

HALL GREEN NORTH WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Hall Green North	DATE: Thursday 5 September 2019
VENUE: Reddings Lane Community Church, Reddings Lane	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9pm
COUNCILLOR Akhlaq Ahmed	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Doug Lee, Area Development Planning Manager Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	APOLOGY: Councillor Lou Robson & Roger Godsiff M.P.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Future of Hall Green Parade & Other Local Shopping Areas

Councillor Ahmed referred to the Ward Plan and the priorities that had been agreed for the ward. One of the priorities had been the local shopping parades and how they could be improved. The main agenda item was therefore to focus on planning a way forward for this priority. Councillor Ahmed highlighted the other priorities in the Ward Plan and the progress being made as follows;

Road safety – the Councillors continued to raise issues including aggressive driving, obstructive parking

Pot holes – it was intended to invite the Local Engineer to the next meeting with the Amey Highway Steward. Amey had undertaken to repair potholes on the Stratford Road. Residents advised of the ‘Fix My Street’ app and use encouraged.

Grass Verges – Fix My Street could also be used to report grass verge parking.

Traffic Lights - Reddings Lane/Shaftmoor Lane junction – councillors continuing to work with the Local Engineer but lights probably too expensive therefore other options being explored.

Parking – Wycome Road – Councillors had spoken to the Mosque committee regarding inconsiderate parking and had arranged for parking enforcement to patrol the area. The Mosque was now arranging for stewards to organise parking at peak times.

Litter/fly tipping – collections were improving but there was still an issue with recycling. Cabinet Member had been contacted. Also raised the issues around Hall Green Parade

Pollution – Robin Hood Academy & York Mead Schools had started/implemented Mode Shift Stars

Jobs/Skills & Future of Retail Areas –

Doug Lee advised that the intention at today's meeting was to kick start a dialogue regarding local centres and come up with ideas/solutions to improve/make more attractive the 3 local centres – Hall Green Parade, Highfield Road & Robin Hood Island. Two documents were circulated giving information regarding the 3 centres, local developments and a toolkit to help make local centres more active, attractive & connected. **Doug undertook to provide details of the centres boundaries to be circulated with the notes.**

There was some discussion and while it was noted that the Hall Green centres were not included in the Urban Centres Framework consideration of the list had generated discussion about what could be done for other centres and some thought was now being given going forward and so this was a good time to consider what could be done with the 3 Hall Green centres.

Residents commented that crime was a real issue in the area and was rising and this needed addressing as part of the improvement to shopping centres. It was also considered that before any suggestion of a Sprint bus on the A34, authorities should look at improvements to get people on existing buses – improve cleanliness, have continuity over running services, re-introduce inspectors.

Doug advised there would be a consultation on the Sprint service in due course and that due to climate change more emphasis was being placed on public transport use. A local resident requested that bus drivers be required to switch off the engines when waiting near schools to improve air quality for children. **Councillor Ahmed to take up.**

Doug suggested setting up a working group to look at the major issues and find solutions.

There was some discussion on the value of a Neighbourhood Development Plan and the meeting was advised that it was a way of providing the community with 'more of a say' and be involved in the planning process.

2. Local Innovation Fund Updates

The following updates were provided from projects that had received LIF funding:-

a) Re-Imagining Hall Green Parade

Stuart Daniels provided an update explaining ways he was working to help reverse the decline of Hall Green Parade, although acknowledging the challenge currently being faced by high streets. He had developed the project to take the Parade forward and

make improvements as he felt it did not get the attention it deserved.

He was in constant contact with the businesses who had indicated that crime, anti-social behaviour , parking, rubbish, litter & dropped kerbs needing marking as issues affecting business. Although some businesses had closed new ones were coming onto The Parade and the significant new housing developments coming into the area should help footfall. Involvement of the community was key and a monthly newsletter was to be produced and consideration was being given to setting up a Business Improvement District. Residents were circulated with cards to complete with the 'one thing they'd like to see improved'.

Stuart undertook to provide further updates at future meetings.

Support for Businesses in Hall Green – Shohaib Shafiq, local businessman said that there was little support for local businesses in Hall Green and as an accountant he had been finding out information for clients but realised there was a need for a support group to help. Therefore a group of volunteers had established the Hall Green Business Group, a volunteer led, not for profit group to offer help & support, improvements and the creation of a Business Improvement District. The next meeting of the group would be held on 17 October at 9.30 at Highfield Hall. It would be a member led meeting, properly constituted with a small annual fee of £20. The Group was looking for diversity and people with skills e.g. social media skills and additional volunteers to act as secretary/minute taker. Details would be posted on Hall Green Residents Facebook page initially until the Buisness Group's own page had been set up.

b) Hall Green Together

Val Dickins provided an update on the Hall Green Together project which had come about from 3 groups applying for LIF funding – Hall Green Community Church, Gospel Oak & Highfield Hall – to provide a similar service. The groups had joined together and were offering help and support with IT skills. Assistance included helping people use the internet, go on-line, find advice, find educational courses, apply on-line etc. Sessions had been set up at the 3 centres with 54 enquiries, a number being repeat attendees. It had been envisaged that Universal Credit would generate numerous enquiries but this had not happened so the project had taken this on board to learn from and see where things were not working. 11 volunteers had continued with the project but more were needed as it was hoped that further funding applications would be successful to enable the project to continue running after Christmas 2019 when the LIF funding would run out. A link had been established with Hall Green Health to assist patients setting up an email address

and it was hoped to do the same with other surgeries.

Residents were requested to let people know of the services offered.

3. **Any Other Business**

a) **Sarehole Environmental Action Team** – meeting advised of monthly clean ups – next one 15 September at 10am at The Ford.. Everyone welcome.

b) **Hall Green Parade** – complaints of rubbish, drug taking, parking issues making residents lives a misery but there was a lack of enforcement or police presence. The matters would be made worse with the opening of the KFC and councillors were asked to take action and for a timescale for improvements. Councillor Ahmed advised the councillors had made forceful objections against the KFC and had arranged for the Waste Reduction Unit to visit the parade. As a result successful prosecutions had been made against a business and others reminded of their responsibilities. Residents referred to the drug dealing occurring in Russell Road and street drinking that was affecting resident's lives and sought the Councillors help. **Councillor Ahmed advised raising at the Police Tasking meeting & undertook to raise at the next meeting.**

c) **Rubbish Collection** – rubbish on Hall Green Parade from overflowing bins & dropped litter made the area look depressed. BCC collections were made on Friday but other collections were made on different days of the week resulting in overflowing wheelie bins and rubbish being left out in bags all of the time. A call was made for a co-ordinate approach to refuse collection for the area as this problem was not experienced in other shopping areas such as Acocks Green & Kings Heath. There was also a lack of street cleaners. **Councillor Ahmed undertook to bring this to the attention of the Cabinet Member.**

A resident from Stratford Road said that since the council had changed its collection system the part of the road between Apple Green Petrol Station & College Road, including Hillmount Close only received refuse collections every 5/6 weeks. Recycling was collected without problem and refuse collections were made weekly from the other side of the road. The missed collections had been repeatedly reported without response or action. The procedure to report missed collections had been followed but the system was not working. The issue had now been referred to the Ombudsman.

Councillor Ahmed apologised for the situation and undertook to take up with the Cabinet Member for action. It was agreed to invited the Cabinet Member for Street Scene & Parks to the next meeting.

d) **Reddings Lane** – resident reported overgrown trees past the petrol station which made it difficult for pedestrians to walk along the

pavement.

- e) **Hall Green Library** – reference made to the flood which had caused damage to the meeting room and forced closure. Friends of Hall Green Library were working to re-open the room and were raising a petition requesting the council to fund the necessary repairs. 500+ signatures had been collected so far but further support was requested.
- f) **Hall Green Housing Liaison Board** – AGM was taking place on 16 September at 6pm at Highfield Hall. There was no representation from the Hall Green North ward and volunteers were sought. Residents were asked to spread the word and anyone interested was welcome to attend the meeting.
- g) **Bus Shelter 1044 Stratford Road** – complaints from residents that the bus shelter was being used for anti-social behaviour – drinking, drug taking, rubbish etc and residents living by the stop were feeling intimidated when leaving their homes. **Request to remove the shelter to make it less appealing to loiter was made and Councillor Ahmed undertook to investigate.**

Councillors (s) Signed:

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