

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY,
23 MARCH, 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERRY BARR
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY,
23 MARCH, 2017 AT 1500 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Hussain in the Chair

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Tristan Chatfield, Paulette Hamilton, Jon Hunt, Keith Linnecor, Hendrina Quinnen, Narinder Kooner and Karen Trench.

ALSO PRESENT

Neil De-Costa – Perry Barr District Head
Dave Hodgkins – Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service
Peter Howarth, Birmingham Cycle Revolution
Andy Middleton – Birmingham Cycle Revolution
Ken Newport – West Midlands Fire Service
Inspector Noeleen Murrin – West Midlands Police
Louisa Nisbett - Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDING

1055 The Chairman advised that this 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 are confidential or exempt items.

TRIBUTES

1056 Tributes were paid as follows:-

1. **Councillor Ray Hassall**

Before the meeting commenced Councillor Hussain asked that the Committee remember their colleague and dear Friend, Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Ray Hassall a longstanding Perry Barr Councillor of some 27 years. Councillor

Hassall was a caring person with a caring nature and was well-liked by Councillors of all parties alike. He will be missed but his legacy would live on. Councillor Ray Hassall had fulfilled his wish to become the Lord Mayor of Birmingham in 2013. Councillor Ray Hassall was still in recovery from an operation in December 2016. Sadly he did not achieve his hope to retire to Greece. Councillor Hussain continued that Councillor Ray Hassall was an incredible man and asked that the Committee join him in a one minute silence to remember him.

(The Committee stood for one minute silence)

2. Westminster London Attack

Councillor Hussain referred to the attack in Westminster the previous day that left people dead and injured. He asked that the Committee have a one minute silence to remember those people.

(The Committee stood for one minute silence.)

Councillor Atwal spoke about the incident in London and was sorry for the loss of lives owing to actions which should be condemned. He stressed that the community the person who carried out the crime belonged to should not be blamed as there was good and bad in all communities and the actions should not be tolerated. Councillor Atwal thanked the police in particular the local Inspector Noeleen Murrin for solving issues within the community

A number of tributes were paid to Councillor Ray Hassall as follows:-

- Councillor Jon Hunt said that he had been Councillor Hassall's friend for over 30 years. He was struck with the way that Councillor Hassall made friends everywhere he went. People had been in touch with him from all over the country and world on hearing the news. Councillor Jon Hunt was trying to track people down.
- Councillor Linnecor had known Councillor Hassall for over 30 years. He was shocked to hear the news and had spoken to him not long before. Both he and Councillor Hassall engaged in friendly rival banter. There had never been an unfriendly word said. Councillor Linnecor regretted that he had not taken up the opportunity to join Councillor Hassall in Crete. He was full of fun and worked tirelessly on behalf of Perry Barr Ward and Birmingham Council. He wished his family well for the future.
- Councillor Atwal referred to the sad news about Councillor Hassall who was such a nice person. He had been known to him before he had become a Councillor and Councillor Hassall had been very helpful to him.
- Councillor Kooner passed on her condolences to Councillor Hassall's family. He was a good friend and did not let the fact they were from

different political parties affect their friendship. Councillor Hassall had been the first Councillor to welcome her to the Council. She remembered that Councillor would turn up to meetings in his shorts and said that he was fitter than most of his colleagues. Councillor Kooner added that the room shone when Councillor Hassall walked into it.

- Councillor Chatfield paid tribute to Councillor Hassall who he first met whilst leafleting a road when Councillor Hassall was leafleting the other side of the road. Councillor Hassall would be missed by his colleagues and residents not only in Perry Barr but also in Oscott Ward. He would also miss him personally.

APOLOGIES

- 1057 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barbara Dring and Waseem Zaffar for their inability to attend the meeting and Councillor Paulette Hamilton for lateness.

MINUTES

Res. No. 1051, Page 8 – Councillor Quinnen said that the minutes should say that the Cleaner Streets Plan had been submitted. The main issues were housing for bigger families.

Housing Allocations - Councillor Kooner queried whether there was any further information on the points system for housing and Councillor Hussain informed that Jim Crawshaw had attended a Committee meeting to give an update. Neil De-Costa added that details of the new allocation scheme would be sent. If additional information was required it could be taken up outside the meeting.

- 1058 **RESOLVED:-**

That subject to the above the Minutes of the last meeting on 19 January, 2017, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1059 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.
(See document no. 1)

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE

- 1060 Inspector Noeleen Murrin was in attendance and gave a presentation using the following presentation document:-
(See document no. 2)

A summary of the document was made using the main headings listed below:-

- Why change? – It's all about our vision
- Challenges we face as we maintain our service
- Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) how we compare nationally
- What is WMP2020?
- Projects include
- Progress so far
- What's changing in neighbourhood policing
- Neighbourhood Policing: our ambition
- The next generation of local policing
- So how will it work
- Neighbourhood policing remains at the heart of our model. Other units that make up WMP
- The types of neighbourhood: aligning our resources to areas of greatest need.
- We are introducing new ways of working with local people to enhance neighbourhood policing
- What does this mean for Birmingham
- What does this mean for Birmingham West
- Digital Experience for Citizens Data Driven Insight
- Integrated Offender Management
- Intelligence
- Investigations
- Response
- Force Contact
- Thrive+

Following the presentation and during the discussion that ensued the following points were made:-

- Councillor Linnecor understood that the changes were being made owing to financial constraints. He wished the police well in all that they were doing and said they were doing a good job. With regard to the Active Citizen's Fund he did not feel this had been good and there needed to be an improvement to the way the decisions were made. He felt that funding should be allocated to the Neighbourhood Tasking Group for each Ward in line with their crime figures. This was simpler than using Forums. Councillor Linnecor stated that some Wards needed the funding more than others.
- Councillor Linnecor agreed that the statistics for crime reductions were good however it did not make an improvement. With regard to the 101 telephone number, people rang the Ward Councillors as they could not get through to the number. He was pleased that there would be more staff.

Councillor Linnecor had concerns about alcohol restricted zones that would be raised at another time.

- With regard to the re-organisation, Inspector Noeleen Murrin said that it would help the police to work smarter. It was a long term project with Ward designated officers and further officers to support each Ward.
- Councillor Jon Hunt appreciated the recognition regarding local people however pointed out that there was a current problem with continuity for residents. He mentioned some projects such as ASB, Licensing, but there was no back up for the neighbourhood police team and there was an issue with the 101 number.
- Inspector Murrin asked that issues be reported to her as they arose and she would give feedback. Councillor Karen Trench informed that some residents who had attended meetings in the Ward were keen to have access to West Midlands Now. She was pleased about the early intervention with youths and asked what was done to target them.
- Inspector Murrin replied that they carried out outreach work at Laurel Road and 610 Kingstanding Community Centres. Offering support and appropriate funding. In terms of youth work any ideas would be looked at. They worked with both primary and secondary schools.
- Councillor Kooner said that the new way of working was brilliant and preferable compared to the previous way of working. She asked whether collaborative working with West Midlands Fire Service would still be carried out. Councillor Kooner spoke about the allocation of the Active Citizen's Funding and added that some groups who did good projects did not receive funding. It was questioned whether people could get involved with the 19 people who had been allocated with funding. Councillor Kooner had contacted Dave Thompson regarding devolution and partnership work with the police and requested that a copy of the presentation be sent to Members.
- Inspector Murrin undertook to share the response from residents about the Active Citizen's Funding. The funding was open to everyone. Allocation was decided by strands of needs. Dates of the community event will also be emailed. With regard to Councillor Kooner's query about joint work between WMFS and the School Liaison Officer, Sam Odeill worked with all schools.
- Councillor Chatfield welcomed the new technology and spoke about the benefit of body cams. Councillor Chatfield said there was no benefit in creating new groups when there already groups in existence that it would be more efficient to use. Councillor Chatfield informed that there would be boundary changes in 2018. Inspector Murrin said the police were not Ward based. Some people who had applied for funding did not attend Neighbourhood Forums.

- Councillor Atwal asked to place on record his thanks to the police for the work the team had done to solve a lot of issues in the community. There had been issues in Handsworth Wood, Rookery and Oxhill Road for elderly people, bus stops and Anti-Social Behaviour. He noted that the alcohol restricted area sign was due to come down in October. There were 2 Ward PSPOs in place.
- Councillor Kooner questioned why Active Citizenship Funds had been allocated outside the area. Groups and organisations in the community should work together.
- Councillor Linnecor felt it was a waste of money taking down the alcohol restricted zone signs as there would not be any funds to replace them. He asked for information on who the 19 people on the list were. In reply to a comment about openness and transparency Inspector Murrin said that it had been an open forum that anyone could attend.
- Councillor Hussain referred to engagement and said that some of the Ward Forums were not active nor did they have a police presence. There would be consultation with the residents about the alcohol restricted zones. Inspector Murrin undertook to get details of the Ward meetings. The police sergeants would attend the meetings.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

1061

Station commander Dave Hodgkins attended the meeting and gave out the following handout:-

(See document no. 3)

During the presentation and discussion that ensued the following points were made:-

- There are 2 Fire Stations in Handsworth and Perry Barr.
- There was a £10M deficit owing to budget cuts. They would try to ensure that front line services were protected.
- There were 38 Fire Stations, 41 Fire engines and 19 additional vehicles for a targeted response with 4 wheel capabilities and 4 business support vehicles. They were focussed on responding to emergencies, fighting fires, assisting the police, delivering prevention and protection.
- In Perry Barr District over the last 12 months there had been 63 accidental fires in dwellings, 20 - Handsworth Wood, 22 - Lozells and East Handsworth, 7 Oscott and 14 Perry Barr Ward. The reduction was owing to interventions to prevent them happening. The response time was 5 minutes or 300 seconds. The average time for Handsworth was 4 minutes or 250 seconds.

- There had been 1 fatality on Albert Road, Handsworth following a serious incident involving an elderly lady. There had been injuries to 1 elderly lady and to a family of 2 adults with 6 children.
- Arson and fires to dwellings had increased. They were working with the police to solve the problem of vehicle fires:-

Vehicle Fires

- 2 – Handsworth Wood
- 7 – Lozells and East Handsworth
- 2 – Oscott
- 1 - Perry Barr

Fires in Non Domestic Premises

- 0 – Handsworth Wood
- 2 - Lozells and East Handsworth
- 0 – Oscott
- 0 – Perry Barr

Arson Vehicle Fires – This was unusual in Oscott and Perry Barr Wards

- 7 – Handsworth Wood
- 11 – Lozells and East Handsworth
- 1 – Oscott
- 2 - Perry Barr

- They were pleased about the work with the PCSO on arson rubbish. In partnership with Birmingham City Council they were removing abandoned vehicles within 3 days.

Accidental Fires of Non domestic premises

- 7 – Handsworth Wood
- 3 – Lozells and East Handsworth
- 1 – Oscott
- 5 - Perry Barr

- False alarm calls used resources from key areas. Intervention work reduced the figures for house fires.
- The business vehicles were used to give advice where they had been sent to false alarms.
- Owing to budget cuts they have considered commissioning and look to generate a capital of £2M. Safe and Well Being visits had been done since November 2015. They gave advice on smoke alarms, escape routes etc. They identified issues and key partners to help individuals and had met 1500 people in the district.
- WMFS worked with the Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being on the District Health and Well Being Group. Perry Barr Station was carrying out falls prevention – a paid service responsible to individuals in their homes

who had access to a pendant. Staff were trained to assist and give support in the home.

- They were working with the police on a burglary initiative. When there was a burglary in an area they visited the local area to support the local community, give advice and equipment such as door alarms. This also helped victims of crime and domestic abuse.
- There has been an increase in cannabis in the Handsworth Wood area. People grow and sell it in their homes. They were working with the police on the issue. Specialist officers assisted vulnerable people to get support. Hoarding was another issue as high hoarding could lead to fires.
- The most at risk people were targeted such as the unemployed, alcohol and drug dependents, people over 65, young families on benefits, people with limited mobility and smokers. Priority Wards in North Birmingham were Aston, Nechells, Ladywood and Soho.
- The source of the 51% accidental dwelling fires occurred owing to cooking incidents.
- They were working with the police on new safe car seats, mobile phones. There was an open day at Perry Barr fire Station on 5 August, 2017 to include charity car washes.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton agreed to present her update for Health and Well Being at the next meeting.
- Councillor Linnecor praised the work done in Oscott. There were major problems with speeding on Aldridge Road. He hoped that the problem with budget cuts were resolved.
- David Hodgkins replied that there was an excellent team to deal with road issues. There were some virtual glasses used that simulated a car crash as a way to educate people.
- Councillor Karen Trench asked how many smoke alarms had been fitted. A Presentation had been made at the Ward Committee on the Safe and Well Programme.

BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION

1062

Andy Middleton BCR Programme Manager and Peter Howarth were in attendance and circulated copies of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Programme and the proposed cycle routes for the A34 Birchfield Road and A38 Bristol Road:-

(See document no 4)

Further information was available using the following links:-

These links are publically available as part of the ongoing/ current consultation process:

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/bcr-a34/>

FYI regarding Ladywood District (A38 corridor)

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/bcr-a38/>

During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- An overview of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Programme was given. A total of £57M had been secured from the Department for Transport and the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Programme over a 6-7 year period from 2014 to 2020.
- There were 4 main elements to the programme. Progress so far included an outreach package to refurbish cycle routes, access improvements, refurbish lighting etc.
- As part of the Green Route package they had delivered 28km of new or refurbished paths to date in parks and public open space areas. The improvements were also beneficial for walkers. Some other schemes were proposed.
- The Big Birmingham Bikes Initiative delivered 4,000 bikes to people in deprived areas in Birmingham to help them to access employment and other facilities. In the second phase of the Big Birmingham Bikes programme they would allocate grants to businesses and schools.
- The Highway Works package started 2 years ago and delivered a number of schemes. Feedback from the previous year was taken into consideration about what parts worked well or needed to be reviewed. Residents were keen to see a segregated infrastructure for cycles. Two main corridor schemes, one along A34 to Perry Barr to the City Centre and one from the City Centre to Bristol Road were proposed to be delivered by 2018. The routes would join up in the City Centre. The routes would divide the cycle route from traffic.
- The route for the main corridors to be built were highlighted. The consultation period was 27 February to 7 April 2017. 11,000 leaflets had been delivered. There were also 24 road signs and 3 public consultation events.
- Councillor Linnecor said that together with Councillor Karen Trench he was joint Cycle Champion for the District. In response to his question 4,000 bikes had been given out to date, 3,400 to individuals through a ballot process in 2016. The same process will be used to give out a further 1,000 bikes. There were 600 cycle centres and community groups.
- Councillor Linnecor asked whether consideration could be given to Queslett nature reserve. Andy Middleton said that there were some parts of Oscott that were socially deprived, therefore he expected that some

bikes would be allocated there. Access to bikes meant access to jobs and would promote economic regeneration. The Green Route had been allocated a budget and the programme was proactive so other considerations could be looked at. Extra signage would be installed on the parallel routes

- Councillor Kooner referred to Handsworth Pavillion. She said that it was a natural route but had not been used. Also the route from Hilltop and Perry Barr Park, was not showing. Councillor Kooner commented that Health inequalities were not linked to deprivation.
- Councillor Karen Trench said that the trail to Sandwell was not clear. Turnberry Park was on the boundary of Perry Barr and Oscott. It would be useful to have a map to show where the bikes had been allocated. Councillor Karen Trench liked the plans for the segregated route.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton said that she was a former bike user owing to being scared of cycling on the road. She asked what enforcement there was for cars and road users in relation to cyclists.
- Councillor Chatfield stated that the idea of a segregated route had always been preferable. Parallel routes needed to be looked at as some were dangerous.
- Councillor Quinnen asked whether there was support to set up a cycling club as people were keen to learn to ride. Councillor Quinnen mentioned the popularity of cycling in Bristol.
- Councillor Hussain asked for a breakdown of the 1st phase of the bike allocation to show how many Districts had benefited. Andy Middleton replied that they had the details, data and useage and could provide the information. The Project Manager had previously attended the Perry Barr District Committee meeting.
- There was a detailed programme of support for communities to ensure that people engaged with the Cycling Clubs. There were trained people to support the Clubs. Andy Middleton undertook to speak to the Programme Manager about a detailed briefing.
- The funds from the Department for Transport and the Local Enterprise Partnership to deliver the Programme had been awarded to Birmingham and several other cities.
- The information given was specific for the scheme on the Birchfield Main corridor. There was a wider map. Birmingham Cycle map was online. It also showed the green route.
- With regard to enforcement they worked with the police. A pilot had been initiated in Birmingham. People driving too close to cyclists were pulled over.

- Space had been reserved for Parallel routes to make people aware . These were being reviewed and there will be additional signage.
- Councillor Karen Trench asked how to access funding for a bike hub at Hamstead Pavillion and Turnberry Park. Andy Middleton said there were some contingency funds that could be looked at.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING CHAMPION

1063 This item was deferred to the next meeting.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1067 The schedule of meetings proposed for future District Committee meetings in the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB on the following Thursdays at 1500 hours will be considered at the next meeting:-

13 July, 2017
28 September, 2017
23 November, 2017
18 January, 2018
22 March, 2018

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1068 Any suggestions for items to be considered for future agendas should be sent to the chairman.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

1069 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1070 **RESOLVED:-**

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 ended at 1709 hours.

CHAIRMAN