

ASTON WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Aston	DATE: 15 My 2019
VENUE: Witton Methodist Church, Wyrley Road B6 7BS	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.40pm
COUNCILLORS: Nagina Kauser & Muhammad Afzal	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tim Gibbons, Local Engineer Karl, West Midlands Fire Service, Aston Station Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Highway Issues – A34 Pedestrian Crossing

Tim Gibbons advised that at the request of the councillors he had reviewed the zebra crossing on the A34 (Six Ways) at Witton Road junction and the reported accidents in that location which had shown 3 slight injury accidents. He advised the crossing had been in position for some time but had been 'updated' with 'Slow' signs and road markings. It would be possible to remove the crossing however it was used and removal could create more accidents.

Residents commented;

- The crossing was dangerous as cars did not stop for pedestrians on the crossing or waiting to use.
- It was used and was necessary to cross the road safely but lights were needed to ensure drivers stopped
- The speed and volume of traffic was the issue and drivers not giving way to pedestrians
- Motorists were not aware of the crossing until almost upon it
- It needed to be upgraded to a pelican crossing to make it safer for pedestrians and motorists

Tim took on board the comments made and undertook to pass the request for the zebra crossing to be converted to a pelican crossing to

the central team. He pointed out that there were insufficient local funds for the project and it would therefore need to be considered as part of the road safety programme. Tim said that he would include comments from residents and would feedback the response from the central team through the councillors.

2. Update from West Midlands Fire Service on Aston Community Fire Station & Heritage Centre

The meeting was reminded that LIF funding had been provided to fund a museum & library within Aston Fire Station. The build had been delayed and was now due to complete mid-June. It was hoped to have the library and heritage centre finished by October. The finished building would allow use by the community and this was something that was to be encouraged. Images were shown to the meeting. Visits were being arranged for councillors on 4 June and community representatives would also be welcome.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that WMFS continually tried to engage with the local community but had little response. Leaflet drops in a variety of community languages advertising various events were undertaken but there was very little response. A local resident said that South Aston Church, Upper Sutton Street would welcome the Fire Service attendance at the church's open day.

3. Ward plan

Residents said that the main priority was fly tipping and a need to enforce against culprits. Yew Tree Road, Victoria Road, Charles Road and surrounding roads were highlighted. Missed collections added to the problem as additional rubbish got dumped where collections were not made. CCTV was needed and the council to act on evidence provided by residents. Freer, Arden & Hampton Roads had an ongoing issue of fly tipping and in particular around the trees. The rubbish dumping was continuing as no action was taken by the council. It was suggested that the re-introduction of environmental wardens would help to curb the problem and the income generated from prosecutions they were able to make could fund the posts. The alleyway to the rear of Amberley Grove was a dumping ground for furniture, cars, beds etc and the rubbish was falling into the canal. When the road was previously in the Perry Barr ward gates had been erected but there had been no recent action to help with this problem. The rubbish prevented residents accessing their garages. The figures for the number of prosecutions for rubbish dumping in Aston were requested for a future meeting so that they could be publicised to act as a deterrent. The reinstatement of bulky collections would also assist in keeping the ward cleaner and would be

cheaper than the repeat costs of collecting fly tipping. Residents suggested using Aston as a pilot area to see if these suggestions would help.

Residents questioned the future of Aston in terms of legacy from the Common Wealth Games and investment in the area.

Other priorities were;

Houses in Multiple Occupation - the rise in numbers in Aston & how to stop

Parking on pavements

Councillors advised residents to report to them instances of fly tipping so that they could action

4. **Other Issues**

- a) LIF Update – Councillor Kauser provided an update on the LIF projects that had received funding
- b) Police rest days – concern expressed that these were not staggered in line with other neighbouring teams
- c) Barry Jackson Tower – residents concerned that families had now moved in the block but there was still a considerable amount of work ongoing which was a Health & Safety issue for the residents. It was also disturbing neighbours – loud drilling on Easter Sunday & lorries arriving at 6.30am.
- d) Ruskin Hall site was attracting fly tipping & residents queried the plans for the site. Councillor Kauser undertook to find out.
- e) Amey contract – concern regarding further delays while new contractor was appointed.
- f) Bus routes – changes to routes and services being withdrawn without notice. The number 46 had been withdrawn and there had been no prior notice and details regarding other changes could not be found.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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