

PERRY BARR WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Perry Barr	DATE: 23 October 2019
VENUE: Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
COUNCILLORS Jon Hunt & Morriam Jan	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 35
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology – Police Team

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Police Update

Councillor Jan advised the meeting that Sergeant Uddin had moved onto a new role and his replacement was due in post. She would be meeting with the new sergeant to discuss the need for a visible presence from the local team across the ward and would arrange for him to attend a meeting to meet residents so that views could be expressed.

Deborah Hey-Smith gave a brief overview of Street Watch, its purpose, how it worked, training and what was expected of volunteers. Perry Beeches Street Watch wanted to enrol 100 volunteers so that they could organise daily 'watches'. The existing Perry Beeches Street Watch had already assisted in uncovering a drugs ring, other crimes, had reported potholes and undertaken Speed Watches with the local PCSO's. Residents were requested to let the Street Watch/PCSO know of any roads where speeding was a particular problem so that a Speed Watch could be arranged. Details were provided on how residents could volunteer.

Community Day, St Johns Church, 31 October – event arranged by local PCSO's but disappointment expressed regarding the lack of communication with councillors and residents to publicise the event. Those in receipt of poster/details of the community day were asked to send out information to the local community to promote the event.

2. Draft Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Hunt circulated a summary sheet of headings in the Plan that showed the direction of where the Plan was headed. The main emphasis was on 'green' issues and creating a garden suburb. The ward had an abundance of green spaces, large gardens etc and the Plan would go towards maintaining that by creating a garden suburb for the benefit of residents and to prevent flooding. Councillor Hunt said he would be meeting with officers to determine the timetable for the Plan and would be circulating details of consultation events to find views on the Neighbourhood Plan but also the next step of 'local governance' which was consideration of a parish council for the 3B's area.

Residents made the following comments;

- Whilst welcoming new houses proposed for the Baltimore Road industrial estate concern expressed regarding the lack of primary schooling provision.
- The redevelopment of the area should include facilities that could be easily accessed without the need for a car journey in line with the council's policies on clean air and the CAZ.

Councillor Hunt advised that there was no primary school proposed for the Athletes Village site but acknowledged that there needed to be a school in walking distance of the village for environmental reasons and so that places were available where people needed them rather than having to travel to schools that were not 'local'. Consideration had been given to this issue at the City Council meeting so he would continue to pursue.

Residents were asked to spread the word regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, consultation events and a request for volunteers.

3. Latest on the Flyover

Councillor Jan updated the meeting on the decision made at Cabinet to demolish the flyover. This decision had been 'called-in' and there was a meeting of the Sustainability & Transport O&S Committee on Friday to consider this.

Councillor Hunt added that the O&S Committee had the power to refer the original decision back to Cabinet. However the decision had still been made before debate by City Council on 5 November and before the petition had been considered by full council which was a matter being looked into and a number of parties had expressed an interest in pursuing a judicial review.

In response to questions Councillor Hunt advised that Highways England was not satisfied with the council's traffic assessment and had advised that a model for the entire A34 was required although this had not yet been done.

With regard to the statistics in relation to air quality, travel time, bus journeys etc following demolition of the flyover these now appeared to show no meaningful improvement.

Residents then made the following observations;

- The original artists impressions showed Gailey island as a green space but this had now changed with the approval for a high rise block of flats on the site
- Access to One-Stop was queried
- The regeneration of the area did not provide for any new jobs in the locality.

4. Response to Sprint Bus Proposals

In response to the latest proposals residents made the following comments/suggestions;

- The 3B's Planning Forum had sent a response to TfWM in respect of tree removal, parking spaces & traffic calming
- Businesses on the south side of the A34 near to Church Road including the Post Office were extremely concerned regarding the loss of parking along the road and the effect it would have on their business
- In previous years the pelican crossings along the Walsall Road had been moved closer together following a spate of traffic accidents resulting in fatalities and serious injury so that pedestrians had 2 lanes of traffic to cross rather than 3. The timing on the pedestrian lights could not provide enough time to cross the road safely especially given the speed of some vehicles travelling along the road. Drivers did not always stop for a red light which also lessened the amount of time available to cross the road. The new proposals created more 3 lane road, eg by The Tennis Court pub where the service road was being removed and therefore there was extreme concern that the number of accidents would once again increase. It was noted that after the crossings were moved to where there were 2 lanes of traffic there had been no serious/fatal accidents. This had been mentioned to TfWM during the consultation events
- The Sprint bus vehicle was a danger to passengers in view of the number that would have to stand during their journey as seating on board was limited. This could also act as a deterrent to use.
- The infra structure around the A34 and how a fully integrated public transport system would work for all including those not

wanting a direct route from Walsall to the City Centre should be the main area of consideration.

- It was acknowledged that long term solutions were needed to traffic issues around Birmingham and that the car population could not continue to grow as it was but an integrated system across the city was the answer and not changes to areas in isolation.
- The cycle lanes along the A34 were being moved which was a retro-grade step

In response to further questions Councillor Hunt advised that National Express had expressed serious concerns regarding the effect on the number 51 bus service and its future delivery.

The ward meeting agreed that the following response to the changes to the proposals for the Sprint Bus along the A34 be forwarded to TfWM;

- 1. There would be 26 trees removed from along the Walsall Road and in line with policy on tree replacement (2 trees replaced for every one removed) the new trees must be planted along the length of the Walsall Road and not elsewhere across the city. This was also in line with the 'green games' philosophy and the greening agenda of the 3B's Neighbourhood Plan.**
- 2. The new parking spaces created along the A34 must be SUDS compliant to accommodate run-off and more sustainable drainage introduced as the present system could not cope.**
- 3. Further traffic calming measures need to be installed along the A34, this to include average speed cameras**
- 4. Pelican crossings on three lanes of traffic were too dangerous for pedestrians to cross (crossings previously moved to where there were 2 lanes of traffic due to number of accidents on 3 lane crossings) especially as excessive speed could not be factored into traffic light timings therefore reconsideration needed as to positioning of crossings.**
- 5. Cycle lanes to be retained**
- 6. Re-think of situation affecting parking outside businesses on corner of Church Road**

5. **Residents Issues**

a) Alexander Stadium Planning Application – there were a number of concerns regarding the application however **one of the main issues was the extent of the use of the stadium by Birmingham University and the likely negative impact this would have on community use.**

There was also concern regarding the future of the green space behind Perry Park Crescent that was intended as a practice pitch during the CWG and a guarantee sought that the green space would be retained for community use after the Games.

b) Rocky Lane Shops, use for car repairs – resident referred to the issue raised at the previous meeting and Councillor Jan advised she had reported the matter and Amey had been on site to deal with the oil on the pavement and planning were looking into the use of the premises. It was suggested that if possible photographs of the cars and rubbish etc be forwarded to the councillors to assist with the investigations. Councillor Jan undertook to continue to pursue the matter.

c) Rubbish, front garden Rocky Lane – Councillor Jan to take up.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):