

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**HALL GREEN DISTRICT
COMMITTEE TUESDAY
27 SEPTEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HALL GREEN
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27
SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 1, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Claire Spencer in the Chair;

Councillors Bowles, Burden, Fazal, Jenkins, Straker-Welds and
Rehman.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Karen Cheney - Interim District Head (Hall Green)
Wesley Williams - Station Commander, Highgate
Marie Reynolds - Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

216

The Chairman 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.

**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
MEMBER**

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

217

RESOLVED: -

- a) That Councillor Claire Spencer be elected Chairman (Executive Member) for Hall Green District for the Municipal Year 2016/2017, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Mohammed Azim be appointed Committee Vice-Chairperson for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Claire Spencer in the Chair)

APOLOGIES

- 218 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Azim, Hussain, Kennedy, Quinn and Trickett for their inability to attend the meeting.
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PETITION

ALTERATION TO ONE-WAY (AVONDALE ROAD)

The following petition was submitted by Councillor Rehman on behalf of citizens living in the above-mentioned location:-

(See document No. 1)

The petition requested for the alteration of Avondale Road, Sparkhill, to a one-way system as both side roads, Clarence Road (south) and Evelyn Road (north) were already a one-way system from Percy Road to Stratford Road and therefore, resulted in a high level of two-way traffic on Avondale Road.

It was therefore requested that the one-way system be introduced as soon as possible, and that the one-way traffic should be directed from Stratford Road to Percy Road, in order to create a balance.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

- 219 **RESOLVED:-**

That the petition be forwarded to the District Engineer for consideration and response.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

- 220 The membership of the Committee was noted.

Councillors :- Barry Bowles, Sam Burden and Kerry Jenkins (Hall Green Ward)

Councillors :- Claire Spencer, Martin Straker-Welds and Lisa Trickett (Moseley and Kings Heath Ward)

Councillors :- Mohammed Azim, Tony Kennedy and Victoria Quinn (Sparkbrook Ward)

Councillors :- Mohammed Fazal, Shabrana Hussain and Habib Rehman (Springfield Ward).

MINUTES

- 221 The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2016, having been

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previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

NOTES OF AN INFORMAL MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2016

The Notes of an informal meeting held on 2 August 2016 of Hall Green District Committee were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

222

RESOLVED:-

That the notes of an informal meeting of members of Hall Green District held on 2 August 2016 be noted; and

That the actions set out in recommendation nos. 219, 221, 222 and 223 be approved.

MATTERS ARISING

223

Councillor Bowles whilst explaining the importance of members visiting Children's Homes reported on a visit that members had recently made under Section 44 and where problems had been highlighted, and subsequently addressed as a result of the visit. He added that he would be willing to assist members in order to carry out these visits and agreed to circulate a list to members of all of the homes. He further added that members could also view the Ofsted reports before they visited the homes.

In response to a brief discussion relating to the increased number of children's homes that were being introduced across the city that did not require planning permission if there was less than 5 children, Councillor Bowles highlighted the importance of children being able to live in an environment that enabled them to thrive in which was endorsed by the Chair.

Neighbourhood Planning Tool Kit

224

The Chair reminded members that the tool kit was still available on the live stream and recommended that they viewed it if they had the opportunity.

Karen Cheney, District Lead, - Update

225

Karen Cheney provided a brief update on the progression of Chamberlain 21 highlighting that if it was approved by Cabinet Committee, it would be part of the work programme for Assistant Leaders.

She reported on the neighbourhood and community planning tool kit, which had been funded through the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and subsequently referred to the 2 workshops that had been scheduled to launch the kit and provide ward information, whereby members had received communication regarding attendance. She added that there would be a

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members' development session in early November as part of the member development programme.

At this juncture, it was suggested and agreed by the Chair that representatives from the Birmingham Cycle Team be invited to the next District Committee meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

226 There were no declarations of interest.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for meetings of Hall Green District Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

227 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following District Committee's Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

228 **RESOLVED;-**

That the District Committee's Functions and Guidelines be noted.

West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service Co-opted Members

229 The following appointments were noted:-

In accordance with the revised protocol for District Committees approved by Cabinet on 30 July 2012, District Committees may co-opt up to 5 partner representatives.

Brandon Langley – Local Policing, Birmingham East.
Wesley Williams, Station Commander – West Midlands Fire Service.
Housing Liaison Board Representatives

At this juncture, Wesley Williams introduced himself and provided a brief overview of the work that West Midlands Fire Service had been carrying out which included working with West Midlands Police and various Community Safety Partnerships.

He reported on how West Midland Fire Service was moving towards the Health Agenda which covered a variety of issues relating to people within the community that were vulnerable to fire. He reported that one of the major roles was working with partners to undertake home safety checks with a move to safe and well visits with the most vulnerable of the community, and although it took a vast majority of planning activities on a daily basis, they would continue to look for further opportunities in working with partners to ensure they were targeting their resources effectively.

He reported on the expansion of their role in road safety and detailed where they had linked in with partners that included the Central Motorway Police and the Local Authority. They were also looking to sign up to the road safety strategy with strategic leaders, in order to work towards opportunities in targeting young people between the ages of 16-24, where it was recognised that the group was often quite difficult to reach in tackling road safety problems. He added that they had secured 3 speed indication devices whereupon they were looking to work with communities in order to re-generate community speed watch.

He referred to the work relating to training station personnel and the linking up with the Local Authority to help promote the launch of the 20 mph zones and today it had been agreed, the posters that would be on all front line fire appliances for the city, concluding that they were all initiatives that contributed in making safer communities across the city.

In response to comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points recorded.

Wesley Williams confirmed that they had crews that targeted the areas where there was homelessness and provided food parcels. He referred to Highgate Station which was one of the stations for emergency food parcels adding that different stations often undertook responsibility for their area.

Wesley Williams referred to the issue of road safety especially around schools and the work that had been undertaken by Billesley Fire Station and the team at Headquarters, in designing a template to illustrate to children a safe place to cross the road. He confirmed that as it had now been signed off, the station would be visiting the schools especially with the new intake of children in order to discuss road safety.

He referred to the school packages that had recently been developed regarding parking and that the local stations were looking to issue these packs to schools and engage with parents and children in highlighting the dangers of parking closely to schools. He confirmed that they would be discussing with Headquarters when this should commence.

He confirmed that in relation to the wider issues around road safety, although recognised the various agencies that were tackling this area of work, there seemed to be lack of co-ordination. He stated that part of working with Birmingham Road Safety Partnership was looking to address the issue together with the police in order that it was combined. He referred to the mapping exercise that was being undertaken with the City Council which indicated all of the activities

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taking place by the different agencies and to see where the crossover of work was in order to avoid any duplication.

In response to a comment relating to Hall Green School and the number of places for children to cross safely if they were prepared to walk, Wesley Williams confirmed that they needed to re-visit the school in order to ascertain what was required and work with the school in addressing this issue.

In response to a question relating to the fire service charging for their services outside the scope of their core responsibility, Wesley Williams confirmed that if somebody could be potentially at risk then the charge was often waived. However, if a call could be assisted by another provider then there may be a charge.

The Chair concluded by thanking Wesley Williams for attending the meeting and providing an update.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – CONTINUED

230

At this juncture, Karen Cheney agreed to investigate with the appropriate officers whether Hall Green Housing Panel had been established.

Councillor Champions

1 Corporate Parenting Champion

To appoint 1 Member as Champion for looked after children in the Hall Green District to help co-ordinate visits to Children's establishments, feedback any issues and support fellow Members in the Corporate Parenting role.

In 2015/16 Councillor Barry Bowles was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Barry Bowles be appointed.

2 Youth Champion

To appoint 1 Member with a particular interest in issues that affect young people and would be prepared to engage with both young people and the people who work with them to ensure that young people's issues, concerns and interests are addressed as District level.

In 2015/16 Councillor Kerry Jenkins was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Kerry Jenkins be appointed.

3 Cultural Heritage Champion

To appoint 1 Member to be involved in developing a wider cultural strategy as the Cultural and Heritage Champion for Hall Green.

In 2015/16 Councillor Lisa Trickett was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Lisa Trickett be appointed.

4 Sustainability Champion

To appoint 1 Member as Sustainability Champion for Hall Green District.

In 2015/16 Councillor Claire Spencer was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Burden be appointed.

5 Community Safety Champion

To appoint 1 Member as Community Safety Champion for Hall Green District.

In 2015/16 Councillor Barry Bowles was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Shabana Hussain be appointed.

6 Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion

To appoint 1 Member as Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion for Hall Green District.

In 2015/16 Councillor Tony Kennedy was appointed.

In 2016/17 Councillor Tony Kennedy be appointed.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

231 Due to several members' difficulties in attending the original meeting dates, the meetings had now been re-scheduled to the following dates which were noted:-

All Meetings to be held on Wednesdays at 14:00 hours in the Council House.

30 November 2016 – Committee Rooms 3 & 4

25 January 2017 – Committee Room 6 – hopefully change to 1 February

29 March 2017 – Committee Rooms 3 & 4

The Chair highlighted that there still remained a floating meeting which need not be livestreamed and could be held within the district as a type of evidence gathering session. As yet no date had been agreed.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

Local Innovation Fund - Approval

232 Karen Cheney confirmed that the Local Innovation Fund had now been approved with each ward receiving funding of £48,000. She added that the report relating to the approval had been circulated to all members and was also available on CMIS.

She highlighted that the funding was not a replacement for Community Chest and that it was an investment fund to support neighbourhood collaboration of partnerships and organisations working together on new ways of delivery. She added that innovation was a challenge and it was very much how local people and everybody in a local leadership role understood what works in their respective patch in order that new initiatives could be developed, and were sustainable, and subsequently referred to the information that was tabled at the meeting, which illustrated the key elements.

Reference was made to the number of development sessions that were being arranged to help members gain a better understanding of how the whole concept worked and if members preferred an information session specifically for the District, Karen confirmed she would be happy to organise. She referred to the citywide learning event that they would be looking to set up in order to share good working practises from different areas of the city which would probably be scheduled twice yearly.

The Chair highlighted that although the district committee was not part of the local innovation structure, suggested that members used the district as a supportive knowledge sharing mechanism whilst they became familiar with using the local innovation fund in the best way possible.

Karen Cheney referred to the information circulated at the meeting relating to Selly Oak District Neighbourhood Challenge pertaining to Jobs and Skills and the associated feedback that had been received. The Chair confirmed that similar information relating to Hall Green District's Neighbourhood Challenge would most likely be available at the next district meeting.

The Chair referred to the DWP and the fact that they were now engaging with people in community venues, rather than just Job Centres, whereupon people felt more comfortable and confident which was a very useful point to have uncovered.

Karen Cheney, whilst referring to Selly Oak's Neighbourhood Challenge and the work that had been undertaken through the Life Sciences Park, reported that the issue that had been highlighted in Selly Oak was the difficulty in retaining graduates when they entered into the work stream.

A general discussion ensued regarding Hall Green's next Neighbourhood Challenge and it was highlighted that if Jobs and Skills was the challenge, that it focused on people of all ages and not just the young people. It was also highlighted the need to ensure that young people were being trained appropriately for the jobs of the future, and that there needed to be a much greater working partnership with young people and employers.

The Chair referred to the work that had previously been done and the work colleagues had undertaken across the city which would be a useful starting point if the committee decided to go forward with the Jobs and Skills Neighbourhood Challenge. She suggested that it may be worth getting in touch with a few of the large employers in the area and conduct a quick survey of them to find out what their engagement was like at the Jobs and Skills Fayre.

Karen Cheney referred to the involvement of the young people and the fact that they now sat on the observation and skills panel. She further referred to the innovation fund and the innovative ways the fund could be used to enhance young people's involvement in what they might like to do by being active in their locality which could lead to a young people's panel, or an active citizen's initiative, that focuses on young people which could link into taking jobs and skills forward. She referred to the changes in the constitution relating to district responsibilities and the expectation in the past of districts taking on two or three neighbourhood challenges, whereas now it was expected that one challenge would be undertaken in greater depth, and that members, took more of a leadership role in this area, as there were less staff to support this area of work.

The Chair suggested that it may be of benefit for Karen and Councillor Jenkins, as the Youth Champion, to not only involve young people generally, but work with the children in care council to ensure there was a strong voice from young people regardless of the neighbourhood challenge.

Following further comments relating to employment training and associated issues, the Chair agreed that it was a hugely complicated issue and believed the additional measures under the apprenticeship levy could lend itself to becoming an even further disjointed system. She added that hopefully if there could be the establishment of a working group, that they try and at least streamline what the district looked at in order that it gave maximum impact on what could be achieved.

Following a comment relating to the fact that young people in their work experience had felt let down in the past by employers, it was highlighted the importance of the City Council ensuring that they got their in-house work experience correct.

Karen Cheney referred to the jobs and skill challenge and highlighted that the object was not coming up with all solutions but to raise pertinent questions that got things rolling in a more citywide level, and to be specific about the area of jobs and skills that the district wished to cover, as it was a large area to cover. She added that there was a jobs and skills panel that could already be picking up specific areas of work.

The Chair concluded that the link between advice, guidance and the skills needs of both the people entering into the programme, and the wider economy, might be an interesting area to zone in through the committee. She added that although aware of absent members may want to contribute their comments agreed that a further discussion was required in order to iron out the details. With regard to the comments relating to the children in care council, she highlighted the importance of involving them as she was somewhat sad to learn that they had felt let down by the work experience process, and as corporate parents, there was the need to ensure that this would no longer be the case.

Share Point - Update

233

The Chair confirmed that there was funding for the above facility and that they were waiting for the appropriate technology before it could be implemented.

Agenda Item – Next Hall Green District Meeting

- 234 Following concerns relating to street trading, the Chair agreed to include on the next agenda or if there was a Ward Forum meeting in the interim confirmed that she would be happy to attend.
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Work Programme - Update

- 235 Karen Cheney agreed to update the work programme and pictorial and circulate to members in due course with the agenda items for consideration at the next meeting.
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AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 236 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 15:53 hours.

CHAIRMAN