

Birchfield Ward Forum

1. Introduction and Agenda: Cllr Hussain welcomed all residents to the meeting. There was 32 members of the Public
2. Notice of Recording
3. H.M.O: Stuart Donohue – Article 4 direction approved by Cabinet back in May 2019. Stuart went through a slide presentation regarding how HMO's are described. HMO Licensing above 5 bedrooms or more has to be lichened. Planning approval is required for 6 bedrooms or more. The use of council tax data is also use to identify such accommodation. There is a map showing where the concentration of HMO is situated across the City. The City is aware where most of the HMO in the City but there are a few that the City is not aware of. However, Article 4 will be able to identify them. If an area has more than 10% HMO any new requested for a new HMO will be more than likely turned down, because of the 10% threshold. Birchfield Ward has not gone over the 10% threshold. However, surrounding wards do have a large concentration of HMO's As a result of this Article 4 has been put in place to try and control the number of HMO for permitted planning rights.

For and against:

Provides consistent approach to HMO

Prevents large concentration of HMO's in an area

Better overall management of HMO across the City.

Against: Need or requires more planning permission.

Questions: Maps and data is slightly out of date – response – Article 4 should be sorting this out of date

Can these HMO' owner be treated as a business and be charged business rates. Those larger HMO who are classified as a Register provider are exempt from the HMO status, due to the care commission regulation.

Residents on Beau desert Road are very un-happy with a HMO on his road and feels there are no management these properties where there is a problem, drugs, ASB issues.

Homes England?

Selective Lichening

Room's to-let

Minimum standards for properties that are licence very difficult to do when properties are no licence.

There are some prosecutions going through the system as we speak.

Residents would like the council and the HMO team to do some real work about regulating these small landlords to do as they wish.

4. Stack Parties and ASB: Police SGT Sean talked about how the plans are going to prevent future Stack parties. No more street parties will happen on Haughton Road because the Police have spoken to the house owners. Residents are angry because of the lack of action been taken by the authorities so are very concerned about their property, children, and the community. Residents think no street party should be allowed ever in the area. Sgt Stanley said there will be a Multi-agency approach to discuss the stack parties, which will be followed by a meeting with residents. Environments issues are left behind, rubbish, bottles.

It is hoped that the Police will have an update at the next meeting!

5. Police: up dated Police figures for crime given (get up date from Police Sgt Sean Stanley:

Crime updates for the Birchfield Ward area.

Subject to some human error as Sgt Sean has search the crime figures manually as their 'search engines' don't recognise the Birchfield Ward separate from the Lozells or East Handsworth wards. Sgt Sean has taken burglary, robbery and theft from motor vehicle offences to provide updates on. Sgt Sean has provided an update for each offence for the last month, compared to the month before that, and a comparison on the previous month in 2018 so a comparison can be seen from the current month to the previous month and the same month on the previous year

	Birchfield Ward	Lozells, Birchfield and East handsworth
Burglary: 11.07.19 - 11.08.19	3	15
Burglary: 11.08.19 - 11.09.19	6	15
Burglary 11.08.18 - 11.08.18	15	38
Robbery 11.07.19 - 11.08.19	3	18
Robbery 11.08.19 - 11.09.19	5	18
Robbery 11.08.18 - 11.09.18	3	18
TFMV 11.07.19 - 11.08.19	5	15
TFMV 11.08.19 - 11.09.19	7	12
TFMV 11.08.18 - 11.08.18	8	26

In short, burglaries have really come down across the ward and sector. Robberies are consistent and TFMV also consistent be it a large reduction across the three wards.

A male who had recently been convicted for burglaries in Lozells, and TFMV in Birchfield. He was living in Birchfield along with his girlfriend. Both have now been evicted. The perpetrator is now in custody until just before xmas, however when released his CBO will prevent him entering these areas. Stepping foot in there will result in his arrest and being sent to prison (usually by the second or

third breach from experience). This is working particularly well with another TTFV offender who we have not seen since his second breach.

Stack parties also featured. Councillor Hussain following out NTG is going to arrange a meeting with police, environmental health and community safety team to discuss going forward. Mike Tye asked if residents could be part of this meeting, I said not the initial meeting, but beyond that it could be a possibility.

6. Petitions: There was not petitions presented

7. Urgent Business:

- What has happened to the Birchfield Nursery since it has been sold?
- Wall on the corner of Westminster and Haughton road is about to fall down – Ken to follow-up
- Speeding down Grosvenor road/ wilton road – Police to investigate
- Residents encourage to attend the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting scheduled for 16th September 2019.

8. Future Meetings:

20th November 2019

2nd January 2020

18th March 2020

14th May 2020

Officers in attendance: Mark Donohue , Roy Hunt, Ken Brown, AMEY steward,