

	KINGS NORTON WARD FORUM MEETING	
	WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7PM AT ODDINGLEY HALL, ODDINGLEY ROAD	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Peter Griffiths (Chair) and Councillor Simon Jevon</p> <p>Liz Parkes, Library Manager PC Reynolds, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>There were 24 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Councillor Seabright	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
3.	<p><u>Police Update</u> P.C Reynolds gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Plain clothes operations were ongoing across the Hawkesley estate in response to burglaries – The Public Space Protection Order for The Fold had created a huge improvement and tickets had been issued to the main offenders – A drugs deal had been halted on the Hawkesley estate and warrants issued. – Motor bikes had been seized – Community speed watch on Redditch Road to tackle speeding – Work with WMFS around ASB and fireworks <p>Residents confirmed that the number of nuisance bikers had reduced and thanks were extended for action taken in respect of the property on Little Hill Grove raised at the last meeting.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding the spike in car crime around Rednal Road the meeting was advised it had reduced but patterns would be examined so that proactive work could be undertaken when capacity allowed.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Library Service Update</u> Liz Parkes explained the tiered library model adopted following last years consultation. A tier 3 service for West Heath using Oddingley Hall as the preferred location had been agreed. This would give 15 hours staffed support and an opportunity to expand</p>	

	<p>the service working with a partner. Oddingley Hall had been offered as a Community Asset Transfer and two submissions were currently being appraised. Following a successful CAT it was hoped to transfer the library service. In response to a query the meeting was advised that the funding for West Heath Library was still available.</p> <p>Kings Norton Library – the children’s space had been refurbished and the self-service kiosks installed. As a tier 1 library opening hours were Tuesday to Saturday 9am – 5pm and the under 5’s session was on Tuesday at 10.30am.</p> <p>In response to residents questions regarding the use of the library to complete universal credit forms the meeting was advised to speak to staff as they were aware of the issues and could over-ride the computer time limits and offer support. Staff had been recruited to help with universal credit enquiries and single appointments were being offered with staff who had been trained by DWP. Library staff could also sign post to other advice agencies.</p> <p>Reference made to the £2m cut to the library budget leaving fewer staff, shorter opening hours and libraries being converted into community hubs. A properly funded library service would cost £1.93m which was considerably less than the cost of the Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding the progress of the CAT for Oddingley Hall, Liz Parkes said that the applications were being appraised, the outcome was not yet known but a commitment to having a library at Oddingley Hall and support for groups already using the building had been part of the advert.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Fairway Day Centre/Re-Organisation of Adult Day Care Services</u></p> <p>The Chair said that Graeme Betts had been advised by Legal Services not to attend in view of the financial review taking place.</p> <p>The Chair read an email from a carer with a daughter who attended the Fairway Day Centre in support of the service and care provided.</p> <p>Residents expressed their concern that the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care had not properly addressed questions asked at City Council and had not responded to emails. There had been a lack of transparency and openness. The Chief Officer would not share information and it had been impossible to find minutes or notes of meetings where the decision had been taken. An email from Graeme Betts had stated that there would be further consultation but the decision would not be withdrawn and reviews would continue. Staff were under a redundancy notice and had started to leave which was a way of affecting the</p>	

	<p>service. The letter sent to users saying the centre was to close should be rescinded, reviews stopped and redundancy notices withdrawn until proper consultation had taken place.</p> <p>Reference was made to the poor way that those who had attended the City Council meeting had been treated.</p> <p>A local resident whose father used The Fairway said that no-one had discussed with her or her father the effect the closure would have. While she was aware of the funding pressures the council was under she was disappointed that capital funding had been cited as an issue as there were ways to deal with that and no proper investigation had been undertaken. The needs of the people using the centre now and in the future had not been taken into account. The population was getting older and if this facility was lost now it would have a lasting impact on future people in need and create greater problems and cost to all.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed that service users rather than their carers were receiving letters that they were not capable of dealing with and this was causing great distress. The day centre was a vital lifeline to service users and carers, there was no other centre that could accommodate the existing users who would not be able to travel to other parts of the city. The title of the centre as a young adults day centre was misleading as The Fairway catered for all ages and increasingly elderly people.</p> <p>Councillor Carole Griffiths & Councillor Andy Cartwright (Longbridge ward) confirmed that they were also supporting carers and service users in their campaign to retain the service.</p> <p>The Chair said that a proposal was to use community centres but he was aware that the buildings were not appropriate. He said this was a matter for people using the centre now and in the future. He had written to Mr Betts and had expected that he would attend the meeting and would write again, jointly with Councillor Jevon. He added that there was cross party support from councillors across the Northfield District for making The Fairway a resource centre for South Birmingham and he urged people to seek support from other groups who were interested in using the centre and to continue their campaign. Councillor Jevon suggested bringing a motion to a city council meeting. The Chair said he would write to the Chief Executive regarding the City Council meeting.</p> <p>The Chair undertook to invite Graeme Betts and the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care to the next meeting</p>	<p>Councillor Griffiths - Chair</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>
7.	<p><u>Chairs Update</u></p> <p>a) <u>Cadbury College</u> – residents were being invited to join the Board of Governors. Anyone interested to speak to the Chair at the conclusion of the meeting</p> <p>b) <u>Christmas Tree, The Green</u> – Lord Mayor to launch the permanent Christmas tree on 11 November at 1.30pm</p>	

	<p>c) <u>Primrose Hill site</u> – demolition of Swale Grove from 20 November. Show home now open in Teviott Grove. Planning application for the supermarket had not yet been submitted but was expected after Christmas. As there would be no petrol station a smaller site was now needed so notice had been given for 60 additional properties, 30 for social rent.</p> <p>d) <u>Arrow Walk</u> – refurbishment would take place using Section 106 money from Barretts Homes</p>	
8.	<p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>St Nicholas Place – Refurbishment work</u> A local resident referred to the work undertaken outside St Nicolas Place and that the parking bays, including 2 disabled bays had been re-done. However the disabled spaces had been placed together and one had the bricks around a tree adjacent therefore it was not possible to get a wheelchair out of a car so the spaces were not accessible. The bollards had been spaced wide enough apart so a car could drive through and park on the pavement and vehicles were now parking inconsiderately across the pavement. The Chair asked that the District Engineer be invited to the next meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Northfield Arts Forum</u> – NAF and Kings Norton Heritage Project were taking personal stories to create an interactive trail along the River Rea. Anyone interested to contact NAF.</p>	District Engineer to be invited to attend the next meeting
9.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Next meeting – provisionally 30 January.</p>	
10.	<p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p>	<p>Agreed The Chair agreed to consult cllr Jevon in the event of a decision needing to be taken</p>

Meeting ended 8.25pm