

## HIGHTERS HEATH WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Highters Heath	<b>DATE:</b> 20 September 2022
<b>VENUE:</b> Warstock Community Centre, Daisy Farm Road B14 4QA	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.30pm
<b>COUNCILLOR</b> Adam Higgs	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 3
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Sue Amey, Parks Manager Stuart Cross, Highway Steward, Kier Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Higgs welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the public/press could record and take photographs except where there were exempt or confidential items.

#### 2. Local Police Update

Apologies sent on behalf of the local police team

#### 3. Parks Update

Sue Amey referred to the work undertaken by Parks staff in the run up and during the Commonwealth Games and the positive feedback received from the public. Local work had also continued during this period, with grass cutting being subject to weather conditions. A spate of fires across the Lickey Hills had been problematic for the team and they had been working to get the message out about the use of disposable barbeques, the cause of the fires, and managing fires with the use of fire breaks etc and more interaction with the Fire Service.

The department was currently under-staffed and awaiting a restructure and therefore some issues eg vandalism in Daisy Farm Park were taking time to rectify.

Residents said that the bollards that had been installed to stop unauthorised access to the Park had been welcomed and although the fencing had been patched up where broken the fence was so old it would not stand up to much more patching. The lack of investment in parks was beginning to show and there was concern that if left and became neglected it would put off residents from using Daisy Farm Park which would then put the future of the Park in jeopardy. Sue advised that there were many initiatives and bodies lobbying government for funding for parks. The Future Parks Accelerator initiative had been Lottery funded and Birmingham had made a successful bid to future proof parks addressing climate change, conservation, habitat etc.

Residents talked about the facilities that used to be available in the park but had been lost over the years. While it was acknowledged that the council did what it could to maintain the park given limited resources the number of quad bikes that gained access was a persistent nuisance and graffiti was not removed which also deterred families from using the space.

Tree roots from trees in the park were growing into neighbouring gardens on Highters Heath Road and damaging pathways and fences. The trees causing the problems were poplars which had been cut down as they were diseased, however the tree stumps had been left and the roots had continued to grow. Sue Amey advised that damage to property caused by tree roots was usually covered by household insurance however if the tree stumps could be re-cut then chemicals could be used to kill the stump. She suggested that the residents make on an on-line tree enquiry. Councillor Higgs said that he had been pursuing the matter and would advise as soon as he received an update.

Residents referred to the removal of a number of trees along the park boundary which had acted as a barrier between neighbouring gardens and the park and without the trees affected residents had been left with a damaged fence. While it was acknowledged that the trees needed to be removed if diseased there had been no communication with residents or the councillor before the action had been

taken. Sue said that poplars were being removed as they had become a liability however residents and the councillor should have been given notice and she undertook to flag stump killing of those remaining.

#### **4. Kier Highway Update**

Stuart Cross, Kier Highway Steward, reported that Warstock Road had been resurfaced, part of Warstock Lane was due to be re-surfaced in the near future and Arundel Road would be re-surfaced next year. Work continued to maintain street lighting and due to historic flooding, drains were checked. The winter maintenance programme was due to start.

#### **5. Ward Plan Discussion**

Councillor Higgs explained that all wards had to draw up a Ward Plan to take forward priorities and actions over the next 4 years working with residents, partners and local stakeholders. He referred to the previous ward plan and that some of the priorities included in that plan would be carried forward.

There was some discussion and the following priorities identified –

- Tree roots affecting pavements
- Parking on pavements (Sladepool Farm Road)
- Additional rubbish bins
- Maypole Shops – clean up to improve appearance eg remove graffiti, clean environment, use of empty shops
- Preserve green spaces – form Friends of Daisy Farm Park
- Infrastructure to support more electric cars
- The ward had improved significantly over the past 10 years and residents were happy to live in the ward as it was a good place to live

It was agreed to discuss further the Ward Action Plan at the next meeting so that more residents could be involved in priority and action setting.

**6. Residents Have Your Say**

- a) Flats Above Aldi Supermarket** – in response to questions Councillor Higgs said that after making enquiries he had been advised that the flats had been sold but could, as yet, not find out who the owner was.
- b) Old Button Factory** – Councillor Higgs confirmed that he had been trying to get some action on the this given the deteriorating condition of the boundary wall but it was the responsibility of the owner. The city council was looking into it.
- c) Tree Roots** – residents asked for an action plan to deal with the tree roots invading gardens from Daisy Farm Park so that they could plan their own garden maintenance.

**7. Councillor Updates**

Councillor Higgs advised that there would be another ward meeting arranged before the end of the year and notification would be sent out when a date had been agreed.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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