

SHARD END WARD MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 3 March 2020

VENUE: Moorfield Hall Community Centre, Hartshill Road, B34 6QX	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.55pm
COUNCILLOR Ian Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 15
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Manager Lydia Carter, Mel Coton and Dr Justin Varney, Public Health Services Mark Gamble – Development Manager, Inclusive Growth Section Natalie Swain – Neighbourhood Network Support Officer, Hodge Hill District Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<p>1. Notice of Recording Residents were advised that members of the press or public may record and take photographs of the meeting.</p> <p>2. Local updates</p> <p>i) Neighbourhood Policing Team – apologies were submitted on behalf of Sgt Wilson/Police Team and a briefing note was circulated at the meeting. Residents reminded to continue reporting concerns and incidents to the police to enable all incidents to be logged and actioned where appropriate.</p> <p>Youth Independent Advisory Group – had been launched in partnership with Yr pupils from Brownfield Academy, Claire Beattie, Moorfield Hall and PCSO Brotherhood from the local police team.</p> <p>Junior PCSO Schemes – Junior PCSOs from Lea Forest Academy had been fully trained and had carried out parking duties with PCSO Brotherhood outside the school. Discussions were also ongoing to promote the scheme and to get other local schools on-board.</p>	

- ii) **Neighbourhood Network Scheme** – Natalie Swain, Neighbourhood Network Support Officer briefly advised of the scheme, funded by the City Council’s Adult Services Section to provide help, support, advice and information for residents aged 50+. The scheme was also a signposting services to enable residents to access a wide range of services available in the ward; including local Handyperson services; exercise /keep fit and well classes including walking groups; social activities as well as support existing services and facilities and mapping of community/local assets. A Steering Group would also be set up to help manage a small budget to support activities in the ward – residents interested in getting involved were encouraged to contact Natalie following the meeting, and leaflets with details of the scheme were circulated at the meeting. Cllr Ward and residents thanked Natalie for her attendance and information update.

iii) **Community Groups/Residents**

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

Pencroft Road/ Hillstone Road/Freasley Road - ongoing problems with obstructive parking and verbal abuse from parents/drivers parking outside residents’ drives on the school run to Brownmead and Hillstone Primary Schools. Residents would like to see the schools and roads included in the School Free Zone Streets Scheme and Birmingham Transport Plan along with traffic observations being carried out during the school run.

Action: Cllr Ward agreed to look into the requests and advise residents accordingly

No 55 Bus Service – local resident Donald Sammons had contacted National Express several times over the last few weeks to express concerns about the very poor service. National Express had agreed to investigate and let Donald know, however, he’s still not had a reply, despite contacting them again.

Action: Cllr Ward agreed to follow up concerns raised with National Express/TfWM

Fly-tipping – an increase in dumping behind the parade of shops in the Heathway and by the garages in Broadmeadow Road. The trees and shrubs Broadmeadow Road also needed cutting back.

Ward End Park (which was outside the ward) bus stop outside the park – local traders appear to be dumping their waste/black bags by the bus stop.

Action: Cllr Ward agreed to follow up with Officers

Broadmead Primary – refuse collection crews were collecting from the school at 5:15am

Action: Cllr Ward agreed to contact the School Head Teacher/Depot Manager

Other News

Shard End Communities Neighbourhood Forum – meetings held on the third Tuesday of the month at The Shard Library at 7pm – all welcome.

Moorfield Community Hall – host a Let's Eat Cake Social Event every Tuesday between 4.30- 6.30pm. Volunteers need – anyone interested should contact Claire Beattie.

The Make Someone's Day Campaign on 20th March from 2.30pm – looking at practical solutions to addressing isolation and/or loneliness across all ages.

Action: All to Note

iv) Cllr Ward Updates

Cllr Ward advised of the following:-

Bus Number 58 – following complaints the service was arriving too late to meet the train connection at Lea Hall Station, National Express had advised the service had very few users (2 in one direction; 3 in the other) for any changes to be made to the timetable/frequency. The service was also timed to connect with the No 31 (Acocks Green & Solihull) which had a significantly higher number of service users in these areas. However, the timetables and usage would continue to be reviewed with the operators in the Summer and an update on any changes given in due course.

5G Telecoms Mast – Planning Application submitted for its installation at the junction of Bramblewood and Packington Avenue.

Anyone wishing to comment, raise concerns/objections must do so before the consultation closing date.

Following questions about the benefits of 5G, Dr Varney gave examples of how 4/5G technology was used in the medical profession to help detect and monitor the health of heart patients/monitor irregular heartbeats without the need to attend hospital; monitor dementia sufferers in their own homes as well as helping lonely people of all ages with their physical and mental health. 5G speeds also provided a much faster connection to the internet than Wi-Fi and tended to be more reliable in areas where signalling was poor.

3. Birmingham Food Conversation and Survey

Following introductions, Dr Justin Varney, Director of Birmingham Public Health explained the reasons behind the Food Conversation and Survey which was currently being carried out by Birmingham Public Health as part of an independent review to develop a National Food Strategy which looked at the entire food chain from 'fork to field'. The conversation aimed to encourage people to talk about all aspects of the food we ate, where it came from, why we bought/consumed particular products and how this affected the whole food chain.

The conversation would carry on over the next year in different forums and formats to help draw out a strong awareness of food in our city, its links to climate change, health, economic prosperity and community cohesion. Residents were actively encouraged to take part/contribute to the Conversation and Survey which was currently on the City Council's Be Heard website and Focus Groups would be set up later in the year to explore the conversations further.

A group exercise followed in which residents were asked to identify their priorities from the policy options outlined in the consultation document; these would be included as part of the responses submitted. The responses included making healthy food – i.e. fruit, veg more affordable especially as many low income households did not feel able to afford to buy them; excellent food hygiene was also essential and that basic cooking skills should also be offered to those households/residents experiencing hardship.

Other Issues – Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update

Dr Varney advised there were currently no confirmed cases in the city to date and that updates provided on a daily basis. Residents were reminded of the symptoms of the virus, and what should be done if they have any of the symptoms, including contacting their GP or NHS Online for advice if their condition worsens. Regular handwashing (including the use of hand sanitisers if soap and water was not available) and minimising close contact, including handshakes and hugs to help prevent the spread of the virus.

Full details, advice and information was available on the City Council website and updated on a daily basis as more became known about the virus and guidance from the government/Chief Medical Officers was given.

Cllr Ward and residents thanked Dr Varney and the team for their attendance and update.

4. The East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy

Following introductions, Mark Gamble, Development Manager, Inclusive Growth Team gave details of the East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy which was recently launched and currently out for extensive consultation/discussion with the wider community.

(Copies of the Strategy were distributed at the meeting).

Key priorities for the ward and wider Hodge Hill District, including jobs, skills, training, improvements in education and health were highlighted and residents views, comments, suggestions and general input was needed to help shape the priorities and build for the future and that partnership working across all sectors was the main key to the success of the Strategy.

Responding to residents' comments regarding the neglect and steady decline of Shard End and wider Hodge Hill District over the years, Mark Gamble explained that the Strategy had been developed in response to tackling these issues and by working with key partners and stakeholders like HS2, Clean Air Zone, Tyseley Energy Park, Midlands Metro and South and City Colleges across the East Birmingham Corridor provided an opportunity to help regenerate these areas and provide better opportunities for local people. A series of drop in events would be planned and officers were happy to meet with local residents and voluntary groups to discuss the Strategy and seek their views, comments and suggestions. Cllr Ward added this was an opportunity for residents to have their say on things that mattered most to them and encouraged them to contribute to the Strategy.

Residents felt that proper investment was needed to improve the local shops and types of food being sold; local facilities like green open spaces, playing fields and community centres also need improving and health provision like GP Surgeries and Walk-In Centres which were currently over-stretched. Parking also needed to be addressed to deal with the increase in car ownership.

Cllr Ward further advised that where facilities were unused or underused, there was a danger they could be considered no longer needed or necessary, so it was important that residents used the facilities they wanted to see improved.

Cllr Ward and residents thanked Mark for his attendance and presentation.

5. Ward Plan Update

Deferred - to be reviewed/discussed at the next meeting.

6. Petitions

None submitted.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

To be agreed and residents notified.

