

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER
2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY, 17 NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 1030 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS
3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Alex Buchanan, Timothy Huxtable, Mike
Leddy, Mary Locke, Eva Phillips, Rob Sealey and Phil Davis?.

ALSO PRESENT: -

John Burke – Depot Manager
Karen Cheney – Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community
Governance and Support
Chris Jordan – Head of Service Integration
David Miller – Service Manager
Louisa Nisbett - Committee Manager
Liz Parkes, Library Manager
Mark Rodgers, Housing Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

387 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

388 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Barry Henley, Brigid Jones and Changese Khan. An apology was also submitted on behalf of Steve McCabe, MP.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Correct spelling of Councillor Rob Sealey's name.

Page 224 - In reply to Councillor Huxtable's request to ensure that someone was present at the next meeting, Karen Cheney undertook to follow this up. The Chairman said that Waste Management was on the agenda for today's meeting.

Minutes 18 October, 2018 – Councillor Rob Sealey, Mary Locke and Eva Phillips said that they had sent apologies for the meeting.

Page 231 – Road Safety – In reply to Councillor Huxtable the District Chairman was meeting the Hall Green District Chairman early in the new year.

389 **RESOLVED:-**

That subject to the above the Minutes of the meetings held on 22 September, and 18 October, 2016, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS PROGRAMME

390 Mark Rodgers attended for this item and updated as follows:-

- The Fladbury Crescent proposal from the last meeting was not within the budget for this year. The whole project could be delivered the following year. Some alternative proposals had been submitted totalling £19,739.91.
 - The Chairman had made some enquiries regarding Masefield Estates bins. She asked for Members view's regarding the budget.
 - Councillor Eva Phillips said that it needed to be ensured that the work on Druids Heath did not need to be redone 12 months down the line. Councillor Mike Leddy referred to Baverstock Road and felt it would be wasteful to spend money on a road designated as a redevelopment site. Councillor Huxtable suggested and it was agreed that all the projects except for Baverstock Road be agreed.
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LIBRARY SERVICE CONSULTATION AND THE PROPOSAL FOR SELLY OAK DISTRICT

391 Chris Jordan, Head of Service Integration, Place an Liz Parkes, Library Manager Service Development attended the meeting to present the item and gave Members a copy of the following document:-

(See document no. 1)

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During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- They were in the early stages of the consultation process. Following the Cabinet Decision on 18 October, 2016 a 3 month consultation period had started. There had been a number of public meetings and they were still responding to meeting requests.
- Residents were being helped to fill out the consultation questionnaire at the 32 libraries in the City. The consultation was on the Be Heard website. Views could be logged at Community Libraries and on birmingham.gov.uk website.
- The target was to reduce the Community Library Services Budget by £2 Million, a third of the budget.
- Some key aspects regarding the current position with Community Libraries budget 2016-2017 were set out in the document. A budget of £3.7 was available the following year. The consultation was based on the reduction of staff down to 88 from 112.
- 2 Closures were proposed at Aston and Sutton Coldfield Libraries. Where closures were proposed they would be enhancing the nearest library as compensation. The key principles were in a paper to Cabinet. The model adopted sought to achieve the maximum footprint. The preference was to reduce library opening hours across the City in order to keep the maximum libraries open.
- An important aspect of the model was to open up the library service to partnership working and to include services offered by others. There were 3 tiers of library opening hours which were not specific times and were flexible in how the service was delivered. It was expected that the partners would lead and the Council would support in terms of running costs and staffing.
- Small Grant pots of £20,000 would be set aside as a one off investment.
- Sites in Selly Oak – Yardley Wood Library, it was proposed that the opening hours would be 35 hours and the library would remain at its current location. Druids Heath and Stirchley would be open for 20 -21 hours based at Stirchley Baths. 15 hours of support was proposed for Selly Oak.
- Plans for existing buildings would be through property options available to BCC such as community asset transfer, management and sale of buildings.
- Councillor Eva Phillips expressed concerns that the decrease in opening hours would lead to low use of libraries also the job search aspect use by support groups etc. She referred to social isolation in estates and said that the opening hours made a difference to people.
- Chris Jordan acknowledged the risk of the footfall declining owing to the reduction of the opening hours, however savings of one third of the budget was required to be made. Opportunities of working in partnership would be explored. The mindset must be changed to be open to opportunities. The library could offer some piloting work that would benefit the service.

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- Councillor Eva Phillips whilst appreciating the position the Council was in felt that partnership working favoured some areas more than others. Areas such as Druids Heath would not have the same opportunities as others to make partnership working successful. Chris Jordan said that in areas where there was a deficit of partners, a main body such as the Housing Association could run the service. There were opportunities that could be pursued.
- Councillor Barnett welcomed the extra opening hour for Yardley Wood Library. They were working hard to develop it as a hub for the community and hoped to bring in other services to the Library. Councillor Barnett noted that Yardley Wood was ranked at no 19 and asked for clarification of the position of ranking.
- Chris Jordan informed that he and his colleague had developed a model using 11 criteria based on a number of issues including the number of visits, the population and catchment area, children and young people aged up to 19 years and people aged up to 65 years. They had worked out a cost per visit to the library.
- Councillor Huxtable said that the relocation of Stirchley Library would be a challenge as it was in a listed building. He was aware that a lot of money had been invested in the Library and the land gifted to the Local Authority for provision of a library service on the site. He continued that when looking for funding for Stirchley Baths it was on condition that they were community based/focused. He felt it was unacceptable to put too many Council Services in the building. Further if the library was moved to Stirchley Baths the library building would end up derelict.
- Chris Jordan replied that the points made were valid and would be looked at as part of the consultation. He encouraged feedback through the consultation. He would look at the ability to put more services in Stirchley Baths and give a detailed response.
- Councillor Sealey said that Library hours etc had been looked at during the last 5 years. He said that a review of what needed to be done to preserve the library service should be looked into and what services etc could be brought into an area to ensure a thriving library.
- Chris Jordan agreed with a wider dialogue with Partners however it had not been easy as only some groups and services were interested. They were looking to move the verification service to libraries. He urged Members to let him know of any opportunities that could be explored.
- Councillor Mike Leddy noted that only 2 libraries would close owing to the budget cut. He felt that the best possible options had been given. Councillor Mike Leddy mentioned Birmingham's long reputation in the provision of a free library service and applauded officers for the plan.
- The Chairman acknowledged the difficulties faced by staff and said that a positive model was required. The plan seemed to be a balanced one and

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- Chris Jordan advised that the timeframe for the consultation was 27 January, 2017. They were proposing to test some Scandinavian technology at Mere Green Library using a swipe card etc. Liz Parkes added that a self-service machine would enable library staff to step from behind the counter and support customers with learning, information and help. It would also upskill staff and there would be a change of programme to include more floor walking etc.
- Members were encouraged to take part in the consultation with was also on Be Heard.

UPDATE ON THE WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICE IN THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT DISTRICT

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John Burke, Depot Manager and David Miller, Service Manager attended for this item. A Ward Depot comparison report for Selly Oak District was handed out to Members. During the discussion the following points were made:-

- The amount of residual waste had reduced with the introduction of Waste Bins. The amount of paper collected was up. Multi waste materials equalled 80% of waste.
- Following the introduction of Wheelie Bins things had now settled down. Requests and complaints were also down. There were some historical problems on the estates at Hollybank that needed to be looked at.
- They were working with partners on a project at a block of flats with regard to recycling. Some pilot work would be carried out.
- Agency staff had been replaced with full time staff and the service was more stabilised. Staff in Street Cleansing had carried out some targeted work and a Community clean-up had taken place. They were dealing with complaints about leaves.
- Councillor Sealey said that the paper pods in the wheelie bins restricted the amount of paper that could be recycled. Councillor Locke commented that the paper should be put in the bottom of the bin and bottles in the top. Jon Burke undertook to double check what had attributed to the change in figures for Bournville Ward. The figures for flytipping were requested.
- John Burke advised that they had started a pilot in Soho Ward for residents in flats. The recycling bins were being looked at. Flytipping was still a problem. They had engaged with Colleges and there was a dedicated Enforcement Officer. He did not have the figures for enforcement at present.
- Councillor Barnett said that waste collection for flats in Billesley were a problem. She had been asked for extra bins by people in high rise flats because other people used their bins. There were also problems with flytipping. Councillor Barnett congratulated officers who had cleared some flytipping at the entrance of Billesley Common within hours after she had sent a photo to Fleet and Waste. She appreciated the response by officers.

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- Councillor Eva Phillips suggested a fob or swipe card on bins so that only the people living there could use them. She had not received a lot of complaints about missed collections. She asked that Members receive a copy of the data related to missed collections when they were available. Councillor Eva Phillips said there had been difficulties organising bulky waste collections on the website and flytipping would increase if there was a delay in the collection being made. John Burke replied that some work was being done to make the process more efficient. Residents should not have to wait more than 2 weeks.
- Councillor Huxtable said that a solution and best value for money was needed for different types of flats in a joint up approach with housing. He asked what could be done regarding bulky waste in people's gardens. He undertook to send details of some asbestos in Stirchley in a passageway to some properties.
- Councillor Huxtable thanked officers for their prompt responses and the work they did sometimes above and beyond their duty. The Chairman and Councillor Mary Locke concurred with the comments made. John Burke undertook to pass on the comments to officers.
- Councillor Phil Davis made some comments about flytipping mentioning fridges in particular. He asked if there was any information available and was informed that they could be collected for free as part of the 6 items. It was noted that 30 to 40 fridges were collected per day. In reply to a comment from Councillor Phil Davis that that it needed to be publicised that fridges could be collected, John Burke informed that they were on the list at the HRC Site.
- In reply to Councillor Alex Buchanan, John Burke said that people could be fined if they incorrectly put materials out for recycling.

FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

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Councillor Susan Barnett, Corporate Parenting and District Parent Partnership Champion reported as follows:-

- As Chair of the Corporate Parenting Board she had attended regular meetings with all of the District Corporate Champions. The last 2 meetings had been cancelled. A workshop was planned for 1st December for all Corporate champions and the District Leads had been invited. She urged all District Champions to attend.
- She had undertaken Regulation 44 Visits including visits to other areas and spoke to leaders about the priorities of the Cabinet Member to promote the Corporate Parenting pledges.
- Meetings had been arranged with Scrutiny Chairs. She would be attending events during the next few weeks. The Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny would be undertaking a review into Corporate Parent at their meeting in January.

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The Chairman advised that Councillor Phil Davis, Heritage Champion had been invited to give an update on his role at the next meeting in January.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

- 394 Karen Cheney reported as follows:-
- The Work Programme is updated and sent out following meetings.
 - The Governance Manager has updated the Ward Tracker. Quarter 1 and 2 statistics will be available in January.
 - Members should let Karen Cheney know of any suggestions for agenda items.
 - Some Members suggested that AMEY should be an item on the next agenda. Phil Davis said that conservation was a pressing issue. As part of a review the relationship between AMEY and conservation areas had been discussed. He felt this was relevant to the work of the Committee.
 - The Chairman was aware of the discussions in particular about lighting, guttering, tarmac also lampposts and alleyways.
 - Councillor Huxtable referred to contract variations by AMEY since 2010. He also asked that Highway Officers be invited to explain the changes.
 - The Chairman said that no date had been agreed for the District Convention. The Wards had all met. Various ideas had been put forward by residents for the Local Innovation Fund.
 - Karen Cheney had attended discussions how to keep the Jobs and Skills high on the agenda. The District Housing Panel was a useful way to bring people together.
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FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK

- 395 Karen Cheney gave an update as follows:-
- Karen Cheney drew attention to the poster – Week of Kindness 13 – 20 November, 2016.
 - With regards to the District the LIF was about strengthening organisations enabling them to write good bids. A workshop on 15 November, 2017 had been well attended and could be rolled out. Peer to peer support works well.
 - The Open Streets Day on 9 November, 2017 will be done on a wider basis.
 - Conversations will be started in the community. The first one “In at the deep end – the meaning of LIF will meet each month. The following one will be regarding Social Finance.

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- A number of successful events had been held across the District in Partnership with Community organisations.
- Karen Cheney congratulated Eunice McCall from the District Office who had been nominated for her work done in addition to her job.
- There had been free taster sessions for the Billesley tennis campaign.
- In response to Councillor Huxtable's query about the decamping of the District Office and the old building, Karen Cheney undertook to make some enquiries.
- Bournville lights would switch on Thursday, 3 December, 2016 at 1000 hours.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

396 It was noted that the Selly Oak District Committee would meet at 1030 hours, at the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB on the following dates:-

Thursday, 16 March, 2017

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

397 No other urgent business was submitted.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

398 **RESOLVED:** -

"That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee."

The meeting ended at 1229 hours.

CHAIRMAN