

Summary notes , residents issues and actions

Ward: Handsworth Wood

Date of meeting: 16th February 2017

Meeting overview

Present: Councillor Atwal

Officers: PC Cash Local Police Team –Handsworth

Neil De Costa – District Lead for Perry Barr District

Alan Woodcock – Highways Engineer

Lesley Bannister – Community Governance Manager

There were approx. 30 residents in attendance.

Apologies: Councillor Hamilton, Councillor Kooner and Pat Whyte Community Support and Development Officer

Local Innovation Fund Officers update by Neil De Costa

Neil gave out a summary note and gave an overview on the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) criteria, procedure and process in the absence of Pat Whyte, the Community Support and Development Officer, who was covering another meeting and had sent her apologies .

The new LIF, he explained, had two sets of criteria which must be met:

1. Based on the City's Core Priorities : Children ,Job &Skills, Housing and Health
2. LIF specific priorities - Citizens' Independence & Well-being, New approach to Investment, Active Citizenship, Clean streets and Improvement to local areas.

Neil went onto explain that this fund was **not Community Chest** it therefore could not be used for the following:

1. One off equipment purchases e.g. Hanging basket ,CCTV

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2. One off events
3. On-going cost
4. Contracted staff
5. Commissioning Reports
6. Monies to replace lost revenue budgets or core funding

Neil advised the interested groups at the meeting to read all the documentation on the Birmingham City Council Website
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20057/about_birmingham/1044/local_innovation_fund.

The residents sought clarification on the timescale, stakeholders and partnerships, Neil stated that:

1. A timescale could be set for the application process by ward councillors if they so wish, some other wards across the city had done this.
2. The local innovation fund must to be spent by 31st March 2018.
3. Neil also advised that a meeting for the sole purpose of LIF would be advisable for Councillors, residents, stakeholders and partners to discuss identify and set Ward priorities.

Councillor Atwal and the residents agreed with this proposal. Councillor Atwal said that he would consult with his colleagues to agree a date for a LIF meeting .The residents asked for information and that this is emailed to them, which was agreed. All interested parties were asked to leave their the email addresses for this purpose.

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Petition Response -Neil De Costa

At the Ward meeting 19th January 2017 residents presented a petition that requested Bi-Monthly Ward Meetings are held in Handsworth Wood Ward the Petition was signed by 50 people from the Ward.

Neil updated that there is no requirement for wards to have bi-monthly meetings within the Council's Constitution (January 2017) however ward councillors have agreed that future meetings will be agreed and that the dates of the meetings for the new municipal year will be advertised in advance, once the meeting calendar for the new municipal year has been agreed.

A full written response was handed out to the residents.

Residents Issues

1. **WASPI** – A presentation was given to the meeting by a resident Bridget Green from Women Against State Pension Increases .- Councillor Atwal stated after the presentation that he would support any motion that was brought to full council .
2. **Grestone Ave** – The residents spoke to the meeting about their concerns and worries around traffic safety they were particularly worried about the amounts of speeding cars , dangerous driving and inconsiderate parking by the local school. Ward Councillors had recently submitted a Petition on behalf of the resident of Grestone Ave to Full Council and more signatures to the petition were submitted during the meeting .The residents voiced all their concerns to the Councillors and the District Engineer. The District Engineer said that he had reviewed the accident statistics and said that unfortunately other areas in the city had competing priorities. Speed cushioning were being looked at however this was an expensive option there currently is not any local ward money to fund this .Alan Woodcock added that the roll out of the 20 mile per hour zones would help in changing the mind set of drivers however he didn't know when that was being introduced in this Ward. **Actions to find out when 20 mile per zones coming to the Ward and the Police to talk to residents about a speed watch campaign.**
3. **Handsworth Wood Girls School parking** – Residents complained about inconsiderate parking by parents dropping children off at the School, these complaints included the blocking of drive ways, pavements and knocking down residents garden walls. Residents asked for no parking bollards to be considered. Alan Woodcock took the details to investigate further.
4. **Oxford Road /Friary Road Traffic Light sequence** –Alan Woodcock to refer to Amey

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5. **Crime** – Residents reported a high number of burglary related crime in the Hamstead Hill area of the Ward they were concerned nothing was been done .Neil De Costa asked the Police if this could be treated as a crime hot spot because of the high frequency of incidents . The Police offered to look into this and visit residents.
6. **Street Cleaning** – Residents and the Residents Association raised the issue of fly tipping and litter in the area, the residents felt that the number of HMO had a bearing on this and that private landlords should be made accountable for the mess left by tenants. Neil De Costa suggested that the street scene co coordinator may be able to help with the current problems ,Neil also told residents about the National Spring Cleaning Weekend planned for March 4th /5th . **Action: Contact street scene co-ordinators**
7. **Friary road/Grestone Avenue** – Residents of Friary Road and Grestone Avenue reported that their wheelie bins are breaking they complained that the plastic is cracking and splitting .**Action to contact Nick Reid to investigate fault .**

The meeting concluded at 8.00pm

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NO.	Resident or Forum or Residents group Details	Concern/issue	Type of action to be taken (if any)	Officer or Member with responsibility
1`	Residents	Frequency of Ward meetings and the advertising of Ward meeting.	Ward councillors agreed that future meetings will be agreed and dates publicised for the new municipal year in advance.	Councillor Atwal
2	Resident	Local Innovation Fund process and meeting.	Dedicated meeting for LIF to be arranged	Councillor Atwal
3	Resident	Grestone Ave – Road safety concern in the road problems with speeding cars and inconsiderate parking	Alan Woodcock to enquiry when 20 mile per hour zone is being implemented.	Alan Woodcock

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4	Residents	Traffic light sequence at Oxford Road/ Friary Road junction causing problems	Alan Woodcock to refer to AMEY	Alan Woodcock
5	Resident	Crime levels in Hamstead Hill, a hot spot	Police to visit residents	Police
6	Residents and resident association	Fly tipping and littering.	Contact Street Scene Co-ordinator	Neil De Costa
7	Residents form Friary road,Grestone Avenue	Faulty Wheelie Bins	Contact Nick Reid to investigate	Neil De Costa