

| | | |
|---------------|--|--|
| | NECHELLS WARD MEETING | |
| | 7 DECEMBER 2018 AT 6.30PM AT STANHOPE HALL, EMILY STREET, HIGHGATE | |
| | ACTION NOTES | |
| In Attendance | Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (in the Chair), Councillor Tahir Ali and Councillor Chauhdry Rashid Inspector Iftekhar Ahmed, West Midlands Police Paul Johnson, West Midlands Fire Service Ken Brown, Neighbourhood Support & Development Officer Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager There were 15 residents in attendance | |
| Apologies | | |
| Agenda Item | | Action |
| 1. | <u>Notice of Recordings</u> | Noted |
| 2. | <u>Notes of the Last Meeting</u> | Noted |
| 3. | <u>Petitions</u> | None Submitted |
| 4. | <u>Police & West Midlands Fire Service Updates</u> <u>Police</u> Inspector Iftekhar Ahmed gave the following update; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Crime across the U.K had increased. In the West Midlands this was by 20%. Ladywood district had seen an increase of 15-20% year on year. – Dedicated neighbourhood officers worked across the area but there were 25% less police officers across the force than in 2010 – Main issues for the Nechells ward – drugs, anti-social behaviour & shisha lounges. Police worked with city council to secure a PSPO which was currently being consulted upon. – Street racing – the injunction had prevented this for the past 9 months but it was re-appearing on Sunday afternoons. 25 officers had been deployed and lanes closed on the roads affected but the challenge was to undertake this every weekend. – Shisha Lounges – cross party working on seeking regulation was ongoing. The event at the Rainbow where an incident had occurred had caused the police to seek temporary suspension of the licence pending a full review. – Councillor Ali said that an officer would be invited to the next meeting to update on the strategy to deal with shisha lounges | |
| | | Officer to attend next meeting re shisha lounge strategy |

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| | <p>In respect of street racing, residents reported cars from Macdonald Street racing along Gooch Street and it was believed they were connected to the Saturn Club. The issue was with the clientele using the shisha lounges in Macdonald Street rather than the way they were run, as cars regularly blocked the road and drivers refused to move and the noise made by people leaving the club disturbed residents into the early hours. Inspector Ahmed asked residents to continue reporting street racing and he undertook to take details regarding the shisha lounges at the conclusion of the meeting.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that there were 6 police officers and 3 PCSO's to cover the area working a 3 day shift pattern over 6 days which provided 4 staff on duty. Councillor Ali referred to the cuts to police funding and other public sector services.</p> <p><u>West Midlands Fire Service</u></p> <p>Paul Johnson gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There were no current trends – Fires in derelict buildings were a current priority and the service was acting proactively to secure buildings therefore any information was welcome. Support services were offered to rough sleepers found in the buildings. – Arson rubbish fires had reduced but piles of rubbish were referred on to reduce time spent on such fires – There had been a rise in road traffic accidents and road safety was the focus in school visits. <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that there were regular checks of tower blocks and these had happened before the Grenfell Tower disaster so that information was available should the service be called out. Tower blocks had been prioritized for checks and cladding investigated by specialists. Reassurance visits to tenants had also been undertaken and a large proportion of safe and well checks were to residents in high rise blocks. Anyone needing a visit or aware of someone who would benefit was recommended to contact the station.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>Local Innovation Fund Proposals</u></p> <p><u>a) 29+ Health</u></p> <p>Zulfigar Khan explained the idea behind the proposal to provide employment support for the 29+ age range, including older people, people made redundant etc. Working with partners a health screening service would be provided to assist those with health barriers to employment. Six volunteers would be recruited from the ward to help build relationships. The project would commence in January 2018 for 12 months.</p> <p>In response to questions from residents the meeting was advised that the team would work across the Nechells ward and would be based initially at the old swimming baths and if successful would also do some work from Stanhope Hall. It was planned to engage</p> | |

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| | <p>with 50 people and get them into work, education or training. The meeting supported the proposal. £15,000 of the ward's Local Innovation Fund agreed.</p> <p>b) <u>Ballet – Stanhope Hall</u> Monica Lee explained that in 2015 a group of older women had worked with the Royal Ballet and it had been a positive experience and led to improved fitness, co-ordination and overall well-being. It was hoped to repeat this experience with another group and an experienced instructor. The meeting supported the proposal and it was agreed that Stanhope Hall collaborate with Empowering Women and receive £3,000.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>Litter & Rubbish</u> – residents expressed concern regarding the amount of rubbish and litter around Highgate. This was not helped when the refuse collectors were not allowed to remove black bags left at the side of bins as this was causing more rubbish to accumulate. Highgate Park had considerable amounts of dumped rubbish and this was attracting rats. The alleyway off Canberra Way was also in need of clearing. Residents had cleared the land and had found evidence in the bags of dumped rubbish. This was handed to the councillors to report to the Head of Enforcement. The Chair asked that the details be emailed to her and she would raise with the Cabinet Member. It was also reported that gas canisters had been found in Darwin Street/Leopold Street. A street cleaner was required in Spooner Croft as the road had not been cleaned for some considerable time.</p> <p>b) <u>Parking Issues Calthorpe School</u> – residents complained that when functions were held at the school cars were indiscriminately parked and resident's drives were often blocked. Staff also parked in the residential roads rather than using the school car park. The school had been notified but no action taken. Councillor Ali advised residents to contact the Chair of Governors.</p> <p>c) <u>Speeding, Little Hall Lane</u> – traffic calming measures were required to help reduce speed of vehicles speeding around Nechells Green Community Centre.</p> | |
| | <u>Authority to Act</u> | Agreed |

Meeting ended 7.45pm