

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
HODGE HILL WARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2015
7.00PM
HASANAT COLLEGE
LEIGH ROAD
WASHWOOD HEATH
B8 2YH

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Majid Mahmood and Fiona Williams

Officers: Mike Davis – District Lead, Hodge Hill
Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team

There were 10 residents present.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fiona Williams

Cllr Mahmood advised of the new working arrangements for Ward meetings; these would be less formal and more resident led.

Cllr Williams in the Chair

2. NOTICE OF RECORDING

Noted by all.

Residents were reminded that permission must be sought from members of the public prior to taking their photograph or recording their comments.

3. APOLOGIES

Cllr Anita Ward for absence and Cllr Fiona Williams for lateness.

4. RESIDENTS ISSUES AND CONCERN

- Concerns were raised regarding the proposals for the cycle path along Warren and Washwood Heath Roads, which residents felt would add to the existing problems with traffic congestion and parking.
Residents felt that the scheme was not needed given that on road cycling in the ward did not appear to be that popular; more investment and

consideration should be given to improving the traffic flow, and the provision of sufficient parking spaces.

Cllr Mahmood suggested that public consultation with the residents in the roads affected was necessary once further details of the proposals were known. A petition against the proposals had already been presented to City Council last month.

Action: Special Consultation Meeting to be arranged with residents once further details of the Cycle Revolution Scheme proposals for the ward were known – All to Note/Ward Cllrs to advise the Community Governance Manager accordingly.

- Comet Park Area – a recent clean up exercise was undertaken by residents and Ward Councillors – a special thank you to all involved.
- Bromford Road/Warren Road/Common Lane – ongoing problems with fly tipping/general rubbish dumping, including white goods and black bags.
- Washwood Heath Road – numerous problems with the occupants living in the premises above the shops; rubbish dumping, loitering and general anti-social nuisance behaviour was common. Residents expressed concerns that many of the occupants were new arrivals, and were not adequately supported by the agencies that had rehoused them in the local community.

Action: residents to provide further details to Cllr Mahmood following the meeting.

- Common Lane/Bromford Road area – more street cleansing was needed
- Coronation Road/Drews Lane – rubbish/fly tipping on the vacant land/open space
- Clothing Banks in the ward are a magnet for dumping/littering and should be removed
- The Fox and Goose Shopping Centre – there was a lack of litter bins outside the fast food takeaways; littering and rubbish dumping had increased, along with the number of fast food outlets. Residents felt the number of these outlets should be restricted, and that they should take more responsibility for keeping their surrounding areas clean. Residents added that this should be a condition of their Planning Consent.

Action: Cllr Mahmood to see if S106 monies could be used to provide extra litter bins.

Cllr Mahmood briefly advised of the 'Operation Clean Up' initiative proposed by Cllr Clancy, the new Leader of the City Council, which would seek to involve all residents and partner agencies in a clean- up/litter-pick of their local areas and neighbourhoods.

- Concerns were expressed regarding an increase in nuisance, acts of criminality and general anti-social behaviour caused by gangs of men, often seen hanging around/loitering on Washwood Heath Road. These included drug use and prostitution, which was regularly reported to the police.

Action: Cllr Mahmood to seek an update at the next Police Tasking meeting.

Consideration to be given to holding a joint Police Tasking and Ward Meeting in the future.

- There had been an increase in burglaries in Ward End/Warren Roads; a perpetrator had been arrested however the situation would continue to be monitored.
- The damaged security gates to the flats owned by Midland Heart Housing Association had not yet been repaired despite being reported several times.

Action: Cllr Mahmood to raise the matter with senior officers at Midland Heart

- A local resident advised that a supply of litter-pickers had been made available for use by local community groups; contact details would be provided to interested residents following the meeting. Residents felt greater use of the household recycling centre should be encouraged.

Action: Cllr Mahmood to include details of the HRC use and opening hours on the next Ward newsletter

- Ward Boundary Review – currently being undertaken by the Boundary Commission. The consultation documents would be made available on line from 15 December. All residents were actively encouraged to submit their comments and concerns regarding the local warding arrangements, which would include re-drawing a number of ward boundaries across the city; a reduction in the number of City Council Councillors, and an increase in the number of city wards from 40 to 77.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETING

The following were suggested:-

- Update from Fleet and Waste Management
- Local Environmental Health Issues and Concerns
- Themed/single item agenda on a local issue of particular concern

6. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Noted that:-

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 closed at 20:10hrs