

	NECHELLS WARD MEETING	
	21 MARCH 2017 AT 6.30PM AT STANHOPE HALL, EMILY STREET, HIGHGATE	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Yvonne Mosquito (in the Chair) and Councillor Tahir Ali Inspector Iftekhar Ahmed, West Midlands Police Ken Brown, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>There were 17 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Councillor Rashid	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Notes of the Last Meeting</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None Submitted
4.	<p><u>Police Update</u></p> <p>Inspector Iftekhar Ahmed introduced himself as the new Inspector covering Highgate, Small Heath, Nechells, Aston and part of Bordesley Village. He gave a brief outline of his priorities and the neighbourhood team covering those areas.</p>	
5.	<u>Fire Service Update</u>	Fire Service not in attendance
6.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund Proposals</u></p> <p>i) <u>Allies Network</u> – Nura Ali outlined her proposal aimed at empowering women through a self-sustaining women's enabling group. The work would be expanded to also include young men.</p> <p>ii) <u>Nechells Together</u> – Sharon Pennant outlined the proposal to save Nechells Green Community Centre by giving local people a voice and a recording of comments made by local people was played.</p> <p>It was noted that a further idea was being put together and a proposal would be submitted soon.</p> <p>With regard to the Nechells Together proposal it was noted that the ideas behind the proposal had been discussed at the previous ward meetings. Sharron advised that the Centre was being emptied of its furniture and Councillor Ali undertook to take</p>	

	<p>up.</p> <p>Both proposals were fully supported by Councillors and the meeting.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Local Concerns</u></p> <p>i) <u>Shisha Lounges</u> Concerns raised regarding recent events at the Arabian Nights shisha lounge and the continued disruption that the venue caused to local residents. Shisha lounges fell outside the remit of most laws and the council therefore needed to pass a by-law to cover such premises. Due to stabbings before Christmas on Moseley Street/Lombard Street and continuous police patrols the drug dealers had moved away and there had been no business for the shisha lounges. The amount of work done by the Digbeth Residents Association in respect of the laws around shisha lounges and a lop hole that had been found was noted. Inspector Ahmed advised Arabian Nights had been closed for one night by the police but on review by the court it was decided there was insufficient evidence to close for longer. The firearms incident in Spooner Croft had not been related to the closure of the shisha lounge. The meeting was advised that the M.P. had convened a meeting later in the week around the law and licensing issues relating to shisha lounges and the inspector undertook to update at the next meeting. With reference to those establishments that operated without the necessary permissions Councillor Ali undertook to check the planning process to find out which had planning permission. Councillor Ali and the Chair said they would continue to work with partners to deal with those venues that affected residents.</p> <p>ii) <u>Canberra Way/Leopold Street – Effects of Shisha Lounges</u> Residents reported that while there were issues with the shisha lounges their main concern was the litter, rubbish, used condoms etc left in the residential streets by people using the shisha lounges and while this had been reported residents were not getting any support and the condition of the area was continuing to deteriorate. The Chair requested that the photos be accumulated and shared with the councillors, police and M.P. so that evidence could be accumulated.</p> <p>iii) <u>Parking – Calthorpe School</u> – in response to concerns raised regarding parking in disabled bays by Calthorpe School, Councillor Ali advised that residents contact the Chair of Governors to discuss the matter.</p> <p>iv) <u>Optima Shared Ownership</u> – in response to concerns raised the Chair and Councillor Ali undertook to attend the forthcoming meeting.</p> <p>v) <u>St Lukes Estate</u> – the meeting was advised that letters had been sent to residents by Barratts advising they had bought the</p>	

	<p>land and would be building 740 properties and it was queried whether S106 money and local job offers would be part of the scheme. Residents hoped to be able to talk to Barratt Homes about self-build projects. Councillor Ali confirmed that there would be S106 money available and that local job offers would be a condition.</p> <p>vi) <u>Parking Permits – Digbeth/Alcester Road</u> – A local Digbeth business owner made reference to the changes to parking in the area. There were 2,500 parking spaces in Digbeth and an estimated 25% would be lost due to the changes with the remainder becoming pay & display for a maximum of 4 hours which would not be practical for workers or residents. This would have a knock on effect as people will move into the Highgate to find parking. Alcester Street had been designated for residents parking although residents did not need to park there as they had parking in Shawbury Grove. It was felt that the situation would cause businesses to leave the area as suggestions of cycling to work and car sharing were unrealistic. Businesses had been allowed to open without appropriate parking provision and this had caused the issues.</p> <p>Complaints were made regarding the consultation process as it had only been open for 4 weeks and it had taken a week for the process to be advertised. There had been no discussion with businesses.</p> <p>Councillor Ali said that it had been a statutory consultation and asked that comments be forwarded to him as a matter of urgency and he would make representations on behalf of the businesses.</p>	
	<u>Authority to Act</u>	Agreed

Meeting ended 7.40pm