

	NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM	
	20 NOVEMBER 2017 AT WEST HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HAMPSTEAD HOUSE, CONDOVER ROAD B31 3QY	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Debbie Clancy (Chair), Randal Brew and Brett O'Reilly</p> <p>Phil Richards, West Midlands Fire Service Sergeant Alan Lawless, West Midlands Police Paul Walls, Leisure Project & Client Manager Liz Parkes, Library Manager Laurent Bouissonnade, Principal Infrastructure Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>Approximately 35 residents were in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Richard Burden M.P. Ravinder Sahota	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<p><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></p> <p><u>Longbridge Connectivity</u> – Councillor Brew advised that the site office was open to residents on Tuesday evening 4-6pm. Laurent Bouissonnade gave the following update and circulated plans;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Location of works with start and finish dates shown on plans – Coombes Lane/Turves Green junction and Lickey Road roundabout were progressing – Some works had been started earlier than predicted and therefore it was hoped to finish by end of 2018. – Where possible works were undertaken during quieter times to lessen the impact and works were monitored and traffic light sequence etc changed if necessary. <p>Residents then made the following observations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Traffic and congestion was horrendous – Vehicles turning left into Marks & Spencer were blocking the road and causing a queue over the bridge and this occurred at the weekend when the 4 way lights were not used. – It had been previously advised that the site office would be open every day to residents – Where the trees had been removed the trunks had been left lying on the ground next to the stumps. – Newsagent, corner of Coombes Lane was very concerned regarding impact of double yellow lines on his business – There were problems for residents turning right into Beeches Farm Drive due to traffic congestion. Also coming from Cofton Road direction there was a grassy bank with a gap so that drivers could see a gap in the traffic but this was obscured by 	Agreed

	<p>the councils sign</p> <p>In response the meeting was advised;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The site office was open 4-6pm every Tuesday but if there was a specific problem residents were welcome to see the site staff who were there every day. – The council had been due to remove the tree trunks but there had been a few issues. – The length of the double yellow lines on Coombes Lane outside the newsagent had been reduced due to concerns expressed about the effect on the business. The plans could be seen at the site office. – Arrangements made to visit residents from Beeches Farm Drive to discuss issues raised – Emergency 24 hour contact number – 303 4149 <p>Phi Richards suggested using the other entrance to Longbridge town centre via Lickey Road. Councillor O'Reilly asked if temporary signage could be erected to this effect to raise awareness of the alternative entrance.</p> <p>Councillor Brew said that previous requests had been made for yellow boxes at the junctions with feeder roads onto Longbridge Lane and a request was made for this to be pursued.</p> <p><u>Ward Plans</u> – the Chair said that only one suggestion had been received from a resident and therefore she had outlined the priorities raised at previous meetings and those raised with councilors to write the ward plan. Copies of the plan were available.</p>	<p>Laurent Bouissonnade to chase</p> <p>Request for temporary signage</p> <p>Request for yellow boxes at feeder road junctions onto Longbridge Lane</p>
3.	<p><u>Petitions</u></p> <p>Two petitions were submitted objecting to 1) the re-routing of the nos. 63 and 98 bus route 2) the removal of the bus stop from outside the Grosvenor Centre</p>	<p>The Chair to submit to December City Council meeting</p>
4.	<p><u>Fire Service Update</u></p> <p>Phil Richards gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Arson fires had decreased – Road safety was an issue and WMFS were organising some campaigns and trying to establish a road safety forum – Safe & Well checks were continuing and anyone wishing for a visit should contact 380 7536 – In response to an issue regarding bonfires, the contact for late fires was 380 6860 <p>A resident called for a pedestrian crossing on the Bristol Road near to Maryland Drive as it was very difficult for residents from the sheltered housing scheme to cross the road. Phil Richards said that a joint approach to the situation was needed with involvement from residents and undertook speak to the resident at the conclusion of the meeting. The Chair also undertook to speak to the resident after the meeting. Reference was made to the film crew that had attended a previous meeting with officers and the meeting was advised that the documentary would be shown on television (Really UK) in January.</p>	

5.	<p><u>Policing Issues</u></p> <p>Sergeant Lamerton gave the following police update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – During the summer/autumn months the Northfield Team had been diverted to the City Centre and to help with logs and 999 calls. The team was now back working in the area and supported by senior officers – There had been a joint Birmingham/Solihull Operation around off road bikes and 2 warrants had been issued in the area and a vehicle seized – 2 drug warrants had recently been issued – Extra patrols had been in the area over Halloween/Bonfire night and despite concerns it had been a relatively peaceful time – Complaints had been received regarding anti-social behaviour from drinkers in Prices Square and this was being worked on with the BID, councillors, licensing and drug/alcohol projects – At the previous meeting there had been concerns raised regarding the grooming of young girls. There was a considerable amount of work taking place around gang activity but it was stressed that in relation to grooming the girls and men involved were known to each other. The girls concerned were being supported by police and social services and those at risk were being helped by professional bodies. Police were working with primary schools to help divert the activity and assist in making better choices. The Princes Trust was working with older young people and a programme was being worked on to target secondary school students who were already in gangs or those on the fringes. – Crime in the Northfield Ward had increased by 1.2% but was holding steady compared to last year and was favourable against other parts of the city. <p>Councillor Brew extended the thanks of the councillors and residents to Sergeant Lamerton and his Team for the work they were doing. In relation to the drinkers on Prices Square he said that the Northfield Stakeholders Group had invited some of the drinkers into the offices at Prices Square which had helped the situation.</p> <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Drugs were being openly smoked on Victoria Common and around the town centre – Drug dealers were operating in Robinsfield Drive – Garages on Alvechurch Road – garages on Alvechurch Road were rented from the housing department and garage No 20 Alvechurch Road was open and used by people taking drugs. The garage itself had syringes, foil, spoons etc in it and people were afraid to use their garages as they were being approached by those using no 20. – Security and safety measures required at West Heath Park following an attempted mugging at 6am <p>Sergeant Lamerton undertook to patrol those areas and deal with drug dealing but did not have the resources to deal with smokers. He had not had reports of issues in Robinsfield Drive but would investigate. He undertook to speak to the Place Manager regarding the garage in</p>	<p>Issue around garages at Alvechurch Road to be referred to Ruth Bowles and Sergeant Lamerton</p>
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	<p>Alvechurch Road and ensure it was secured and would patrol the area. He asked that the other resident involved be encouraged to speak to him</p>	<p>to take up with housing.</p>
6.	<p><u>Update on Northfield Pool & Fitness Centre</u></p> <p>Paul Walls gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Birmingham Community Leisure Trust would operate the Centre working with the city council – Details of the programme on offer had to be finalized but would include children's play schemes, parties etc – The old pool legacy had been recognized in the new building and would include historic photographs, collages and the cornerstones of the original building. The weather vane from the old building could not be re-instated but it was safe and there would be discussions with the councillors about where it could go. Any suggestions would be welcomed. The coat of arms had been kept as a plaque. – The centre was due to open on 9 May 2018 but the project was currently ahead of schedule – School swimming was scheduled in the programme but would start in September at the start of the new school term – Parking spaces on the new site matched those for the old pool and a parking plan to control parking would be in place. <p>The Chair thanked Paul for keeping councillors up to date with the construction. Thanks were also extended on behalf of the Great Stone Road Residents Association in relation to solving parking issues in relation to the workforce.</p> <p>A local resident expressed grave concern at the lack of a sauna at the new leisure centre as there had been a promise made that the facilities would not be down-graded. Many people with health issue and disabilities relied on the sauna for health benefits and were paying a full membership fee to include all facilities. Paul Walls said that there would be disabled changing facilities and state of the art access to the pool. The site had not been large enough to accommodate a sauna as it could not be included in the former position as this would not be allowed by planning. The decision was made after consultation where the main priority had been parking. The Chair undertook to raise this with the Director of Public Health.</p>	<p>Chair to raise disabled facilities/access to facilities with Director of Public Health</p>
7.	<p><u>Update on West Heath Library</u></p> <p>Liz Parkes outlined the new arrangements for community libraries agreed last year and that Northfield & Weoley were tier 1 libraries, open 35 hours per week, Frankley was a tier 2 library and West Heath designated a tier 3 library staffed for 15 hours per week. The preferred option for West Heath Library was to re-locate the service to Oddingley Hall. A community asset transfer was being sought for Oddingley Hall and 2 expressions of interest had been submitted and were currently being appraised.</p> <p>The Chair made reference to the funding originally allocated for a new</p>	

	<p>library in West Heath that had been ring fenced and was concerned regarding the proposed location of the new library having heard about issues in West Heath Park. She asked that the councilors be kept up to date with the situation as it progressed.</p> <p>In response to questions the meeting was advised that the outcome of the CAT was awaited and that there had been no expression of interest when originally sought and this had slowed the process.</p> <p>Residents said that they did not believe Oddingley Hall to be the best location. The meeting was advised that there had been excellent feedback from the consultation via Be Heard and that library staff had visited residents groups etc and assisted in completing the consultation forms.</p> <p>The Chair said that the drawings of the library had not been clear and asked if alternative plans could be made available so that it could be seen where the library service would fit into the building. Liz Parkes confirmed that no firm decision on layout etc had been made and she undertook to take those comments back.</p> <p>Councillor O'Reilly queried an opening date. He made reference to the efforts made by residents to keep a service in the West Heath area. A local resident said that Oddingley Hall was too far for some residents to travel, especially on foot and there was concern about walking across the park. Many users were elderly and had been regular users of the library.</p> <p>Councillor Brew said that the community had fought for a library for West Heath and he would continue as there was still funding available for the service and he did not believe that Oddingley Hall was the best venue</p> <p>Liz Parkes was unable to provide an opening date but undertook to email details to the councilors when available.</p>	
8.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund</u></p> <p>The following presentation was made in respect of applications for Local Innovation Fund funding; <u>St Laurence Hub</u> Canon Janet Chapman outlined the idea for a hub at the pastoral centre. The idea had begun with the 'stay and play' group but there were numerous groups that used the centre and facilities that were available. Volunteering opportunities would be created and help on re-branding the venture. Councillor Brew declared a non-pecuniary interest as the honorary treasurer for St Laurence Church</p>	
9.	<p><u>Issues of Concern</u></p> <p>a) <u>Great Stone Road Traffic Situation</u> On behalf of Great Stone Road residents Association the meeting that in 2010 following a traffic count 12,890 cars had used the road at an average speed of 35mph. Since then the numbers of cars on the road had increased and more SUV type vehicles reduced the width, therefore a 20mph limit with traffic calming and possible one way system was requested. It was pointed out that this was a residential road that was now carrying traffic from Frankley and other new developments. The Chair said that following the previous meeting she</p>	

	<p>had contacted the District Engineer and had been advised that Great Stone Road was not a strategic road. Councillor Brew said that a full report would be requested from the District Engineer for the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Bus Changes</u> Concern was expressed regarding the proposed reduction of services, re-routing and removal of bus stops. In particular there was objection to the removal of the bus stop from outside the Grosvenor Centre. Councillor Brew suggested that the bus rationalisation issue be included on the agenda for the next meeting and in the meantime the Chair would write requesting that the Grosvenor Centre bus stop be re-instated as a matter of urgency.</p>	Next meeting
10.	<p><u>Items for Future Agendas</u></p> <p>a) Bus Rationalisation b) Bournville College</p>	
11.	<p><u>Dates of Future Meetings</u></p> <p>All at 7pm at Hampstead House;</p> <p>15 January 2018 19 March 2018</p>	Agreed
12.	<p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p>	Agreed

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm