

	LADYWOOD WARD FORUM	
	WEDNESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2016 at 7pm at LADYWOOD HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ST VINCENT STREET WEST.	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Kath Hartley (in the Chair) & Councillor Sir Albert Bore</p> <p>Sergeant Clem Samuels, West Midlands Police Marcia Dixon & Sian Warner, Reach Out Recovery Vicki Brownhill & Andy O'Rourke, Midland Heart James McDermont, Emerging Futures</p>	
Apologies	Councillor Carl Rice	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Notes of Previous Meeting</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None Submitted
4.	<u>Ladywood TV News</u>	Unable to show
5.	<p><u>Drug Issues & Rough Sleeping</u></p> <p>The Chair said there had been an increase in the number of concerns raised regarding drug issues and rough sleepers in the ward which appeared to have worsened since the demolition of the library. Rough sleepers were being found in cute rooms, bin stores and inside flats and maisonettes and residents wanted to know where to go for help/where to refer. Drug dealing was being witnessed openly on the street and was affecting residents where this was happening.</p> <p>The following comments were made by the panel of experts;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Midland Heart Rough Sleepers Team had a presence on the street from 7am -11pm and worked with partners including police, housing and substance misuse organizations to try to prevent the cycle. – Reach Out Recovery was a charity commissioned by the City Council offering advice/support and had 7,000 in treatment across the City. From Ladywood 281 were in treatment, 26% alcohol related, 53% opiate related and higher than the national average number of people 	

	<p>presenting with mental health issues. 24% had a housing issue/of no fixed abode. Residents views were welcomed on emerging trends – additional support/resources could be made available to certain ‘pockets’ if identified as having particular problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Recovery coaches worked in the area and would welcome information from the community about what best could be provided to help the rough sleepers – Support was also provided to people with tenancies but who might be struggling with substance misuse so any concerns should be reported so this could be followed up. <p>Details of how to contact any of the panel were provided for residents to contact for help or with suggestions.</p> <p>Sergeant Samuels made the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Homelessness was an increasing issue which often brought with it issues relating to drugs/alcohol – The police with Midland Heart had started a new initiative patrolling the streets, speaking to rough sleepers and 100 individuals had been rehoused. – Calls relating to begging/homelessness were referred to agencies that could help. People were ‘moved on’ but in the main officers did try to sign post to relevant agencies – Calls had been received to bin chutes, car parks, parks, bin rooms in the area and housing were securing where necessary. The concern in the area was acknowledged but a partnership approach was needed to tackle the problem therefore he would arrange to go round the area with Andy O’Rourke so it was important that local residents kept reporting their concerns so that the right areas of the ward could be targeted. <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There had been a significant rise in rough sleepers on the St Marks Est and drug paraphernalia had been found around Nelson School, including in the grounds and dealing near to the school gates. There had been no response to 101 calls and there was a reluctance to log the complaint. Action elsewhere in the City was creating a problem in Ladywood – It was distressing to see the numbers of homeless people in the area and residents did not know where to direct them to, especially those with dogs who could not get a place at a hostel. – Concern expressed regarding aggressive begging in the Jewellery Quarter – 15 Acorn Grove operated as a hostel and housed drug addicts and alcoholics. Significant ASB was generated by the residents of and visitors to the hostel that was 	
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	<p>intimidating and frightening for residents. Needles had been collected with rubbish from the perimeter fence of Nelson Primary School and there was considerable concern for the safety of the children. Residents could no longer tolerate the situation and called for action to be taken to improve the situation on the estate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alcoholics/drug users who did have a tenancy often found it difficult to run a household and then caused issues for neighbours – was there supported accommodation in the area? – The role of BCC housing was queried and it was hoped that the Council would play a large part in finding solutions as a major housing provider. – Residents had tried to phone the outreach team but the phone was not answered. – Residents parking scheme had increased security as enforcement officers were patrolling. <p>The following responses were made to the above comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sgt McVeigh was working re aggressive begging in the Jewellery Quarter and had made several arrests. – When calling 101 the call was not automatically logged but was recorded therefore he could check the calls being made regarding St Marks Est. – Residents urged not to clear up needles themselves but to seek specialist help via Environmental Health where the calls would be logged and if repeated additional support provided. – Hostels were available and St Annes allowed dogs. The homeless service centre offered advice, support and a vacancies list. – Supported housing was available with workers there to support and outreach workers visiting to support with appointments etc. – The partners met frequently with BCC housing officers and all worked together. – A conference bringing together all partners to address these issues across the City and create a Birmingham wide strategy would be useful – mental health services were a key partner and needed more involvement. <p>The Chair highlighted the concerns of residents and the issues that people who were already struggling themselves were facing on a day to day basis and they could no longer cope with other people's problems and called for a City wide approach by all partners to address the drug related and rough sleeper problems facing the Ward.</p>	<p>All partners</p>
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	<p><u>Issues to be Discussed at Future Meetings</u></p> <p>The following suggestions were made;</p> <p>St Johns Church – Icknield Port Loop – Urban Splash presentation</p>	
8.	<p><u>Residents Issues/Concerns</u></p> <p>a) <u>M& B Sports Ground, City Road</u> The planning consent for development of the M&B Sports Ground, City Road was raised and it was considered that the approval had been illegal and therefore the details had been reported to the City Councils Chief Legal Officer requesting the decision be set aside but no response had been received.</p> <p>Councillor Sir Albert Bore undertook to take the matter on board and ensure that a response was forthcoming. He would report further at the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>5-11 Fleet Street – Night Club</u> Concern was expressed regarding club operating from Fleet Street without planning permission following planning consent refusal last year due to the proximity of residential properties. There club had generated ASB, noise, rubbish and people urinating in the street.</p> <p>Councillor Sir Albert Bore said the Councillors were aware of the issue and were had evidence regarding the nuisance and would be raising it with planning and licensing officers.</p> <p>c) <u>Good News – Cine Cubano</u> Meeting advised of an monthly event at the Custard Factory showcasing live music, films and free events for charitable donations. Next event 28 February at 5pm.</p>	<p>Cllr Sir Albert Bore</p> <p>Councillors</p>
9.	<p><u>Authority to Act</u></p>	Agreed

Meeting ended 8.40pm