

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 22 SEPTEMBER 2016
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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 2016 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Mohammed Idrees, Ansar Ali Khan, Mariam Khan, Majid Mahmood, Shafique Shah and Fiona Williams.

ALSO PRESENT:-

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Chris Robinson	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Amelia Murray	- Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Manager
Andy Smith	- Station Commander – Ward End Fire Station
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

319 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

320 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Shah for lateness and from Councillors Aikhlaq, Donaldson and Ward for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

321 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2016, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Re-scheduling of Hodge Hill District Meetings from Day time to Evening

- 322 In response to Councillor Mahmood's request that consideration be given to Hodge Hill District Meetings being held in the evenings rather than afternoons, the Chair agreed to explore the viability with members and officers.

Castle Bromwich Hall and Gardens

- 323 Councillor Cotton confirmed that following an invitation he visited the above mentioned location. He stated that it was an asset for the district and this year in his role as a trustee, he would be looking to broker closer links between the district and the gardens in order that the facility could be used in a more effective way for the people of the district.

Bordesley Birmingham Trust

- 324 It was reported that the above trust was no longer operational and therefore the Chair would not be expected to attend any meetings.

CTC Kingshurst Academy

- 325 As there had been no response from the above, Mike Davis suggested that further communication be forwarded advising that Councillor Mariam Khan was the City Council Representative that had been appointed to serve on the above-mentioned organisation.

Section 33 Training

- 326 In response to concern raised by Councillor Idrees that both he and Councillor Donaldson had not received the necessary training, Mike Davis agreed to contact the appropriate officers that dealt with the training.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 327 There were no declarations of interest.
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EAST LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Amelia Murray, Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership Manager submitted an apology on behalf of Superintendent Brandon Langley who had recently replaced Superintendent Bas Javid.

She confirmed that the local delivery group was now referred to as the local community safety partnership which reflected more of the type of work that was undertaken. She referred to the delivery plan which was funded through the Birmingham Community safety partnership which in turn received its funding through the Police and Crime Commissioner. She confirmed that funding allocation for this

year was £60,000 of which £25,000 were for small grants projects, which were projects delivered by the community or voluntary organisations.

Amelia Murray detailed a number of priorities that the plan focused on which were in addition to any city wide plans that existed. One of the aims of the plan was to bridge the gap between the strategic priorities and local priorities. Reference was made over the last 12 months to the good working relationship that had built up with Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust and the anticipation in moving forward in this area.

She referred to the small grants programme that had been available last year where £55,000 had been allocated in total. As a result of the funding, 38 proposals of which 14 were approved whereupon 10 proposals had been submitted from Hodge Hill District. She subsequently detailed a number of projects that had taken place in the district which included primary school workshops in Starbank Primary School, activities at Bromford Amateur Boxing Club and a Christmas community event in Shard End Ward, adding that she was happy to share additional information regarding the projects if members so wished.

She confirmed that the deadline for applications and proposals for the small grants programme for this year was yesterday and that the panel would be making decisions shortly regarding the applications which would be communicated to members within the next few weeks.

She reported on the Safer Communities Group and the work relating to anti-social behaviour and the fact that it supported partnership working with partners of which included the police and housing officers from Birmingham providers. She referred to the re-organisation of the group and as a result of this a number of cases were being turned over much more effectively. She highlighted that the most common features of the cases being brought to the meeting were mental health groups congregating in street buildings and neighbourhood disputes followed by alcohol and drug crimes, which was where they were looking to use civil intervention to support prosecutions around crimes and vulnerable adults which could encompass quite a wide variety of issues.

She reported on the work that had taken place with mental health sector where there had been the establishment of a mental health and housing partnership which was about how the 2 sectors could work more closely together, and the one work stream that she would be looking at was the learning and training that each sector needs to take on the other sector in order to understand how best each other could be used. She referred to the training that would be taking place on 17 October 2016 and highlighted that members were welcome to attend.

She referred to the other activities that had taken place in June which included the off road bike summit due to the complaints across the east side of city relating to off road anti-social behaviour where there had been increased focus on enforcement by the police and city council.

Following the update in response to comments from members, Amelia agreed to circulate a copy of the information requested which would include a list of the funding streams.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan stressed that the funding element was important as members wanted to maximise the benefit for the residents of Hodge Hill District and that they needed to explore other areas of funding for the district.

He reported that each ward would receive funding of £48,000 from the Innovation Fund and that the centre would be keeping £80,000. This would support the management with one of the purposes being that there would be someone that specialised in bid writing in order to assist organisations at a local level to generate funding.

Amelia reiterated that £25,000 would be allocated for small grants with the maximum grant of up to £5,000 being awarded. She added that the £35,000 remaining, would be used to deliver against intervention in the main delivery plan confirming that she would be happy to share with members all of the associated information as well as the proposals for the small grants. She further added that one of the areas they were looking to do as a small grants panel, as they were conscious the police had an Active Citizens Fund, was to ensure that bids were not being duplicated and therefore explore whether bids could be potentially signposted to more relevant funds so that even if bids were rejected, they could be signposted accordingly.

At this juncture she agreed to obtain funding information relating to the Active Citizens Fund.

Amelia confirmed that organisations that had received funding last year could re-apply this year. She stated that all projects that received funding were required as a condition to report back and last year members of the partnership made appropriate visits. She added that the scrutiny system was undertaken in proportion to the amount of funding received. She further added that as they were aware of the Active Citizens Fund, they were in contact with the police regarding this area of funding to ensure that there was no duplicate bidding taking place. She stated that her awareness of other funding streams within the city had somewhat improved quite significantly over the last couple of months, and was therefore trying to incorporate as much of that learning in the panel so that they could signpost the bids that did not meet the criteria. She reported that there was a grants matrix set at city level which she was happy to share with members.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Amelia Murray for updating the committee.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

328

RESOLVED:-

That the update and comments be noted.

PETITIONS

Proposed Closure of Doctors Surgery at Warstone Tower, Bromford, B36 8TY

Councillor Majid Mahmood presented the above-mentioned petition on behalf of the residents of the Firs and Bromford neighbourhoods:-

(See document No. 1)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

329

RESOLVED:-

That the petition be forwarded to the Director of Primary Care and Integration for consideration.

**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 1
2016/17 & HODGE HILL DISTRICT NARRATIVE**

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Chris Robinson, Acting Senior Housing Manager gave an overview of the report and the narrative and as a result of comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Concern was raised from members with regard to the lack of information within the report relating to the district performance figures and that without the necessary information, it made it difficult for the committee to hold contractors to account.

Chris Robinson anticipated that the information would be available for the next quarter and that he would request an explanation as to why they had not been available for this meeting. He agreed to circulate to members the 'right to buy' performance figures' and provide an explanation relating to the gas servicing poor performance.

He referred to the recent injunction that had been obtained in Shard End Ward whereby a resident had persistently failed to maintain his garden and if this behaviour continued it could result in imprisonment.

He referred to the Environmental Budget and suggested that members from Bordesley Green and Washwood Heath Wards should submit their proposals as soon as possible.

Chris Robinson explained how estates were rated which included inspections carried out by officers together with Housing Liaison Board members and discussions with residents. He detailed the various areas that they looked at which included cleanliness, state of repair adding that they tried to adhere to the same criteria. He suggested that it would be of benefit to include more residents and councillors within the process.

Councillor Mariam Khan suggested that as printing the graphs in colour could be expensive than look to changing the format of the graphs which Chris agreed to feed back to the department.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Chris for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

330

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

Councillor Idrees declared an interest as he sat on the panel of the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority.

Andy Smith, Station Commander, West Midlands Fire Service provided an update. He reported that in spite of challenging times in terms of funding and subsequent changes, the fire service had maintained fire cover with the blended fleet of 41 traditional fire engines and 19 brigade response vehicles (smaller for agile 4x4 vehicles) and 3 business support vehicles staffed by fire safety specialist who were able to provide advice and guidance to businesses.

He confirmed that Hodge Hill was served by 2 traditional and 2 brigade response vehicles based at Ward End and Sheldon Fire Stations. In addition there was also specialist fire safety officers based within the district at Ward End providing additional support to the local business community. It was noted that a recent event during Business Safety Week focussed on supporting businesses on Washwood Heath Road and future events would be taking elsewhere in the district.

He referred to the 5 minute response time which was so important in terms of survivability and economic sustainability and highlighted that the fleet they had allowed them to achieve that and in Hodge Hill last year the response time was 4 minutes 53 seconds, adding that the latest figures for the WMFS as a whole indicated that average attendance time was down by 4 minutes 40 seconds.

He referred to the service carrying out home safety checks with a move to the safe and well visits. He stated that the checks were not just about fire safety, although that was still an important part in that they continued to fit smoke alarms as well as provide other resources such as hearing impaired alarms, fire retardant bedding, letter box protectors etc when required. The visits also include a range of areas around general safety, health and wellbeing. Firefighters were able to provide advice, or where appropriate, refer on to other agencies for additional support, highlighting that a starting point, would be one of the fire service's vulnerable person's officers.

He confirmed that 1,564 properties in the district were visited last year, many of which were homes to some of the most vulnerable members of the community. He

stated that they were working closely with partners such as BCC Housing Officers, Social Landlords, Adult Social Care to ensure that referrals were made to allow more visits to be carried out with the focus being on targeting the most vulnerable.

He stated that in terms of performance within the district, arson continued to be the biggest challenge, in particular arson vehicle, arson rubbish and arson derelict buildings. Last year there were 79 vehicle fires, 149 rubbish fires and 8 derelict building fires which were all arson related. The service was continuing to work closely with the police and various council departments and this year aimed to improve the reporting and feedback process on abandoned vehicles, fly tipping and void properties. He added that the firefighters would continue to support local events which included litter picking and rubbish collection.

In response to members' comments and questions, Andy Smith confirmed that the home visits were based on vulnerability and statistical figures and from partner referrals with regard to the most vulnerable to fire. He stated that partners identified those at risk which were fed into the service. The service when making visits would then give them a vulnerability score. He stated that the target last year was 5 and for the district it was 6.86 and for the city 6.84 which resulted in the district scoring slightly higher overall.

In response to Councillor Majid Mahmood's request for wording on leaflets relating to timing of fireworks, Andy Smith agreed to speak to officers. He referred to abandoned cars and confirmed that when they were aware of them, they would report them to the city council. He added that they did not receive any information directly when travellers were on site unless there was an issue. He further added that when buildings had progressed from the emergency phase, the service reported back to the local authority to ensure that it was made safe.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Andy Smith for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

331

RESOLVED:-

That the update and comments be noted.

HODGE HILL DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE UPDATE – 2015/16

The following Hodge Hill District Neighbourhood Challenge Report – 2015/16 – Theme: "Youth Unemployment" was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Mike Davis, Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head whilst providing an overview of the report highlighted the 12 recommendations detailed in pages 91 and 92 of the report.

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Following comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Councillor John Cotton referred to recommendation 4 and confirmed that he was happy to make those connections between International School and Birmingham City University highlighting that it was essential that the opportunities were taken up given the positivity of further education and highlighted that members needed to do everything they could to make those connections. He referred to a large number of students within the ward attending schools over the border and whether this information was reflected in the information held by the university.

Mike Davis confirmed that their data was post code driven and it was the information based on the residents from Shard End Ward which had been recorded.

In response to comments from Councillor Majid Mahmood, Mike Davis agreed to provide more information on the public transport opportunities for people trying to access interviews or when they had accepted jobs, and had limited funds, they could be offered free public transport for the first 4 weeks of employment. He referred to the timescales within the recommendations and stated that they related to more of an update than fully completed actions.

Councillor Majid Mahmood reported that in his capacity as the Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Efficiency the responsibility within his remit was ensuring that contractors with the City Council signed up to the Birmingham Business Charter of Social Responsibility. He confirmed that one of the priorities was to ensure that there were adequate apprenticeship places available in all publicly awarded contracts. He added that one of the items he was looking into was to see whether the apprenticeships could be ring-fenced to young people from within deprived areas and as the district was one of the most deprived within the city, it would be of benefit. He further added, that he had sent an e-mail to all elected members requesting for some feedback on the business charter and for their support in mentioning that they would like the inclusion of an apprenticeship type of levy within public awarded contracts.

In response to the above, Mike Davis confirmed that it would be useful to see the outcome of the above-mentioned work.

Councillor Majid Mahmood confirmed that he had had a meeting with Councillor Brett O'Reilly, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills and with Shilpi Akbar, Assistant Director of Employment who was assisting with the report, together with the employment team and procurement officers, on how the gap could be bridged effectively between organisations who had got the capacity to offer apprenticeships, and the city council education establishments, which could include job centres together with the different schools in post 16 establishments within the district. He believed that information relating to this work would be forwarded to Mike Davis as the district officer.

Councillor Mariam Khan thanked Mike Davis for the work he had undertaken in producing the report and subsequently highlighted that although there was a list of organisations that young people used, if members knew of any other organisations

and groups that they advise accordingly. She further highlighted that as the Job Centre Plus would like to work closer with local businesses and if any members had any business contacts that were looking to build relationships with the local JCP, to advise them accordingly.

In response to requests from Councillor Marje Bridle, Mike Davis agreed to contact Jane Newman to provide an update on the BCC employment team. He highlighted that they were not responsible for the local action plan although they did help produce the 10 jobs and skills plans for the districts. He added that for the time being, the district needed a discreet neighbourhood challenge document which was a key piece of work for the district that needed to be kept separate for now, however, there would come a point perhaps next year, when it was brought back again and where it could fit into the larger jobs and skills plan. He added that at this point in time, he was working locally with partners and confirmed that he would add all of the place managers on the distribution list for the jobs and skills meetings.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan thanked Mike Davis and Councillor Mariam Khan for their excellent work highlighting that there were some good recommendations pertaining to the neighbourhood challenge. He referred to the reason why youth unemployment had been chosen due to the number of young people living in Hodge Hill District, and subsequently highlighted the importance of staying on top of the recommendations. He further referred to the successful convention whereby there had been some good offers of employment and apprenticeships from employers, adding that the district needed to work with local job centres and employers to ensure the young people that lived in Hodge Hill District received their fair share of opportunities.

Councillor Fiona Williams suggested that as a city council there should be in place a very robust monitoring of organisations that offered apprenticeship schemes, as in some cases there was a very high turnover which was not at all beneficial to people serving apprenticeships.

At this juncture the Chairman agreed to circulate dates and times to elected members to arrange a meeting in order to discuss the new neighbourhood challenge.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mike Davis for reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

332

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2016/17

The draft Hodge Hill District Community Plan 2016/17 was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Mike Davis whilst providing an overview of the plan highlighted the amendments that had been made.

In response to the above, Councillor Majid Mahmood highlighted that 'Ward Committees' were now known as 'Ward Forums' in accordance with the Constitution. He referred to £184M allocated to Midland Metro with the proposal that it travels through east of Birmingham and although directly not in the district, would travel on the outskirts whereupon he detailed the benefits that this would provide. He further referred to £83m bid to tackle the Bromford Gyratory which again would improve the connectivity for the residents of Hodge Hill district and believed that these should be reflected within the plan.

He concluded by stating that a report was due to be submitted to Cabinet next month for the proposal to build 200 new homes in the Bromford area on green land, and they were looking to obtain some funding from the Environmental Agency, and other agencies, in order to create a flood defence system as currently Bromford was on a flood plain. He added that when the work was carried out, this could increase the value of property in the area and also allow more property development to take place.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

333

RESOLVED:-

That the Hodge Hill District Community Plan 2016/17 be agreed.

UPDATE ON WARD END PARK POOL

The following briefing note was tabled at the meeting:-

(See document No. 5)

Mike Davis reported that Mike Hinton was unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan expressed deep disappointment that Mike Hinton was not in attendance at the meeting. He highlighted that the park had been neglected and especially the pool which was in a very poor state and that the work required in the park should be prioritised.

Councillor Mariam Khan referred to the information where it stated that they would have to seek further capital funds to undertake the work which she stated was not acceptable especially when works had been carried out on various parks across the city.

Councillor Majid Mahmood confirmed that Mike Hinton and Robin Bryan did undertake a site visit with elected members which had been livestreamed for the benefit of residents due to the vast amount of concern that had been raised by both members and residents. He further confirmed that everything that had been promised by the department had been delivered, which included new machinery for the pool to improve the quality of the water.

The Committee was of the opinion that once the budget was available all elected members would expect to see some meaningful work carried out in the park and would do their best to ensure that this took place.

Mike Davis concluded by stating that it was good to acknowledge that there had been some positive action taken and improvements made since the last meeting although there was still some considerable work to be undertaken.

At this juncture, the Chair requested that Mike Hinton be invited to the next Hodge Hill District Meeting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

334 **RESOLVED:-**

That Mike Hinton be invited to the next Hodge Hill District Meeting to report on the park.

UPDATE FROM EACH WARD WITHIN HODGE HILL DISTRICT

Bordesley Green Ward

- 335 Councillor Shafique Shah highlighted that although the refuse crews were working extremely well there had been a noticeable increase in fly-tipping within the ward.

Hodge Hill Ward

- 336 Councillor Majid Mahmood confirmed that the attendance at the ward forum meetings was extremely high and one of the main issues that had been raised was congestion around schools. He referred to the way in which they were looking to reduce the congestion which involved the school, residents and elected members in tackling this issue.

He referred to Twycross Grove and the involvement of police, local residents and Amey in tackling various issues relating to fly-tipping and graffiti.

He referred to Tesco Supermarket, Fox and Goose, reducing their hours of opening which was now 6 am to midnight every day and restricted hours on Sundays and although they had reduced their opening hours, there had been no job losses.

He referred Dreghorn Road and the amount of work that had been undertaken by housing officers relating to anti-social behaviour and graffiti.

He referred to the Summer Reading Challenge and that 100 children across the district and from other areas had taken part in the challenge and that it was good to see that the library did not just serve people from the district but also from other areas of the city. He referred to the Summer Reading Challenge Award ceremony that would be taking place on Monday 26 September 2016 at the library and that all members were invited.

At this juncture, Councillor Majid Mahmood declared an interest as he was a school governor for Hodge Hill College.

He highlighted that Hodge Hill College had been rated by Ofsted as a 'good' and subsequently congratulated the Chair and teachers on their success.

He referred to the cycle path proposed on Warren Road and Common Lane and confirmed that it would not be going ahead.

He highlighted that Amey were proposing to change the surface of the pavements from slabs to tarmac on a number of roads whereby elected members would be looking to see whether the proposal was viable in the various areas.

He detailed the number of roads that had been re-surfaced and the number of roads that had had new street lighting in Bromford and Ward End areas. He referred to the money used from the environmental spend and other funding that had been used to replace housing street assets and convert them to Amey street assets due to the fact that they were much more cost effective, efficient and residents preferred them.

He referred to the proposed closure of the surgery on the lower part of Bromford and the meeting that was taking place this evening in order to discuss options and the way forward.

He highlighted that fly-tipping was an issue however there were a great deal of pro-active residents from the Housing Liaison Board that continuously update elected members with the 'grot spots'.

Shard End Ward

- 337 Councillor Marje Bridle confirmed that there was a great deal of work taking place with the residents groups across the ward in addressing a whole range of issues which included quad bikes and travellers.

Washwood Heath Ward

- 338 Councillor Mohammed Idrees reported that they were in the process of setting up a Washwood Heath Strategic Partnership which would comprise of elected members, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Amey, local schools, local resident groups and other major stakeholders. He further reported that he anticipated that the partnership would be very useful in tackling all major issues and that they would be looking to meet every 5 or 6 weeks.

He referred to the meeting that he had had with Lucy O'Grady, Amey regarding street lighting, blocked gullies and carriage surface repairs and that she would be bringing back next month, a comprehensive report to the ward forum meeting, regarding the actions that would be taken in tackling these issues.

He highlighted that fly-tipping was still a major issue within the ward and although a great deal have been done more work needed to be done in tackling the issue head on.

He confirmed that they were lucky to have 3 parks in Washwood Heath which are used by local residents and also neighbouring wards. He stated that last month there had been a large event at Ward End Park which had attracted over 15,000 visitors comprising of people from Birmingham as well as from other cities. He added that the event had become a regular cultural event.

He referred to the major issues regarding the lack of good quality housing in Washwood Heath Ward and alluded to the 2 major sites where housing developments should have taken place by now. He added that whilst the sites remained undeveloped this attracted fly-tipping.

He referred to the challenging issue relating to school places and although a number of schools in the ward had been extended, there was still a huge demand for additional spaces whereby members were committed to tackling this issue.

He referred to the petition submitted to city council regarding a local bakery and parking restrictions and the fact that they would not be imposed as the petition had been successful in preventing this from taking place.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Fly-Tipping and Street Cleansing

- 339 Councillor Ansar Ali Khan reported that fly-tipping was a major issue across the city and although BCC had spent over a £1m to tackle the issue, Assistant Leaders had had a number of meetings with the department and what they had been told 2 days ago, that all members should submit their street clean plans as a starting point in tackling this issue.

In response to Councillor Shafique Shah's comment that it was more the rubbish being dumped than the streets being cleaned, Councillor Ansar Ali Khan stated that it was a combination of both. He added that there were 'grot spots' in most areas and if these were indicated to the department, they could monitor them more closely.

At this juncture, the Chairman requested that the Place Managers representing the wards be invited to the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 340 The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 November 2016 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 6, Council House.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

RESOLVED:-

- 341 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 16:15 hours.

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CHAIRMAN