

Ladywood District Committee –
10 November, 2015
BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE – 10 NOVEMBER, 2015
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**MINUTES OF THE LADYWOOD DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10
NOVEMBER, 2015 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3 & 4, COUNCIL
HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Ziaul Islam in the Chair;

Councillors Tahir Ali, Sir Albert Bore, Kath Hartley,
Nagina Kauser, Chaman Lal, Yvonne Mosquito, Chauhdry
Rashid, Sybil Spence and Sharon Thompson.

ALSO PRESENT:

Jacob Bonehill, Senior Development Planning Officer
Nicci Collins, Community Safety Co-ordinator
Kate Foley, Acting Senior Service Manager
Pete Hobbs, Integrated Services Head
Simon Hodge, Area Planning Manager
David Newman, West Midlands Fire Service
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer
Lesley Poulton, Head of Ladywood District
Mark Rodgers, Housing Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDINGS

- 256 The Chairman advised that the meeting would 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 were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

- 257 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Afzal and Carl Rice for their inability to attend the meeting and Councillor Rashid for lateness.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING - LADYWOOD

Councillor Sybil Spence to be added to the list of Councillors present.

- 258 **RESOLVED:-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September, 2015 having been previously circulated, were agreed and signed as a correct record.

TERMS OF REFERENCE WEST AND CENTRAL LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

The following Terms of Reference for the West and Central Local Community Safety Partnership was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

- Nicci Collins, Community Safety Co-ordinator was in attendance also David Newman, West Midlands Fire Service. During the discussion the purpose, objectives, structure and membership of the group was outlined.
- David Newman stressed the importance of the support group including supporting vulnerable people in the community. Councillor Sharon Thompson added that some good results had been achieved mentioning in particular partnership work with CRI and newly arrived communities. She thanked Nicci Collins for the way in which she had led the group.
- Councillor Kath Hartley asked that she be considered as the Ladywood Ward representative on the group.
- Councillor Mosquito queried the membership of the Violence Against Women Forum. She said that parents were concerned about the recent number of firearms and discharges and deaths in the District. Nicci Collins responded that there was a big project in the summer commissioning local groups who would target young people with prevention work. Some work would be carried out with EDF Funds for Youth Employment including work for NEETS. She would report back to the Committee.
- Councillor Spence was not sure the issue was being tackled in the correct way and said that prevention work should be carried out rather than work following incidences. Councillor Spence was concerned about the incidences of gun crime in her Ward that was not public knowledge unless someone was injured. She referred to the lack of police presence in the area.
- Councillor Sharon Thompson gave feedback on the community tensions meeting in the District facilitated by a number of people in the community. The Police were leading on the meetings and Councillors were invited. They were tracking and looking at patterns of behaviour
- In response to Councillor Nagina Kauser, Nicci Collins said that the Domestic Violence Forum met twice a year. It consisted of 30 or 40 organisations, people and as a mixed group supporting victims of violence. Councillor Nagina Kauser commented that organisations and local people were not aware of the groups.
- Councillor Lal referred to the issue of rising gun crime which had resurfaced and the budgetary cuts to the police service. He said that a programme was needed to deal with all gun related issues. Nicci Collins mentioned the Think Families Programme that provided support for troubled families. They were identifying people by other means and the CSP was engaging with youths to do prevention work. Quarterly updates were provided. It was requested that school bullying be fitted into the agenda. Nicci Collins replied that there were a number of partners

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involved and there was a Police Schools Panel in schools looking at issues of bullying in and outside of schools.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR HOUSING PANEL

The following briefing note was submitted:-

(See document no. 2)

- Kate Foley explained the overall purpose of the Housing Panel. The District had been engaged with the agenda for some time and the background was set out in the paper. Some meetings had already been held and the District Convention on 7 March had picked up some of the issues such as homelessness, the Private Rented Sector, Hostels and affordability. It was noted that Councillor Carl Rice was the Housing Lead for the District.
- Some recent developments were set out on page 14 of 66 on the agenda including the work of the District Panel. The District Committee was looking at their role, resource reductions, the new allocations scheme and changing patterns of tenure. The proposed objectives were set out. Some work had been done to ensure the correct contacts were involved and how to work with the Private Rented Sector Landlords.
- Councillor Sir Albert Bore suggested that the panel be renamed Ladywood District Housing and Neighbourhood Management Panel so that the context was always there when looking at specific housing issues and to ensure that the District did not lose sight of the Neighbourhood Management agenda. He referred to the roles of the Place Manager and the Neighbourhood Manager in supporting the approach and said that other Districts, mentioning Perry Barr District in particular, had worked with one of the Housing Associations to look at how others could be involved or take over from the Council on Neighbourhood matters. He suggested that an additional bullet point be added with the next steps.
- Councillor Lal added that some mapping was needed.
- Kate Foley supported the suggestions made. During the coming weeks Councillors would receive an invitation to discuss the plans. There would be an increased level of discussion regarding how the Place plans were emerging. She agreed that looking at the Housing need agenda in the context of the Neighbourhood Management agenda was correct.

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL CAPITAL REPORT

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The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See document no. 3)

An amended copy of appendix 2 was submitted:-

(See document no. 4)

- Kate Foley and Mark Rodgers attended and gave an update on the programme of works for 2014/15. The work had now been completed.
- Kate Foley thanked Mark Rodgers for supporting her team. The projects for approval were set out in Appendix 2. The quote for Cambridge Tower had been higher than expected. It was clarified that it had been removed from the list.
- It was noted that there were a lot of flooring projects focussed on areas and blocks in Nechells. The officers had worked with Councillors outside meetings to look at the options and priorities.
- There were already a number of projects emerging through the Place Management agenda.

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the progress in connection with the projects initiated in 2014/15 be noted;
 - ii) That the projects outlined at Appendix 2 be approved; and
 - iii) That the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3 be noted.
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NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

The following documents were received and noted:-

(See document nos. 5)

- The District Head reported that it was the launch of the start of the Neighbourhood Challenge, a priority for the District. Some guidance had been received from Scrutiny and a draft brief was attached for comment. Some of the Ward Committees were discussing the subject and would feed back to the Committee.
- It was confirmed that Councillor Cotton would be attending the District meeting in January.
- Pete Hobbs, Jacob Bonehill and Simon Hodge gave a summary of the Information Briefing reporting that there were a significant number of empty properties in the Ladywood District. The majority of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) operated satisfactorily and there was a Landlord Forum in the City. The Government was proposing the introduction of new powers to tackle Rogue Landlords.

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- Councillor Lal referred to licensing powers and commented that in parts of Soho Road and Soho Hill there was a concentration of HMO's. Tenants in these properties caused problems for Neighbours and powers were needed to deal with irresponsible landlords. It was noted that some planning applications had been refused. There were some retrospective powers to deal with these.
- In reply to a query representation on different Landlord Forums was varied. They had tried to get a representative sample of Landlords. BCC facilitated the Forums and there was a Landlord Steering Group and also a website. Owners of HMO's or properties with 5 or more tenants needed to be registered. Not all private landlords were registered however they could become a landlord without being registered.
- Councillor Nagina Kauser spoke about the responsibility for dumped rubbish as there had been problems with some tenants in Aston dumping rubbish outside the properties. She added that some private landlords were renting out rooms to newly arrived people and charging rent for each individual person in the room. Councillor Kauser asked how this could be monitored. Pete Hobbs explained that a key issue on the consultation was to extend licensing powers. They needed to know where there were specific problems to put together a business case.
- Councillor Tahir Ali noted that with the relocation of Birmingham City University the student population could move leading to empty properties in the Ward.
- Councillor Mosquito spoke about the signs that modern day slavery could be taking place in a shared house.
- Councillor Rashid asked what action could be taken to ensure there was the appropriate number of people in a house. Concerns were raised about bad letting agents. Information on addresses where people were being exploited could be used to take action to protect vulnerable people.
- Lesley Poulton advised that it is proposed that a number of residents be invited to the next meeting to give evidence.

HOMELESSNESS AND ALLOCATIONS POLICY

Jim Crawshaw was not in attendance. The item was deferred to the next meeting.

LADYWOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM GRANTS

The following report of the Head of Ladywood District was submitted:-

(See document no. 6)

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the Committee recognises the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum and notes its annual report and accounts;

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- ii. That the Committee requests the Neighbourhood Forum to continue to provide representation to the Ladywood Ward Forum and other consultative group and partnership bodies, as appropriate;
 - iii. That the Committee authorises the award of a grant of £900 to be paid to the City Centre Neighbourhood Forum to help with running costs for the 2015/16 financial year. The award of grant is subject to City Centre Neighbourhood Forum meeting the Council's Condition of Grant Aid terms and conditions;
 - iv. That the Committee requests the Neighbourhood Forum to provide advance notification of its next Annual General Meeting to the Neighbourhood Forums' Link Officer so that assistance can be given in advertising the meeting to all residents; and
 - v. That the District Committee authorise the Neighbourhood Forum Link Officer to process the grant in accordance with the Conditions of Grant Aid procedures and the City Council's Financial Regulations, as appropriate.
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WARD UPDATES

- It was noted that no date had been arranged for a meeting in Aston Ward.
- Councillor Hartley requested details of the under allocated Community Chest Funds. She said that a breakdown on funds allocated and spent was required.
- Councillor Thompson reported that the Schools Council had been invited to the Council Chamber for discussions on issues such as litter. A local group had adopted a stretch of canal in Soho Ward. Councillor Sharon Thompson thanked the community also Ladywood Arts Forum and Wasifa Inspire for their work done during Heritage. They had also represented the District at the House of Commons. 20 Bikes had also been received from Cycle Revolution. Councillor Islam said that some information on the Cycle Revolution had been distributed.
- Councillor Hartley referred to the Ladywood Forum meeting. There were 2 controlled parking zone consultations at present with the closing date of 11 December. Councillor Hartley questioned who would pay the costs associated when the community (some of whom were hard to reach) were invited to meetings.
- Councillor Lal reported that the Ward had held a successful litter pick in Winson Green. He expressed concerns about lack of funding. Lesley Poulton confirmed that no Community Chest Funds had been allocated for the current municipal year. Councillors should speak to her about their concerns.
- Councillor Mosquito had attended an excellent meeting the previous week for Jobs and Skills. People were being matched with jobs and given job opportunities. Councillor Penny Holbrook was the Lead for Birmingham. The Chairman added that John Lewis would employ 1,000 people.

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- Lesley Poulton undertook to re-circulate the list of Appointments and Champions.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

That it be noted that the Ladywood District Committee will meet on the following dates at the Council House at 1400 hours.

Thursday, 14 January, 2016

Tuesday, 8 March, 2016

The next agenda was focussed on Health and Well Being. Councillor Mosquito asked that Mental Health be included.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Islam gave his apologies for the District Convention as he would be out of the country. Councillor Sharon Thompson would be chairing the meeting.

AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

RESOLVED:-

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 1606 hours.

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Chairman