

WARD MEETING NOTES AND ACTIONS

WARD: ALUM ROCK	DATE: THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER 2018
VENUE: NORTON HALL CHILDREN & FAMILY CENTRE, RALPH ROAD, ALUM ROCK, B8 1NA	START/FINISH TIMES: 7.00PM – 8.30PM
COUNCILLOR/S: CLLR MOHAMMED IDREES	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 70+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: SGT SADAR CHOUDHURY – LOCAL POLICING TEAM, WMP BEVERLY EDMOND, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE TEAM PAT WHYTE – NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT UNIT	GUEST SPEAKER(S): CLLR MAJID MAHMOOD, CABINET MEMBER, CLEAN STREETS, WASTE & RECYCLING
APOLOGIES: CLLR MARIAM KHAN	

WARD PRIORITIES: N/A AT THIS STAGE

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome and Introductions - given by Cllr Mohammed Idrees

Apologies submitted on behalf of Cllr Marian Khan who had been unable to attend due to illness. A statement from Cllr Khan advising of the reason for her absence and her regret at not being able to attend the meeting was read out by Cllr Idrees on her behalf.

Residents expressed their frustrations at Cllr Khan's continued absence and stressed it was important for both Elected Members to be at the ward meetings, given the issues and concerns in the ward. Several residents felt that a motion of no confidence should be put forward if Cllr Khan remained absent from future meetings.

2. Notice of Recording

Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or

exempt items.

3. Waste Collection Service

Cllr Mahmood, Cabinet Member, Clean Streets, Waste & Recycling gave details of the changes to the Waste Collection Service with effect from w/c 24th September 2018. . Collection crews were now contracted to work over 5 days instead of 4; shifts started at 5.30am until 1.30pm approx. and the scheduled collection days for households in the ward remained unchanged – i.e. Tuesdays. The rounds worked by each crew were different to their previous rounds and would inevitably take some time to settle down as they got to know their new rounds.

Recycling rates remained one of the lowest in the city and encouraged residents to make greater efforts to increase their recycling of paper, glass, plastics and cans. Additional or larger wheelie bins were also available for larger households; residents should contact their Cllrs or Cllr Mahmood with their request.

Fly-tipping was also a cause for concern; several hotspot areas had been identified and cleared on a regular basis. Waste Enforcement Officers had also carried out several proactive enforcement exercises in the ward, including checking that the appropriate trade waste contracts for businesses were in place.

Residents were reminded to remain vigilant and to continue to report all incidents of fly-tipping to Cllrs or the Contact Centre and details/description of the perpetrator/vehicle registration number if it was safe to do so.

Residents advised of the following:-

- Hazelmead/Beech Roads - pavements in need of clearing; they were very slippery and dangerous due to the volume of leaves left uncollected.
- Alum Rock Road – rubbish dumping/littering was an ongoing problem; there were insufficient bins, and the ones in-situ not regularly emptied.
- Residents with vans were unable to take their rubbish to the HRC as they were being unfairly treated as traders and needed a licence which was unfair. If residents were allowed to use vans to help clear their rubbish, there would be less fly-tipping.
- A site visit with Cllrs Mahmood and Idrees should be arranged to see how fly-tipping and uncollected rubbish was blighting the ward and a plan of action drawn up to tackle the problem.
- More proactive action was needed against rogue traders and aggressive begging on Alum Rock Road.
- The needs of the Asian community differed to those of other communities; families were much larger and as such tended to generate more rubbish. More help, support and consideration should be given to residents to address these issues.

- Street cleansing across the ward was urgently needed; roads and pavements were filthy and the increase in rats and mice was a concern for everyone.
- Residents had become disheartened and let down by service providers in the ward and the goodwill of many residents in keeping their streets and neighbourhoods clean and tidy had been lost.

Responding to residents, Cllr Mahmood explained that whilst he was willing to carry out site visits to areas of concern with residents, these must also include the Ward Cllrs as they were the elected representatives. Residents should also build on the work and commitment of a number of community groups and organisations in the ward like Alum Rock Community Forum who as volunteers did an enormous amount of good work in the community alongside the police and council services. The City Council no longer had the financial and officer resources to continue to provide the ongoing clean-ups that residents across the city expected, and that the mind-set, behaviours and practises of all residents needed to change. Support, information, advice and equipment would be provided to those residents/community groups who wanted to make a difference to their neighbourhood. Discussions were also ongoing with Veolia regarding van permits for residents and the associate costs if appropriate.

4. Local News and Updates

i) Cllr Idrees Update

- **Former Smith & Nephew Site** - the site had been bought by the Dept. for Education; a Free School for nursery/primary school age children had been proposed, however the Planning Application for the site was still to be submitted. Residents and Cllrs would have the opportunity to express concerns/objections regarding increasing traffic/congestion, obstructive parking and any other issues once a Planning Application was submitted.

ii) West Midlands Police – Local Policing Team

Sgt Sadar Choudhury advised of the ongoing investigations into the recent shootings and violent crime in the ward a number of key lines of enquiries were being followed up by detectives working on the incidents. At this moment in time, further details and information updates were limited due to the nature of the crime and the ongoing investigations which had been classed as attempted murder.

Residents advised that their feelings of fear, concerns and apprehension regarding the increase in violent crime was very real and that there was very little information or community reassurance from the police regarding the nature of these crimes or general safety. They added that more patrols and visible policing was needed along with a zero tolerance to violent crime, which seemed to be

happening every day. Reference was also made to a recent speeding accident in Highfield Road where the perpetrators had exceeded speeds of over 80mph in a residential road and had left the victim trapped in car for over 25 minutes before officers arrived. Residents further advised that officers should make better use of the community groups/networks in the ward, all of whom were keen to become more involved and help with efforts to make the ward a safer place to live.

Sgt Choudhury briefly advised of the successful execution of warrants over the last few months based on information and intelligence provided by the local community, which was vital in helping to secure and execute the warrants. However, there were times when it was not always possible to share information with the community due to the sensitive nature of some of the investigations. The involvement and support of the community/voluntary groups working alongside the local policing teams was essential and very much appreciated by WMP, and greater efforts must be made by officers to keep groups/organisations and residents in general informed of incidents of concern in the local areas.

Residents were given details of the WM Now (West Midlands Now) messaging service operated by West Midlands Police which provided information, advice and alerts for their immediate area. The service was free of charge and all residents actively encouraged to register their details to receive the alerts.

iii) Rockwood Academy Floodlights/Playing Fields

The funding application submitted to HS2 had been unsuccessful. Alum Rock Football Club was currently working with Liam Byrne MP on Improvements to the bid which would be resubmitted to HS2 in due course.

5. Petitions – None submitted

6. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns.

Due to lack of time, residents were advised to contact Cllr Idrees with any specific issues following the meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting – To be arranged and residents notified in due course.

Meeting Closed at 8:32pm

ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Rockwood Academy – Floodlights & Playing Fields – update from the school regarding their plans for improving the playing fields and allowing community use. Liam Byrne MP had been dealing with the matter and to be invited to the next/future meeting.	Cllr Idrees	Next/future meeting
2. Norton Hall/Arc Building – ownership of the premises and anti-social concerns to be investigated.	Ward Cllrs	Next/future meeting
3. Policing and Community Steering Group Updates to be included as Standing Items on future meeting Agendas	Ward Cllrs/ Community Governance Team	Ongoing
4. Alum Rock Road/College Road -pavement encroachment by Traders/business. Enforcement action needed.	Ward Cllrs to arrange inspections/visits with Enforcement Team	Ongoing
5. Fly-tipping/littering/ missed collections - Ward Walkabout to hot spot areas	Ward Cllrs to arrange with Cabinet Member and residents	Ongoing
6. Former Smith & Nephew Site – Planning Application not submitted for future use of site. Possible proposals included a Free School. Concerns expressed regarding increase in traffic/obstructive parking.	Relevant officers to be invited to a future meeting once proposals for the site as known	Ongoing