	NECHELLS WARD MEETING	
	22 MARCH 2018 AT 6.30PM AT STANHOPE HALL, EMILY STR	EET,
	HIGHGATE ACTION NOTES	
In		
Attendance	Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (in the Chair) & Councillor Tahir Ali	
	Sergeant Snape, West Midlands Police Paul Johnson & Chris Bent, West Midlands Fire Service Janet Bradley, Environmental Health Louise Elliot, Planning Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	
Apologies	There were 14 residents in attendance	
Agenda Item	Councillor Chauhdry Rashid	Action
		ACTION
1.	Notice of Recordings	Noted
2.	Notes of the Last Meeting	Noted
	The Chair confirmed that this was the last ward meeting for Nechells ward before the boundary changes at the forthcoming local elections.	
3.	Petitions	None Submitted
4.	Police Update	
	<ul> <li>Sergeant Snape gave the following update;</li> <li>Sergeant Roy Mail had taken over as the sergeant for Highgate</li> <li>Crime figures for Ladywood East (which included Aston) were circulated</li> <li>Total crime compared with 2017 was up 6.1% in Highgate and 17.7% in Small Heath.</li> <li>The Jewellery Quarter had the highest vehicle crime</li> <li>Arabian Nights new owners were engaging with the police and had agreed not to show the boxing match. Sgt Mail would be meeting with the owners.</li> <li>The PSPO for Horton Square/South Acre Avenue had been finalized and BCC was due to erect the signs</li> <li>A number of drug warrants had been executed in Highgate, Bordesley &amp; Small Heath</li> <li>'Chop Shop' warrants had been executed in Highgate</li> <li>Residents were encouraged to sign up to WMNow</li> <li>Police station closures – funding issues had resulted in the planned closure of 24 police stations. Nechells would</li> </ul>	

	<ul> <li>close in 2019. There would be public consultation and colocation was being considered.</li> <li>There had been a focus on enforcing the injunction on boy racers and assistance had been provided by Force Traffic on Sunday evenings to enable larger operations and successfully stop the racing in Nechells</li> <li>A local resident reported that the screen washers were still operating by McDonalds on Belgrave Middleway and it was suggested a patrol of the area might help disperse them.</li> </ul>	
5.	Fire Service Update	
	<ul> <li>Paul Johnson gave the following update;</li> <li>No spikes to report</li> <li>Focus on prevention work</li> <li>Abandoned vehicles – WMFS would put a link on social media to report or make local fire station aware</li> <li>Arson rubbish fires – residents requested not to put out rubbish too far in advance of collection to cut risk. There had been a spike during the strike but this had greatly reduced.</li> <li>There had been a recent increase in fires in derelict buildings around Highgate Park/Bradford Street. The information provided at the previous meeting had been followed up and WMFS were looking to secure 5/6 buildings.</li> <li>Information from residents was vital</li> <li>A resident asked that thanks be extended to the fire crew that came to the aid of a man found unconscious in the city centre. Paul said that first aid skills for fire crews were advancing so extra support could be offered.</li> <li>In response to questions the meeting was advised that as a result of budget cuts WMFS was working smarter and taking on wider roles. Currently responses to alarm calls where people had fallen were carried out by BCC but WMFS was welcomed.</li> </ul>	
6.	Proposed Strategy for Shisha Venues	
	<ul> <li>Janet Bradley made the following main points;</li> <li>The proposal needed the relevant partners to sign up to the strategy to take the control of shisha lounges forward.</li> <li>Very few complaints were received so a shisha strategy was needed to maintain it as a priority</li> <li>Shisha lounges were not covered by specific legislation</li> <li>There would be public consultation on the strategy and support was vital</li> </ul>	

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	<ul> <li>Long term aim was a regional then national strategy</li> <li>She undertook to attend a future meeting to capture the issues experienced by residents in relation to shisha lounges to feed into the consultation and ensure that views of those living with shisha lounges were included.</li> <li>Enforcement activity was being undertaken</li> <li>Residents were asked to continue notifying of any incidents</li> <li>The public health message was also part of the strategy Residents made the following points;</li> <li>Other venues could not allow people to smoke indoors therefore how was smoking allowed inside shisha lounge premises?</li> <li>The majority of the issues arose outside the venue when people left ie noise, shouting, engines revving and cars racing</li> <li>People took alcohol into the venues and children were inside playing skittles</li> <li>The shisha lounges were similar to large night clubs but situated in a residential area with no licence and therefore no checks made on them.</li> <li>Gas cylinders and broken glass were regularly found outside Arabesque and threats of violence had been made to residents who complained.</li> <li>In response to issues raised the meeting was advised;</li> <li>The smoke free legislation was explained and that prosecutions were made but the maximum fine was £2,000 which did not act as a deterrent</li> <li>Shisha lounges were not licensed to serve alcohol</li> <li>Residents were urged to report anti-social behaviour as the council, community safety and the police were working together in respect of the management of premises. The police were able to use ASB legislation and had successfully used it in Digbeth</li> <li>Complaints could be reported anonymously via 0121 303 6007 or on the environmental health website using the words complaint/shisha</li> <li>The Fire Service could close a shisha lounge if it contravened fire safety rules.</li> </ul>	Officers to attend future meeting to capture views of residents to include in the consultation
7.	Residents Issues	
	<ul> <li>a) <u>Litter &amp; Rubbish</u> – the Chair reported that a clean-up of the area had taken place but unfortunately due to the number of parked cars the mechanical sweeper had been unable to get to some roads therefore leaflets would be distributed to ask residents to park elsewhere so that thorough cleaning could be done. It was reported that Canberra Way was still in need of cleaning and the street lighting was in need of</li> </ul>	

<ul> <li>improvement. The Chair suggested sending photographs to Alex Wasama, Place Manager to action.</li> <li>b) Lighting Nechells Precinct – in response to concerns regarding the lack of street lighting and safety fears at night around Revesby Walk Councillor Ali urged tenants to contact Property Services.</li> <li>c) Parking Issues Calthorpe School – with reference to concerns regarding inconsiderate parking at the last meeting the Chair advised that the school had appointed a new head teacher and that she would contact him with a view to having some positive dialogue regarding the parking issues.</li> <li>d) Pacha House, Friends Institute – the meeting was advised that the council was planning to sell the building on the open market and residents were urged to support the petition against this and visit to find out about the activities taking place.</li> <li>e) Ward Boundary Changes – Councillor Ali explained that for 16 years he had served all of Nechells but from the elections the ward boundaries would change to create 3 wards of Nechells, Bordesley &amp; Highgate and Bordesley Green. He thanked residents for their support and that of his colleagues and said with the future development &amp; projects affecting all 3 wards they would work together for the benefit of the wider area.</li> </ul>	
Authority to Act	Agreed

Meeting ended 8.15pm