

LONGBRIDGE & WEST HEATH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Longbridge & West Heath	DATE: Monday 24 th April 2023
VENUE: Aire Croft Common Room, Aire Croft, Birmingham, B31 3LQ	START/FINISH TIMES: 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM
COUNCILLOR/S: Debbie Clancy & Ron Storer	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 10
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kay Thomas & Preety Sohpal, Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S): PCSO Jo Kendall, PCSO Lydon, PCSO George, Stuart Cross Kiers Highway, Tof Islam Neighbourhood Action Coordinator

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Safer Longbridge & West Heath
2. A Landscaped & Loved Longbridge & West Heath
3. A Better Way of Wayfinding for Longbridge & West Heath

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Clancy & Councillor Storer welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press-public maybe present, could record and take photographs of the meeting. Councillor Clancy explained that there will be 4 ward meetings a year from April to April. Ward meetings at Hamstead House had been a success but residents had fed back to the Councillors for meetings to be held at council houses. Future meetings will be held at council houses and will be in various venues around the ward to ensure all residents can attend at least one meeting a year from different areas of the ward who cannot travel to all the meetings/locations for various reasons.

2. Ward Planning & Priorities

Councillor Clancy explained that the ward plan had been submitted but is not uploaded to the website yet, however advised that this would be done soon for residents to access and view. Some of the points mentioned included in the ward plan are;

- Fly Tipping
- Street Scene to clean up pavements on walkways and in alleyways
- Better or more adequate lighting for walkways to and from bus stops, train stations
- Repairs/new fencing to be arranged in selected areas around the ward
- Keeping walkways clean and free from obstructions so those on mobility scooters and with pushchairs are able to get around the ward without putting themselves in danger by being forced to go into the road
- Advised residents if they would like to add anything to the ward plan they can as it is a flexible document that can be added to

3. Neighbourhood Police Team

A variety of issues were raised from residents and the Councillors which were put to the police for their response/advise on certain illegal activities happening in the area.

- Councillor Clancy asked the police about the increase of motorbikes and off-road bikes driving on walkways and Greenland in the local parks and what they were doing about this particular issue. Residents also added that a number of off-road bikes by Fairfax Road by the Fairfax shops are also a problem. Wordsworth Tower Blocks is also hit by the same issue and offenders are driving on the grass behind the blocks making the appearance of the grass look very unappealing. The police advised that they are aware of this issue however they cannot chase the offenders on foot due to the speed of the vehicles they are driving. Police advised that they are looking to get off-road bikes/motorbikes on patrol in the area so that they are able to chase the offenders to capture them. Once this scheme has come into place and the police are able to chase offenders, their bikes will be confiscated. However, Councillor Clancy will be speaking to Sergeant David Taylor to get clarification around this.
- Residents brought to the attention of the police that illegal parking is happening on the grass verges outside and the surrounding roads by Cofton School. Council officers did patrol the area and warned people who were parked illegally to not park here again which did see a significant reduction in the number of cars parked on pavements and grass verges however the grass verges are now ruined. Councillor Clancy confirmed that she had seen the state of the grass verges on her drive around with Stuart Cross from Kiers. Police advised that they can only prosecute the drivers if they are causing an obstruction where no wheelchairs or double pushchairs can get past and are then forced to go into the road and if they are parked on double yellow lines. Police did advise that residents can also contact Civil enforcement to action this matter as they are able to get to these situations much quicker than the police, however residents advised that on previous occasions when they have contacted Civil

enforcement, they are unable to get through to someone to speak to. A similar problem was also reported by residents happening at the corner of Wooton Road and Trittiford Road. The police explained that they have visited the area several times since the end of last year however on their patrols no one was obstructing the pavements or grass verges. They did issue fines for drivers who were blocking the “restricted access” and handed out fines to those drivers. Residents called for double kerbs to be put in place to stop the partial blockage of pavements and grass verges. Councillor Clancy explained she was going on a drive around with Stuart the day after the meeting and would be passing this area. Any updates or outcomes on this matter will be shared at the next Ward Forum Meeting.

- Residents made police aware of some cars that are parked around the area with number plates that have been fully or partially blocked/taped off and vehicles with no MOT/Road tax. Police advised that they can only intervene with blocked number plates if they believe the vehicle in question has been involved in suspicious activity where they will remove the tape and run checks on the number plate. They also advised that will only intervene with cars with no MOT/Road tax if its 3months and 1 day overdue, otherwise this is an issue for the DVLA to resolve and advised residents can report cars to the DVLA who have no valid MOT or road tax.
- Residents raised that the walkway that is being made from Rednall to Longbridge town centre may become a getaway route from thieves committing crimes in Longbridge Town Centre and getting away on off-road bikes or moped down the walkway. Police advised they are unable to do anything about this until the actual crime has been committed.
- Residents brought up a serious issue where a resident of the one of the tower blocks has had numerous occasions where he is getting drunk in his flat and drinking on the streets outside the tower blocks, causing disruption to people in the flats and in the lifts, causing commotion on the road outside and asking people to run him over in the road. Residents stated that housing are aware of this problem however nothing has been done. Councillor Clancy advised that she will be speaking to the Housing Officer of the tower blocks to discuss this issues and this may potentially be an issue where Adult Social Care may need to get involved for the safety of the resident in question.

4. Kiers Highway

A variety of issues were raised from residents which were put to Stuart from Kier’s for their response/advise on particular issues in the area.

- A resident raised the issue on Cofton Road where businesses and other parties are parking on the grass verges down the entirety of the main road and there is no grass left just mud which is making a mess on the pavements and the roads. Stuart from Kiers advised that they were aware of this problem and will be writing to the businesses on Cofton Road to stop parking on the grass verges and pavements due to the damage being caused. Once the initial letter has been sent, it can be followed up 2-3 weeks later and if they still ignore the letters then Kiers will forward this issue to Birmingham City Council to enforce.
- A resident raised the issue of there being multiple potholes on Clunbury Road and damaged roads on the corner of Longbridge Lane by the bus stop. Stuart advised that they are aware of this problem and there have been various temporary filling jobs completed in the area and in the

future there will be a full road closure to allow for resurfacing. Stuart explained that he will be investigating the corner of Longbridge Lane to arrange for this job to be picked up.

- Residents raised the issue that a while ago they had requested for double yellow line to be put outside the fish and chip shop on Moor Park Road. Stuart advised that this job is in the system and will chase this up to advise time-scales to be shared at the next ward forum meeting.
- A resident raised that a wall had been painted recently outside Longbridge Train Station however only half of it has been painted with the other half being full of graffiti. Councillor Clancy advised she will find out who owns the wall and put in a request for this to happen.
- Residents raised the issue of the gulleys being full of debris in the grill where the water runs down into at West Heath Park and the water is not able to drain off properly causing smells and unappealing appearance to the park. Councillor Clancy advised this would be on her list of areas on her drive around with Stuart.

5. **Neighbourhood Action Coordinator for Longbridge & West Heath**

Tof Islam, the Neighbourhood Action Coordinator (NAC), introduced himself to the residents. He explained that there are three key themes to his role which are

- Street Scene – A Bold Green Ward
- Community Safety – A Bold Safe Ward
- Deprivation/Quality of Life – A Bold Prosperous Ward/A Bold Healthy Ward

He explained that residents can bring any types of community projects, community meetings or AOB to him and these are then assessed with funding to be allocated to make this happen in the community. Each NAC has £10,000 per ward, per year and residents can apply to use this funding for local community projects. Each application has a spend limit of £2000. All enquiries regarding applications or questions on how to go about certain activities/projects in the area can be sent to NAC@birmingham.gov.uk.

AOB:

- Residents brought to the attention of the Councillors that the speed was changed on Bristol Road from 40mph down to 30mph however there is a lack of speed control signs notifying road users of this causing confusion on the speed limit on this road. Councillor Clancy advised that this was something she had discussed with Ian Ward for the speed to be back up to 40mph. Councillor Clancy will chase this up with Ian and provide an update at the next ward forum meeting.
- Residents brought to the attention that Vardon Way and Rednall Road are full of litter. Councillor Clancy advised she will report this to Street

Scene.

- West Heath shopping centre reported to have extremely large pot holes outside the shops. Stuart advised that Kiers can write to the shops to get this issue resolved and Councillor Clancy advised that she will contact MP Gary Sambrook regarding the issues of Alvechurch Shops.
- A number of tree's in the area were assessed pre-covid for trimming however due to the pandemic this was not completed. However since the pandemic, the tree's have still not been trimmed. Councillor Clancy advised she will chase this issue with Kier and provide an update at the next ward forum meeting.
- A tree has been recently planted in front of a road sign on the Island between Sainsbury's and the factory. Tree is young so causing no obstructions yet however in the future it will partially/fully block the road sign. Stuart said he will investigate this and Councillor Clancy explained this is something they will look out for on their drive around together.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. To obtain clarification from Sergeant David Taylor on capturing offender's on off-road bikes and motorbikes in parks and on the roads	1. Councillor Clancy	1. Provide update at next ward meeting
2. To investigate why Civil Enforcement are unable to attend/speak to an operator when residents are calling to report parking matter's	2. Councillor Clancy	2. Provide update at next ward meeting
3. To contact Housing Officer of Wordsworth Tower Blocks regarding the serious incidences with the drunk resident	3. Councillor Clancy	3. N/A
4. Restoring damaged grass verges on Cofton Road	4. Stuart Cross/Kier	4. Provide update at next ward meeting
5. Letters to be sent to businesses involved on Cofton Road to not park on pavements and grass verges	5. Stuart Cross/Kier	5. To provide an update to the councillors
6. Investigate and assess the corner of Longbridge Lane by the bus stop with damaged roads	6. Stuart Cross/Kier	6. To provide an update to the councillors
7. To check timescales on the job of putting double yellow lines on Moor Park Road outside the chip shop	7. Stuart Cross/Kier	7. To provide an update to the councillors
8. To investigate who owns the wall outside Longbridge Train Station regarding getting the wall painted and graffiti painted over	8. Councillor Clancy	8. Provide update at next ward meeting
9. Investigate and arranged the clearing of debris in the blocked gulleys at West Heath Park	9. Councillor Clancy & Stuart Cross/Kier	9. Provide update at next ward meeting
10. To obtain clarification from Ian Ward regarding the speed limits on Bristol Road	10. Councillor Clancy	10. Provide update at next ward meeting
11. Report Vardon Way & Rednall Road to street scene regarding vast amount of litter on the roads	11. Councillor Clancy	11. N/A

12. Contact MP Gary Sambrook regarding the potholes outside Alvechurch Shops	12. Councillor Clancy	12. N/A
13. To provide an update for residents on when tree trimming will take place in the area, specifically Cummington Hall Gardens	13. Councillor Clancy & Stuart Cross/Kier	13. Provide update at next ward meeting
14. To assess and potentially arrange to move a young tree planted on the Island between Sainsbury's and the factory which in future will block the road sign	14. Councillor Clancy & Stuart Cross/Kier	14. Provide an update at next ward meeting
15. Councillor Storer requested for a representative from Longbridge Town Centre to be present at the next ward meeting	15. Preeti Sohpal	15. Next ward meeting