

# **Birmingham City Council**

**Quinton Ward Meeting**  
**Thursday 23 November 2017**  
**7.00pm**  
**The Main Hall**  
**Quinborne Community Centre**  
**Ridgacre Road**  
**Birmingham**  
**B32 2TW**

## **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillors Kate Booth and Matthew Gregson

**Officers:** Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team  
Ken Brown – Neighbourhood Development & Support Officer

There were approx. 30 residents present.

### **Cllr M Gregson in the Chair**

#### **1. Notice of Recording**

Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Cllr Clancy and several local residents who were regular attendees.

#### **3. Councillors News and Information Updates**

Cllrs advised of the following:-

- Former Ward Councillor Phil Lawrence had recently passed away. Tributes were paid to Mr Lawrence, and following a request from the Chairman, a minute's silence was held in his memory.
- Martineau Centre/Section 106 Monies will be discussed later in the meeting and would continue to be a Standing Item on the Agenda until further notice.

There were no other updates.

**4. Local Innovation Fund Update**

The Chairman briefly advised of the special Ward meeting held on 25 October to discuss and agree the proposal for the use of the Local Innovation Fund.

The proposal for the development of a Quinton Community Hub was formally presented at the meeting, and following discussion was welcomed and fully supported by residents. The proposal had been signed by the three Ward Councillors in readiness for submission and approval at the next Cabinet Committee Local Leadership meeting (CCLL) on 20 December 2017.

The Chairman advised of his disappointment the proposal was not submitted to the CCLL meeting on 23 November as expected and would raise the issue with the relevant officers.

Cllr Booth confirmed that a Steering Group/Management Committee for the Community Hub would be set up following approval of the funding – several residents had already put their names forward. Other Group members would include board members from Quinborne Community Centre and Ward Cllrs.

Responding to questions regarding the need for a Steering Group/Management Committee, Cllr Booth reminded everyone this had been requested by residents who felt it was necessary for the Community Hub to have its own separate identity, along with the development of its own website to clearly indicate that its role, purpose and functions was different to those of Quinborne Community Centre.

Responding to further residents questions and concerns on how the fund would be used, and that it was essential it remained 'community focussed' Ken Brown, Neighbourhood Development and Support Officer advised that its' use remained the decision of the Steering Group; however it must fit within LIF criteria as well as the approved project proposal.

Mr Brown further advised that the proposal was approved on the current ward boundary arrangements - not the new ward structure from May 2018.

The Fund must be spent by the end of March 2019.

Several residents stressed that representation from the whole ward must be actively encouraged and that members of the Steering Group should not be the 'usual suspects' or the more vocal, active ones.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Booth and Ken Brown for the information update and that residents would continue to be kept updated as the project developed.

**Action: All to Note**

**5. The Martineau Centre - Update**

The Chairman advised of the following:-

**i) The Community Room**

The site had been sold on by Persimmon a company called Luxury Design Bournville Ltd.

Further clarity had been sought from Planning Officers as the original Planning

Consent had included the retention of the building which included 6 flats and a community space. Rumours had been circulating of plans to demolish the site and build 10 town houses however the Planning Officer had advised that an application to this effect had not yet been submitted.

The Chairman further advised that residents must make their concerns and objections known should a planning application be submitted, and that every effort must be made to ensure that a community room/space was provided as agreed in the original planning consent.

Local resident Barry Husband referred to changes by central government to planning legislation which was heavily in favour of the developer and left Council Planning Departments and residents with little or no chance of successfully objecting to an application without intervention from the Planning Inspectorate.

Several residents advised that the size of the site would not easily accommodate 10 town houses, and would add to the congestion and overcrowding already being experienced by those residents living on or near the former Martineau site.

Further concerns were made regarding the manner in which Persimmon had sold on the site, and that the Martineau Centre issues had been handled very badly from the beginning, despite the concerns and robust objections from residents.

#### **ii) S106 Funding/Open Space Improvement Options**

The Chairman confirmed that £246,400.20 was available for Open Space.

Following a request from the Chairman, local residents Barry Husband and Elliot Hirst gave details of their visits to the various sites listed in the Open Spaces Improvement Options report presented at the last meeting and drew residents' attention to their information board on display at the meeting.

Residents were advised of the following:-

- Highfields Lane, Tennal Lane and Edison Grove – no hard-standing football areas identified.
- There were no grassed football pitches across the whole ward. Sport England's Policy indicated their preference for the use of astro turf instead of grass.
- 5 infant swings, 1 climbing frame and a small roundabout had been identified as the play equipment provision within the ward.
- Discussions with parents of young children found that many were reluctant or unable to travel to neighbouring wards where the provision of play equipment was much better.
- There was no outdoor equipment or provision for older children who were not members of youth clubs/local sports clubs etc.
- Discussions with officers regarding provision/facilities for older children/teenagers had proved positive; suggestions included outdoor gym equipment, a multi-use games area (MUGA), team/outdoor shelters etc.
- Security/fear of crime and violence was also a concern for young people generally; these concerns would need to be addressed if young people were to actively use the facilities provided for them.
- The next step would be to have a further meeting with officers and Cllrs to discuss the ideas and suggestions in more detail; obtain costings and then to

have informal consultation/discussions with young people living in the ward to find out what they would like to see/have.

It was hoped that a more detailed update would be provided at the next meeting.

- The S106 funding must be appropriately used in the ward to provide much needed facilities and opportunities for young people of all ages, many of whom were not members of specialist or elite sports clubs.

Several residents sought further clarity on the future use of the unattached playing fields within the ward. Cllr Booth confirmed these were owned by the Education Dept. and plans were being considered for them to be leased to a suitable partner organisation which would also provide suitable facilities. More details would be provided in due course.

Peter Beck (Quinton Meadows) briefly advised that QMCC (Quinton Meadows Consultative Committee) was actively trying to encourage Dudley Council (the landowners) to improve/redevelop parts of the land and felt that better cooperation between the neighbouring local authorities would be beneficial to the wider community. Mr Beck gave details of a recent application had been made by a junior football club to create a 7 a side football pitch on the side, which if given approval would be a positive step forward.

The Chairman thanked Barry and Elliot for their update and work carried out to date.

#### **Actions**

**i) Further meeting to be held with officers, Cllrs and Community Representatives to discuss ideas/suggestions/costings for outdoor equipment/recreation provision for young people.**

**ii) Cllr Booth to set up/lead on consultation with young people in the ward. Schools to be included in the process.**

**iii) Further update to be given at the next meeting**

#### **6. Quinton Meadows – Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS Maintenance Amended Plans)**

Following a request from the Chairman, Vina Campbell, Representative, QMCC briefly advised of latest planning application submitted by St. Modwen (owners and developers) for Quinton Business Park for the creation of a warehouse and parking, complete with a Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS).

However there were a number of concerns expressed by QMCC representatives regarding this as the previous drainage system of ponds and swales created within the land had never functioned as it should, with water running off too quickly.

The system had become overgrown with vegetation and was in urgent need of clearing; however St Modwen had not accepted any responsibility for the drainage

system and the City Council had no resources available to improve and maintain them.

Vina Campbell further advised that there were concerns that the new SUDS would not function correctly, thus adding to the problems already being experienced, and that the City Council would again have the responsibility and maintenance issues.

Support was needed from residents and Members to make representation to the Planning Department regarding the matter.

The Chairman agreed to write to the Planning Committee on behalf of the Ward to advise of the concerns.

**Action: Chairman to action as outlined above**

## **6. Residents News/Updates/Concerns**

### **Pitts Wood Update**

Cllr Booth advised there were plans to start a 'Friends Of' Group. Several residents had already indicated their interest.

Roots to Fruit were currently clearing the site. A further update would be provided at the next/future meeting

Peter Beck, QMCC briefly advised of his questions raised with City Council Officers regarding the transfer of Pitts Wood to Woodhouse Academy and the response received from the City Solicitor which he felt was inaccurate.

It was suggested by the Chairman that a meeting with the City Solicitor, Ward Cllrs and Mr Beck would be arranged to discuss the contents of the response as there were a number of issues that required clarification.

**Action: Chairman to action as above**

Sir Richards Drive – in need of clearing; rubbish strewn everywhere.

**Action: Resident to send specific details to Cllr Booth following the meeting**

Wolverhampton Road South – wall by the last house on the road still in need of urgent repair

**Action: Chairman to chase up**

Former Martineau Site – water leak at the main entrance to the site. Residents have reported the matter to Persimmons on several occasions without success.

**Action: Chairman to investigate and notify relevant body**

Rubbish dumping/littering across the ward – residents advised of problems with dog fouling, littering and general lack of cleanliness in parts of the ward.

**Action: Resident to send specific details to Cllr Gregson (Ward Chairman) following the meeting.**

## **7. Review of Outstanding Actions/Action Tracker**

Consideration was given to the schedule of Outstanding Actions – please see separate sheet for information.

**8. Any Other Business**

None raised.

**9 Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 25 January 2018, 7pm – venue to be confirmed.

**10. Authority to Chairman and Officers**

It was noted and agreed that:-

“In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer had authority to act on behalf of the Committee”.

---

The meeting closed at 9:00pm