

Birmingham City Council

Kingstanding Ward Meeting **Wednesday 28th October 2015**

19:00hrs

Room 8, Kingstanding Leisure Centre
Dulwich Road
Kingstanding
Birmingham B44

Meeting Notes

Present: Councillors Gary Sambrook and Ron Storer

Officers: Sgt Hannah Carver – West Midlands Police
Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Kevin Mitchell – Fleet and Waste Management Services
John Mole – District Support Officer
Nic Reid – Fleet and Waste Management Services

There were approx. 23 residents present.

1. Election of Chairman

Cllr Gary Sambrook.

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Des Hughes and from Jon Hayes, Area Manager, Transport Operations, National Express.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised residents of the changes to future ward meeting arrangements. Meetings would be more informal and resident led – focussing on the issues and matters of importance and concern.

2. Notice of Recording

Noted by all.

3. Ward Wheelie Bins Collection Service

Nic Reid, Fleet and Waste Management advised of the following:-

- The wheelie bins collections across the ward had commenced approx. 4 months ago.
- Most of the initial problems had been resolved, however it was acknowledged that there were hotspot issues across the ward where collections had still been an issue.

Residents' Comments and Concerns:-

- a local resident had signed up for the assisted collection service, however the

recycling had not been collected for 6 weeks, and the response and attitude of the Contact Centre staff had been poor.

- Wooton Grove – the recycling collection keeps being missed. This had been ongoing for a few weeks now, and has been repeatedly reported to the Contact Centre.
- Some wheelie bins had not been emptied as they had been overfilled. This had led to an increase in fly-tipping.
- The bins were not being returned back to their collection point but left on the kerbside for residents to collect. In addition, bins left on the edge of the resident's driveway was not being emptied.
- Communal bins should be considered for properties deemed as unsuitable for a wheelie bin. The use of black bags in those areas were unsightly as residents were not adhering to the collection days, and the bags were often ripped open by birds, rats and other vermin. Weaver Avenue and Landswood Close were particularly problematic and were in need of a clean-up.
- Erchall Close – the communal wheelie bins were regularly left outside the windows of the resident living on the ground floor. A suitable location must be found for them.
- Consideration should be given to recycling tetra paks as these were used by most households across the city.

Actions:-

The following actions were agreed:-

- (i) Kevin Mitchell and Nic Reid would chase up the issues raised by residents regarding the assisted collection service and Wooton Grove, and advise those residents accordingly.**
- (ii) Cllr Sambrook and Kevin Mitchell to look into arranging a special one-off clean up around Landswood Close and Weaver Avenue.**
- (iii) Nic Reid to arrange for a visit to be made to Erchall Close to identify a suitable Location for the communal wheelie bins.**

Several residents welcomed the introduction of wheelie bins and felt that they helped to reduce the spillages and general cleanliness across the ward.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their attendance.

4. National Express Bus Service

The Chairman drew residents' attention to an information briefing report which had been submitted to the meeting by Jon Hayes, Area Manager, National Express who had been unable to attend the meeting.

Residents and Members felt that the bus service provision in the ward had been particularly poor, and that it was important for residents to have their say as part of the review of bus services to be undertaken in the near future.

The Chairman suggested that a joint meeting was held with neighbouring Erdington Ward and representatives from National Express and Centro. Details of the meeting would be available in due course.

5. Policing Issues in the Ward

Sgt Hannah Carver advised of the following:-

- Anti-social behaviour activities had slightly increased during the summer period, however, the statistics had shown that crime had continued to fall since the summer period
- Anti-social behaviour varied greatly across the ward; all had to be responded to by Officers; however, many of these were neighbour disputes and not readily resolved. Officers continued to work with the City Council's Mediation Service to see how these could be resolved.
- Patrols would be increased during half term week, particularly in hotspot areas and festivities like Halloween and Bonfire Night. Operation Confidence included a 15 minute observation period in hot spot areas.
- The travellers on Dugdale Road were moved on swiftly.
- Young people riding quad bikes on the road and open spaces continued to be a problem across the ward and wider district as their behaviour and practices presented a danger to everyone.
- Calls to the police should still continue to be made – 101 was the best number to use if the call was not an emergency.
- Erdington Police Station – the front desk service was due to close in February; however, the building would still be used by the local policing teams.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Young people ignoring 'No Ball Games' signage, and abusive behaviour towards residents asking them to observe the notices. Residents living in Chingford Road were regularly abused by the young people when asked to stop playing football. Vehicles had also been damaged by the young people.
- Mayfair Passage and Wimpole Grove were particularly problematic – drug dealing in the alleyway and general acts of anti-social behaviour were a regular occurrence.
- Dulwich Road/Leisure Centre – groups of young people hanging around the houses and Leisure Centre; residents were too afraid to ask them to move on for fear of reprisals/verbal abuse and intimidating behaviour. A local resident advised that his garage was recently broken into and items stolen and remained convinced it was done by the same group of people he had asked to move away from his property.
- The Pimple – adults and children were regularly seen riding quad bikes around the green. Regular police patrols were needed to disrupt and minimise this activity.

Actions:-

- (i) John Mole and Detached Youth Team Workers to meet with residents in Chingford Road and Dulwich Road.**
- (ii) Kissing Gates due to be installed at The Pimple. John Mole to advise on progress.**

The Chairman thanked Sgt Hannah Carver for her attendance and update.

6. Residents Issues

Residents advised of the following:-

- An increase in rubbish dumping on Wyrley Birch Estate/Suffield Grove.
- Erchall Close and Wyrley Way being used by removal firms to dump rubbish from their vans.
- The walkway between North Birmingham Academy and Wyrley Birch Estate was filled with empty fast food containers/junk food generated by the young people at the school.
- The shoe recycling container on the corner of Charlton and Hawthorne Roads was obstructive and reduced driver visibility. Some local businesses were also misusing the facility.
- The Dove Medical Centre – several residents advised they were currently unable to get an appointment, and that the situation would get worse once the new homes had been completed.
- The street light by the Co-op was obscured by the overgrown tree branches which were in need of cutting back.

Other Issues/News

The Chairman advised of the 'Pimple Action Day' taking place on Saturday 7 November at 10.30am, which had been organised by the recently formed 'Friends of The Pimple' Group. A number of local community groups and partner agencies would also be taking part. Activities would include a general tidy-up; litter picking and bulb planting.

Actions:-

- (i) **The Chairman to make enquiries into the removal of the shoe recycling container.**
- (ii) **Representatives from the Dove Medical Centre to be invited to a future meeting.**

7. Petitions

None submitted.

8. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The Chairman thanked residents for their attendance and active participation in the issues raised.

The date of the next meeting was to be confirmed and residents advised accordingly.

The meeting closed at 2005hrs