

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALL
GREEN DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 1400
HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, THE
COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Barry Bowles, Liz Clements, Claire Spencer,
Mohammed Azim, Tony Kennedy and Shabrana Hussain.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Karen Cheney	District Head (Hall Green)
Adam Hawsworth	Commercial Manager, National Express
Wesley Williams	West Midlands Fire Service
Marie Reynolds	Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

401 The Chair advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

402 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Kerry Jenkins, Martin Straker-Welds, Lisa Trickett, Victoria Quinn and Habib Rehman and from Councillor Tony Kennedy for having to leave the meeting prematurely.

The Chairman on behalf of Hall Green District Committee wished Councillor Kerry Jenkins very best wishes and a speedy recovery.

MINUTES

403 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2017, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

CORPORATE PARENTING ACCOUNTABILITY – POST DISTRICT COMMITTEES

404 A brief discussion ensued between the Chairman and Councillor Bowles whereupon it was agreed that the above mentioned item should feature at the next Hall Green District Committee meeting.

At this juncture, Councillor Bowles referred to the excellent week's work that had been undertaken by Councillor Quinn in helping to build a garden at Camborne House. He added that the establishment was deeply pleased with Councillor Quinn's efforts. He further referred to the taster days that had taken place and were still ongoing which had included the assistance of himself as well as Councillor Kennedy.

The Chair echoed the praise to Councillor Quinn on behalf of the Committee for her mighty effort and subsequently suggested consideration could be given by everyone in making more space over time in helping the young people of the city.

At this juncture, the Chairman varied the order of the agenda.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

405 Wesley Williams, Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service provided a brief update. He reported that they had been undertaking inspections on the low, medium and high rise tower blocks and also incorporating safe and well checks.

He stated that the service supported vulnerable members of the community through the safe and well checks, and at the moment, the organisation was looking to increase partnership referrals by undertaking a review of their current partners in order to recruit additional partners.

He reported that accidental dwelling fires were just below the three-year average and they were mainly taking place in kitchens, bedrooms and lounges. He confirmed that they were in the process of looking at further campaigns they could do in relation to highlighting the dangers of fires within the home.

He referred to Highgate Open Day that had recently taken place and the various partners that had been involved in the event which had included supporting local low-income families. He confirmed that the event would be taking place on an annual basis.

He referred to non-domestic fires that had been recorded which were slightly above average of the three-year period and the area of work that was taking place with the department regarding non-compliance. He further referred to the excellent work that was taking place with the service and partners relating to the issue of tackling fly-tipping.

He reported on the work that had taken place with regard to a commercial property whereby the alarm was being activated for no reason and subsequently detailed how

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this issue had since been resolved, which had resulted in a 70% reduction in relation to responding to that particular establishment.

Following comments relating to Billesley Fire Station and the increased working with other blue light services, Wesley Williams confirmed that they were working more collaboratively with partners and the police in order to provide a more efficient way of delivering the service with much more information sharing on a daily basis.

In response to comments from Councillor Bowles relating to the issue regarding the ford in Green Road and fire service information relating to Kings Heath and Moseley and Hall Green Wards, Wesley agreed to discuss the issue of information sharing with Andy Young, and address the issue relating to the ford with the relevant parties involved in order to see what could be done collaboratively.

Wesley referred to the positive comments relating to the Open Day at Billesley Fire Station and that they would be looking at how improvements could be made at Highgate Fire Station in order to replicate the event.

The Chairman highlighted the work that the fire service was undertaking with regard to the service reforms via the Combined Authority and suggested that the item was discussed at the next Hall Green District Committee meeting.

At this juncture Wesley confirmed that he would endeavour to attend the November meeting to provide an update.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Wesley for attending the meeting and updating the Committee.

ASSISTANT LEADER – UPDATE

406 Councillor Kennedy, Assistant Leader, reported that the 'Healthy Villages' had evolved into a much wider consideration on how data can be organised more effectively around real people in the real neighbourhoods where they live.

He referred to the data that had been sent to colleagues in order to assist with developing ward plans, and subsequently highlighted, that wider discussions would be taking place with partners in how data could be used in a more integrated way to reduce harm and risk which members would be made aware of in due course.

The Chairman suggested that a discussion relating to the above takes place at the next Hall Green District Committee meeting.

NATIONAL EXPRESS WEST MIDLANDS – PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE SOUTH OF THE CITY

407 Adam Hawsworth, Commercial Manager reported that currently there were no proposed changes planned. He stated that they had completed 2 consultation exercises and were currently in the middle of another consultation exercise and from the feedback this would provide some ideas where changes could be made.

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He referred to various reasons why they would be looking to make changes which were primarily due to congestion, to reflect the demographic changes in travel needs and also what the future may hold as new developments were being proposed.

He reported that they may look to introduce some changes in February 2018 once the responses had been received from the consultation which runs up until the end of October 2017.

Both the Chairman and Councillor Clements expressed their approval that there would be another consultation exercise in order for members of the public to express their views and opinions.

The Chairman highlighted residents' concerns relating to the proposed changes of the No 27 bus route that affected residents in Kings Heath and Moseley Ward and subsequently highlighted, concern, relating to the No 1 bus route which did not go quite to places where people would like and was not as frequent as it could be.

Councillor Clements expressed concern relating to how the changes would affect Hall Green Ward and specifically referred to the No 76 and No 27 bus routes. She highlighted that the No 5 route was very well used and would be affected by what was in the original proposal document if the changes went ahead.

The Chairman referred to the No 76 bus route and highlighted that part of the proposal was to increase the frequency which was very important as many people visited the hospital and the staff that worked there felt at the moment they were unable to rely on the service as a method of transportation, and therefore this change would be most welcome.

Adam confirmed that the consultation exercise had been conducted quite differently compared to others as they had asked staff and customers for their ideas and confirmed that it was a more a thought provoking exercise. He reported that the door had also been open to councillors and confirmed that they had received a number of direct responses highlighting that it was important to gather as much information as possible before final decisions were taken. He highlighted that with the next consultation exercise they did not want to go down the same line as before if at all possible regarding the petition, as it had not contributed to the consultation process.

A discussion ensued relating to the petition whereupon it was highlighted by the Chairman and Councillor Clements the reasons for petitions being raised.

Adam confirmed that there were no plans to cut the No 27 bus route but wanted to alert people to the fact that they would like to improve the route with introducing better connections from Northfield to Kings Heath to provide a more effective service. He added that they wanted to obtain a 'real feel' on how people were using the service, adding that there may be other areas that were under-used and therefore, it was important, that there was as much information as possible provided from the users in order that positive changes could be made.

Adam further confirmed that they had good communicative links with colleges and schools stating that they were fully aware of where the catchment areas were and they were very good at sharing data with the educational establishments especially

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regarding mapping post codes against the current No 5 and No 6 bus routes. He confirmed that there was a great deal of work taking place behind the scenes.

Adam referred to the swift card and stated that the data from the card was a challenge to interpret but useful. He confirmed that the percentage of users was quite small. He stated that it would be useful to engage with the petition holder relating to the No. 27 bus route and the responses they had received was in excess of 5,000 whereupon they were still sifting through them. He reiterated that the next consultation would be taking place shortly and explained why they would be keeping the exercise running for a short period of time in order that people remained more focused.

Following comments from Councillor Azim regarding the Nos 8 and 11 bus routes being more effective, Adam reported on the small change introduced to the No 8 bus route in the Nechells area, which did not now include the diversion to Rocky Lane as it was deemed unnecessary and therefore, saved some time, which in turn would help to make the service more reliable.

Adam made reference to the issues relating to the No 8 bus route and stated that they were looking to split the route entirely so buses were not just travelling around in circles. He detailed the routes that they were considering which prevented people having to travel unnecessarily on one lengthy route and it would also allow inspectors and supervisors to moderate the service better.

Adam referred to bus stop rationalisation, highlighting that discussions had taken place with Transport West Midlands over a period of time identifying where there were bus stops located sometimes too close together which had arisen due to a number of reasons. He confirmed that they had looked at quite a few corridors in detail and although the No 6 bus route was not part of the first trial which would go live on 1 October 2017, the following bus routes were included which were the: Nos 8, 35, 45, 47, 50, 61, 63 and 98.

He confirmed that the selection process for these bus stops had involved an in-depth study by Transport West Midlands, Consultants and Birmingham City Council. He stated that they had ensured the access standards had not been breached. He confirmed that there was an established end date for the trial and subsequently detailed the ways in which people could feedback their comments. He highlighted that with the introduction of the trial this should provide a faster, more efficient and a more regulated service. He further highlighted that they had reduced the bus fares in most local areas which resulted in a day ticket after 9.30 am costing £3.00 equating to a 25% reduction and subsequently detailed the way in which this would have a positive impact on the local economy.

The Chairman made reference to the No 50 bus route and specifically the area along High Street, Kings Heath with the congestion being worsened due to the bus stops being in the wrong position especially outside JD Wetherspoons Public House and with the other buses stopping outside there often created a tailback. She suggested that it would be therefore useful to consider the impact on the timings of the buses.

She concluded by thanking Adam for attending the meeting and subsequently encouraged all to commit to the next round of the consultation exercise together with the citizens of Birmingham in order to gain some good positive outcomes.

PETITIONS

408 No petitions were submitted at the meeting.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE- UPDATE

409 The above item was deferred due to the lack of officer representation.

HALL GREEN DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

410 Karen Cheney, District Lead detailed the following agenda items for the next Hall Green District Committee meeting:-

- Corporate Parenting
- Blue Light Service Reforms including links to Combined Authority – West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service to attend.
- Amey and Hall Green District Engineer to attend.

Karen Cheney reminded members that their Local Innovation Fund (LIF) proposals should be completed by November 2017 in order for them to be agreed by December 2017. She highlighted that once the funding had been allocated the continuance of spend would carry on into the next financial year. She stressed however that if the funding was not allocated, then it would be lost. She stated that members would have received emails from Assistant Leaders regarding ward plans and that there were 2 surgery-type sessions scheduled for tomorrow between 12 pm - 1 pm and 5 pm - 6 pm for members requiring any assistance.

In response to concern raised regarding the future changes in boundaries and whether ward plans at this time were necessary, the Chairman suggested that the most constructive way to deal with this area of work, would be to approach the Assistant Leaders expressing their concerns in order to see if there was a 'halfway house' that could be considered.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

411 The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 29 November 2017 at 1400 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

AMEY

412 Councillor Azim made reference to the winter season approaching and the issues relating to Sparkbrook centre that was prone to flooding and the need for the drains to be properly maintained.

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Councillor Bowles made reference to the issue of flooding in Hall Green Ward and the flooding at the Robin Hood roundabout which happened frequently due to the camber of the road.

Following a brief discussion relating to the above issues, the Chairman suggested that an update be provided from Councillor Trickett, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment and Amey for the next Hall Green District Committee meeting.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

413

RESOLVED: -

Chairman to move:-

"In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

The meeting ended at 15:22 hours.

CHAIRMAN