such as IT skills but consultation was needed as the demographics of the area had changed since a study had last been undertaken. The lease on the Adventure Playground had a further 15 years but it was hoped to extend to 99 years so that a mortgage could be secured if necessary. It was acknowledged that £5,000 would not cover the three elements in the proposal but that the money was a contribution and if successful would be prioritised.</p> <p>Councillor Lal said that in line with the criteria for LIF the third element was most suitable but the application should refer to Hockley Adventure Playground. Elements one and two did not met the criteria and did not benefit the wider community.</p> <p>Alternative funding could be sought to cover the consultancy fee. Dolores agreed to amend the proposal form accordingly. The meeting supported the proposal.</p> | |

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| 3. | <p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>Smeaton Gardens</u> – residents complained that the front garden of one of the properties was being used as a dumping ground for scrap collected by relatives of the family living there. The back garden was also full of rubbish and this was attracting rats. Residents did not want to approach the family for fear of reprisals. Photographs showed the problem. The police had been contacted and were waiting for environmental services to take some action. Councillor Lal asked that residents email him with the details and he would pursue the matter. Pat Whyte undertook to contact the environmental health officer.</p> <p>b) <u>Soho Road</u> – a local resident expressed the following concerns;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drug taking, street drinking & prostitution were taking place on Soho Road – A large number of paving slabs in the shopping centre were broken, the benches had been removed and only a few replaced, shop keepers used the pavement to display their goods and put out advertising boards which were a hazard for pedestrians – Parking on the pavement was a particular issue but was not enforced. – Planters had been installed along the pavement but the plants had been stolen and the planters were attracting rubbish. – Rubbish along the Soho Road and rubbish dumping made the area appear neglected – Firm action needed to be taken to stop the area from deteriorating. <p>Residents commented that the planters had been put along the road to lift the area and create an improvement to the street scene. It was suggested by residents that residents assist in cleaning the area and this in turn might dissuade anti-social behaviour. Shop keepers were allowed to display goods in some instances as the frontages belonged to the properties and therefore could be used up to the footway boundary. Beyond that the council had enforcement powers to deal with encroachment. Councillor Lal advised that the BID had purchased the planters and was aware of the issues. All-out days were organized by the BID involving partners to help clear up the area and undertake enforcement. The benches had attracted street drinkers and therefore some had been removed but replaced with specially designed benches that could not be used to lie on. Councillor Lal undertook to take back the concerns raised but pointed out that there were limited resources. He would raise issues of drug taking & prostitution at the next police tasking meeting.</p> | Cllr Lal/Pat Whyte |
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| | <p>c) <u>Chiswell Road</u> – residents regularly cleaned the street but were struggling to keep on top of the rubbish as it was reappearing as soon as being cleared. There was also an issue with anti-social behaviour and litter by the snooker hall where groups gathered. Councillor Lal said that clean-ups along Chiswell Road had been organized on numerous occasions.</p> <p>d) <u>Cape Street, alleyway</u> – residents highlighted the number of abandoned vehicles dumped in the alleyway adjacent to the nursery. The cars were not taxed. The council had been contacted and was investigating. Fridges were now also being dumped. Councillor Lal undertook to raise with the police.</p> <p>e) <u>Overgrown Tree, Talbot Street</u> – in response to concerns raised Councillor Lal said he would take the details at the conclusion of the meeting.</p> <p>f) <u>Skip Raiders</u> – it was reported that a large white van was driving the area scavenging from skips. It was recommended that this be reported to the police.</p> <p>g) <u>Parking Issues – Louise Road, Victoria Road, Haseley Road</u> – residents expressed concern regarding the situation with parking in the roads. Drivers had been asked not to park but this had led to heated arguments and residents using cones/wheelie bins to prevent parking. Councillor Lal suggested that residents could pursue a residents parking scheme but highlighted the pros and cons. It was also noted that a garage in Victoria Road was parking vehicles on the road which was adding to the difficulties. Councillor Lal said that vehicles could be parked on the road but could not be repaired on the road.</p> <p>h) <u>Private rented Sector Register of Landlords</u> – Councillor Lal referred to discussions at previous meetings and that consultation was underway with Soho set to be a pilot area. He therefore urged residents to take part in the consultation as soon as possible.</p> <p>i) <u>Speeding Booth Street</u> – in response to concerns raised Councillor Lal advised that the District Engineer had been supportive of traffic calming measures but there was limited funding.</p> | |
| 4. | <u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u> | Agreed |

Meeting ended 5.40pm