

LADYWOOD WARD FORUM MEETING NOTES

WARD: Ladywood	DATE: 15 October 2019
VENUE: Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent Road West	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9.10pm
COUNCILLORS: Kath Hartley (Chair) & Sir Albert Bore	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 50+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: James O’Sullivan, Landscape Practice Group Carol Unwin, Landscape Practice Group Tanweer Araf, Highways Engineer Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology – Sergeant Allen

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TNT News Report on Opening of Ladywood Leisure Centre Norman Bartlam provided a brief history leading up to the opening of the new Leisure Centre and showed a short film of the opening day which could be found at - tntnews.co.uk 2. Ladywood Parks Update <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Chamberlain Gardens Park Councillor Hartley advised that parks and open spaces in Ladywood would be steered by the Central Ladywood Steering Group as part of the Central Ladywood regeneration. James O’Sullivan gave an overview of the recent improvements to Chamberlain Gardens Park and Section 106 funding was available to do more. He was working with Norman Bartlam on history boards for the pagoda area. Suggestions for works to the park were

highlighted but further suggestions were welcome. **It was agreed that the package of ideas be circulated to the group.**

The suggestions were;

- Information boards
- Play surface upgrades
- New play equipment, including teenage appropriate
- Finish boundaries
- Bulb planting
- Orchard
- Furniture
- Path surfaces

Residents then made the following comments;

- Provide picnic tables and bins as the park was well used, especially in the summer
- The gravel pathways were not attractive and were uncomfortable to walk on
- There were needles, syringes etc littering the grassy areas – what action would be taken to address this as this did not encourage use of the park?

James advised lighting would be upgraded and he would flag up the drug paraphernalia as there was supposed to be a daily sweep.

Councillor Hartley said she would seek to re-convene the Chamberlain Gardens Group to take this forward

b) The Peace Garden (Bath Row)

Carol Unwin gave a brief overview of the proposals which would be enabled through Section 106 funding at the outset and progressed when Heritage funding was received. Community involvement was important to the project and therefore a Park Users Group had been set up. The first meeting had been held in City Mission Hall and users of the City Mission had been met with separately as some of the anti-social behaviour reported at the Gardens had been connected to City Mission. The work to be undertaken so far included re-painting railings, repairing steps, installation of a trip rail to prevent parking and tree planting.

There was a live consultation on the council's website and residents were urged to have their say.

In response to a query regarding the Future Parks Programme Carol undertook to forward information for circulation to the meeting. Councillor Hartley said that further updates would be provided to future meetings.

3. Central Ladywood & St Marks Controlled Parking Zone Update

Tanweer Araf gave a brief history of the scheme which had taken some while to implement but had finally 'gone live' in September. 733 permits had been issued to residents and in the first week 550 parking tickets had been issued with a further 400 over the following 3 weeks with traffic enforcement officers visiting on a daily basis. As a result commuter parking had moved out of the area.

Several residents were extremely concerned that registration details had to be provided to obtain visitors passes as this was obviously difficult to know in advance. In particular this was creating a problem for families who cared for elderly residents and were now unable to buy more visitors passes.

Tanweer was unaware of this as he believed that a book of 5 passes was purchased for residents to pass onto visitors, however he was aware that a large number of visitors passes had been bought and sold on to commuters. He undertook to take details at the conclusion of the meeting and investigate. Councillor Bore asked that Tanweer contact the residents tomorrow and make arrangements for visitors passes to be issued urgently.

Residents from St Marks Court raised an issue regarding exemption. When the initial consultation had been undertaken parking provision had been part of their service charge and they requested urgent action be taken and money paid for parking permits reimbursed.

Councillor Bore said that all housing land had been included in the scheme to prevent commuter parking in areas that were not covered. Residents said the annual cost was prohibitive and was preventing family and friends visiting.

Several residents spoke about individual matters and Councillor Hartley asked they write to the councillors so that they could help with the problems. Tanweer undertook to take details of where payment had been taken but no tickets issued and sort this out and to act as the link for other problems raised by residents.

In response to concerns regarding displacement parking as a result of the parking schemes Councillor Bore said that the effect on the locality of all the CPZ was being considered and he was meeting officers to discuss at the end of the week. The area needed to be considered as a whole but a solution would take some time.

In response to issues around road markings in Reservoir Retreat, Tanweer undertook to take the details and pass on to the appropriate officer.

Councillor Hartley said the scheme would be reviewed after 2 years so residents views would be requested at that time

4. CCTV Cameras Decommissioning

Councillor Hartley reported that the Home Office had decommissioned a number of CCTV cameras across the city, including 6 in Ladywood, in line with rules around British Standards & crime detection. Councillors had questioned the removal of all of the cameras & sought the reasons why. The reasons were read out to the meeting. There had been an offer of 20 mobile cameras for use across the city.

The meeting, after some discussion agreed that 20 cameras were insufficient and that at least 50 should be made available for use by the police across the city and to cover hotspots. Councillors were asked to put this view and the request for more cameras forward.

5. Residents Updates

- a) Waste Collection Update** – in response to an enquiry, Councillor Bore reported that the O&S review had examined customer relations across the council and had been guided by the number of complaints received in each service. Waste management had received the highest number and the committee and officers had met, looked at case studies (including Reservoir Rd & surrounding area). The council had taken customer services back ‘in house’ and changes had been made and in recent weeks complaints had reduced. Officers from the depots were picking up repeat issues and the customer service centre was liaising with them. With regard to the service there were issues with vehicles & staffing. An order had gone in for new vehicles but this was for a small number therefore replacing the fleet would take some time. The committee was waiting for a response regarding staffing issues around the grade 3 posts and to why some roads were being dropped from rounds. Residents reported that garden waste was not collected and it was not now possible to report missed collections for a road or estate as the system only allowed you to report on behalf of your own property.

