

SOUTH YARDLEY WARD FORUM MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 14th March 2023

6.00pm – 7.00pm

South Yardley Methodist Church

Broadyates Road

B25 8LW

COUNCILLOR: Zaker Choudhry

NOs OF ATTENDEES: Approx 40

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team

Jennifer Gray – Political Assistant, Lib Dem Group (Observer)

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

Cllr Zaker Choudhry in the Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions

Following introductions, Cllr Choudhry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Notice of Recording

Residents were advised that they were able to record and/or take photographs of the meeting.

3. Clay Lane/Copnor Grove Gates

A number of concerns were raised by residents living in the area around Clay Lane/Copnor Grove/Aldershea Road regarding the increase in anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping, drug dealing and acts of criminality taking place in the Clay Lane alleyway that linked the houses and garages, leading out to Coventry Road.

Security gates for both ends of the alleyway had been requested by residents; gates had been fitted at one end of the alleyway and keys issued, but not at the other as someone had objected. Since then, the situation had worsened; garages at the rear of Clay Lane had

been broken into and expensive tools and equipment stolen. The gates fitted at the one end of the alleyway were no longer kept locked, so access was open to all, with cars often using the alleyway as a cut-through out onto Coventry Road. Calls to the local police team had gone unanswered, and patrols were non-existent.

Residents called for the gates to be fitted at the other end of the alleyway as they should have been done previously, and that the scheme should not have been stopped because someone objected – especially when everyone else had been and still were in agreement to having the alleyway gated.

Responding to residents' comments and concerns, Cllr Choudhry advised that new local Community Chest funding had been agreed for each of the 69 wards in the city for use to address local issues and priorities. He explained that the gates to both ends of the alleyway should have been fitted, however the scheme was halted due to an objection and officers had tried to resolve this. A petition had also been submitted to City Council regarding the matter.

The criteria for the funding was still to be finalised, however, Cllr Choudhry further advised that he remained committed to resolving the matter, and that consideration would be given to using the Community Chest funding to do so. Residents living in the roads affected by the alleyway would continue to be kept informed.

In the meantime, residents must continue to report incidents to the local police team so that the area could be flagged up as one of concern so that an increase in patrols and extra resources could be deployed to tackle the issues.

4. Other Local Issues

The following concerns were raised by residents:-

- Hobmoor Croft: increase in break-ins/burglaries to the properties at the back of Oaklands Recreation Ground. Metal/secure fencing was needed to the perimeter between the park and houses. Section 106 funding had been secured on the back of the Tesco Planning Application for environmental improvements/enhancements to the recreation ground, but little security improvements appeared to have been carried out.

Action: Cllr Choudhry to discuss with Districts Parks Manager

- Hobmoor Croft: very poor pavement surface; tarmac raised outside the frontages of several properties caused by ongoing roadworks. Residents had expressed to officers, with little or no response. Dropped kerbs had also been affected.

Action: Cllr Choudhry to raise with Highways Officers

- A45 Coventry Road Sprint Bus Route: litter bins had been removed as part of the redevelopment of the route- no information available regarding when these would be re-installed.

Action: Cllr Choudhry to contact relevant officers for an update.

- Broadyates Road – pavement/obstructive parking was an ongoing problem; grass verges were being destroyed/churned up and paving slabs damaged. Pedestrians including wheelchair/mobility scooter users and parents with prams/pushchairs forced to go into the busy road as they were unable to pass on the pavements. More proactive enforcement action needed and traffic calming and /or preventative measures considered.
- Street cleansing – very little being carried out; wrong sized vehicles being used to access smaller/narrower roads
- A45 Coventry Road – excessive speeding at all hours of the day, from Swan Island towards Clay Lane and Haybarnes Circus. CCTV cameras and speed monitoring/enforcement exercise needed.
- A45 Coventry Road – section between Grantham and Yardley Roads: footpaths in need of upgrading; work had been promised some time ago, but no update was forthcoming.

Action: Cllr Choudhry to check with Kier Highway Services to see if this was included in the Ward Highway Programme

- Swan Island: ongoing problem with flooding in the underpass/subway. Also, drains and gullies by Tesco Superstore were filled with overgrown weeds/debris and in need of clearing out.

Action: Cllr Choudhry to raise with Kier Highway Services.

5. Ward Action Plan 2022 – 2026

Cllr Choudhry explained that all Councillors were required to develop a Ward Action Plan for their electoral term of office; this should be in consultation with residents and based on concerns and priorities identified and how these could be tackled//addressed. The Ward Action Plan was a working document, to be reviewed, updated and amended over the next four years.

Copies of the first draft of the Ward Action Plan were circulated to residents at the meeting, and residents encouraged to contact Cllr Choudhry with any comments/concerns/amendments they wished to have included in the Plan.

6. Local News/Updates

No other issues raised.

Cllr Choudhry thanked residents for their attendance.

Meeting closed at 7.30pm