

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 26 JANUARY,
2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY, 2017 AT 1030 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3
& 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Barry Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Changese Khan, Mike Leddy, Mary Locke, Eva Phillips, Rob Sealey and Phil Davis.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Lesley Bannister – Governance Manager
Sue Brookin - West Midlands Fire Service
Karen Cheney – Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support
Mike Evans-Whaley - AMEY
Louisa Nisbett - Committee Manager
Lucy O’Grady - AMEY
Melvin Powell – Housing Representative – West Midlands Police

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

399 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

400 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Brigid Jones and Alex Buchanan. 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

- Min 390 - Councillor Huxtable had suggested that an additional bin be considered. Karen Cheney said that the item had been agreed in principal at the last meeting.
- Page 240 – Councillor Huxtable said that with regards to Druids Heath and Stirchley Libraries the hours would be 21 hours and not 20 to 21 hours.
- Delete question mark after Councillor Phil Davis's name.
- Min 388 – In reply to Councillor Huxtable, Lifford Planning Application would be taken under work programme. The Chairman had met with the Hall Green District Chairman regarding the Road Safety issue and would report back under the work programme item.

401

RESOLVED:-

That subject to the above the Minutes of the meetings held on 17 November, 2016, having been previously circulated be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

COMMUNITY SAFETY ANNUAL REVIEW FEEDBACK

402

Sue Brookin, West Midlands Fire Service attended the meeting and presented the following document:-

(See document no. 1)

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

- The meeting on 12 January to determine the priorities had been well attended. The partnership had widened and included Councillor representation from each District alongside partners such as the CCG and Mental Health Trust Partners.
- Some of the issues looked at were vulnerable people, domestic violence and environmental issues in open spaces. The notes from the workshop had been forwarded to the Chair of the partnership.
- The Involving Communities Group and Small Grants Panel had been successful. Grants had been made to local organisations across the District including Allenscroft Centre Freedom Project.
- There had been some challenges with the delivery of schemes as the funding had been late resulting in them being unable to commission work and activities.
- There was a wide range of activities for Road Safety. They were aware that people on road bikes were causing a problem for the community. Councillor Barry Henley informed that he had attended the meeting to discuss the delivery plan for next year. Members were welcome to attend the consultation meeting in March.

- Councillor Mike Leddy commended the partnership for its work over the last few years and commented that the report was exceptionally good.
- Karen Cheney spoke about the Local Innovation Funds and said that the improvement in connectivity and building relationships enabled funds to be matched to the needs in the District. The Chairman added that the lack of questions reflected the way that Councillors had been kept involved in the work of the Partnership.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 2 2016/17

The following report of the Acting Strategic Director, Place Directorate was received and noted:-

(See document no. 2)

Melvin Powell, Place Manager attended the meeting and presented the report. During the discussion the following points were made:-

- Anti-Social Behaviour – There had been 205 new cases, 48 more than the previous quarter of which 96% being successfully closed. The totals for each Ward were set out in the report.
- The performance for the high rise blocks were above the city average.
- Voids – The average days turnaround to re-let all properties was 308 better than the city standard. Once a void property was made fit the performance was 14.9 days against the city target of 15 days.
- Councillor Mike Leddy commented about the lack of targets for some performance data. He noted that on page 43/44 the target had been lowered significantly and the target for the right to repairs had been reduced to 92%. Councillor Mike Leddy was concerned about the amount of jobs not completed within timescale and that poor workmanship by officers and contractors seemed to be accepted.
- Melvin Powell undertook to invite the repairs contractors to the next meeting at the request of the Chairman. The Chairman said that non gas repairs were taking a long time and contractors were not communicating that parts were required.
- It was noted that details were provided in the report for work that did not have targets set against them for information.
- Councillor Barnett referred to page 17 and queried whether the figures included work by the young people's hub support care leaders to help young people to maintain or secure their tenancy. Melvin Powell undertook to speak to the Homeless Team about the issue.

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- Councillor Barry Henley noted that the figures for the number of households in temporary accommodation had increased over 15 months owing to people ending up on the streets for various reasons. He questioned what BCC did to reduce the figures to a reasonable level. Melvin Powell undertook to come back on the issue.
- Councillor Eva Phillips said that the figures were for a year and that did not allow for comparative figures or give a long term trend. It was noted that Councillor Mary Locke was on the Housing and Homes Overview and Scrutiny Committee and could refer the comments back to the Committee.
- Melvin Powell informed that the total cost of the work for the Masefield Estate was £4080.70 and Members agreed to the project. In reply to Councillor Huxtable, Melvin Powell was not aware that the work had been started but he would check and let him know.
- Councillor Mike Leddy referred to Baverstock Road mentioned at the last meeting. Karen Cheney said that she had requested an update on the matter in the meantime officers will keep Councillors updated.
- Councillor Barry Henley informed that residents views would be sought on the Druids Heath Masterplan. A large number of community organisations had been involved. Progress had been steady and there were plans for visits to the refurbished estates. The Druids Heath Masterplan would be an item on the next agenda.

403

RESOLVED:-

- i. That the Housing Investment Programme Environmental Works Programme funding for Masefield Estate totalling £4,080.70 be approved.
- ii. That the report be noted.

QUARTER 1 AND 2 WARD TRACKER FEEDBACK

404

Lesley Bannister, Community Governance Manager was in attendance and gave Members a document showing an example of a print out from the Ward Tracker. During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- Karen Cheney informed that the Ward Tracker was a new way to record Ward information, trends and issues. The example showed how data could be requested and presented.
 - The Chairman added that the Tracker was work in progress and quite useful although the time scales needed to be shortened. Members could ask for information about their own Ward. Councillors requested that they receive information for their individual Wards. It was requested that they give feedback on the information received.
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MEMBER CHAMPION – CULTURE AND HERITAGE

- 405 Councillor Phil Davis, Cultural and Heritage Champion for Selly Oak District gave a summary of the Birmingham Heritage Week 2016 from 8 to 18 September, 2016. During the discussion the following points were made:-
- There was no budget for the event however a lot of activities had successfully taken place through volunteers and sponsors. Activities that had taken place in the District were listed. They were concentrated in the Brandwood and Bournville Wards.
 - There were opportunities to involve active groups. Councillor Phil Davis invited Members to comment on the report and to indicate where they saw the possibility for activity the following year.
 - The feedback about the heritage week had been positive. They would be making an application for Heritage Lottery Funding. It would be held in September in the following year.
 - Some activities in Selly Oak had taken place under the Arts programme and not as part of the Heritage week.
 - Councillor Mary Locke said that the event promoted Birmingham well. Birmingham had a lot of history and there were hidden treasures in Selly Oak.
 - Councillor Huxtable asked if any progress had been made with the Jewellery Quarter and Bournville being nominated heritage status. Councillor Phil Davis answered that achieving the status was difficult. There were 6 criteria to be achieved however he was hopeful for Bournville.
 - Karen Cheney said that Bells Farm had been transferred to a community group and they had taken heritage on board. Stirchley Baths had been used as main press coverage to advertise Heritage Week. Community groups in the District also had a heritage programme. There was lottery funding for the next 2 years Heritage programmes were being run from schools and some sessions had already been held with residents being involved. During the sessions the tunnels underneath the building had been opened. They had been asked to contribute to the programme the following year.
 - The Chairman asked Members to send any ideas for contributions to Heritage week to Councillor Phil Davis.

AMEY HIGHWAYS UPDATE – CONSERVATION AREAS

- 406 Lucy O'Grady and Mike Evans-Whaley were in attendance. During the discussion the following points were made:-
- There were 30 conservation areas across the City. Amey obligations were on a case by case basis for individual sites. There were highway assets that needed to be considered and there was an inventory of each site. The team were responsible for ensuring a suitable solution for each road. They were aware that a different stance needed to be taken for each site depending on the

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inspection and design and Members were consulted on designs, change of material etc for work to be carried out. The name plates remained the same and as much as possible of the conservation assets were retained.

- The Chairman referred to issues over the years with regard to paving whereby meetings had been held and asked whether the issues had been resolved.
- Councillor Phil Davis agreed that paving was a big issue and it was noted that Birmingham City Council did not have a Conservation Officer. Councillor Phil Davis thanked the officers for responding positively to the issues he had raised with them. He felt there was still some work to do at policy level and would welcome regular attendance from AMEY at District Committee meetings.
- The Chairman noted that AMEY had attended every meeting they had been invited to. Highways had been unable to send a representative to today's meeting. The Chairman informed that there were 2 Conservation areas in Selly Oak and they had been introduced after the Highway Maintenance contract. It was important that the street lighting issues were dealt with. Bournville Ward already had Conservation Area status before the contract had been implemented.
- Councillor Huxtable spoke about the capital allocation 2010/12 after the PFI contract dedicated towards conservation areas. He was not convinced that the inventory of assets in Bournville was up to date and some things that would have been identified as heritage had been removed. He asked that Amey and Highways work with the District to look for appropriate funding. He continued that where there was already asphalt on roads, instead of replacing it again with asphalt the savings from that should be spent of placing asphalt in other areas.
- Lucy O'Grady undertook to look at this. She informed that assets were required to be removed if they did not meet the regulation order, however Members were contacted about what to do with the asset before it was removed.
- Councillor Phil Davis did not think that Highways had fully engaged regarding Conservation. He sought some clarification regarding the indices included in the document handed out to Members.
- Councillor Mary Locke asked that it be ensured that when signs were changed they were spelled correctly. Lucy O'Grady answered that there had been errors in the sign for Harborne and Bournville which they became aware of when the documents were sent to Members. The individual specific consultations will be sent out.
- The Chairman asked for an update on the Highway Steward for each Ward and asked who should be approached if there were ongoing problems. Lucy O'Grady was pleased to announce that there would be a dedicated Highway Steward for the area.
- The Chairman confirmed that the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) process would be rolled over to the new municipal year. The LIF had been discussed at all 4 Wards who were at different stages but were making progress.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

407

Karen Cheney reported as follows:-

- Karen Cheney reminded Members that Road Safety had been identified as a Neighbourhood Challenge for the year. The Chairman advised that a half day workshop would be planned to take it forward.
- Karen Cheney had emailed the work programme to Members. A session for the Neighbourhood challenge had been arranged for 1330 to 1630 hours at Stirchley Baths. She would send out the details to Members.
- A representative should be invited to the District Committee meeting to give an update on the Housing Repairs Contract.
- Druids Heath Masterplan (Claire Edwards) should be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Chairman said that the Masterplan had implications for Billesley Ward. Councillor Huxtable asked that a strategic approach be taken for traffic in particular issues at Lifford Lane traffic junction with Pershore Road and changes to the roundabout etc. be looked at as a matter of urgent business. The Chairman could approach Planning Committee regarding more information and date of the planning application.

**FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS -
WEST MIDLANDS POLICE – REORGANISATION AND ISSUES**

408

The police representative gave an update on the police reorganisation as follows:-

- They had returned to the Ward structure. This would give the sense of ownership to individual teams. There was a new sergeant for Bournville. The number of officers had increased. The prevention of crime was of importance.
- The role of PCSO's still remained.
- There were big challenges with anti-social behaviour in Billesley related to the use of bikes. There had been a recent spate of sexual assaults in Selly Oak.
- They now worked closer with Secondary and Primary Schools. They had identified the children in need of support and encouraged schools to bid for funding.
- There was a new computer system, 'West Midlands Now' – a database and sign up.
- Councillor Eva Phillips was delighted to have the Neighbourhood Police Teams back. Residents had mentioned that they did not understand how the new system worked and this would be fed back to the local sergeant.
- Councillor Sue Barnett was happy to have the Neighbourhood Team back as in her view Neighbourhood policing was a better way to operate and the way

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forward. The police had already been in touch with schools and she had seen them out on the street. In reply to her query the police received as much support as they could from the youth offending team when working with families.

- Councillor Phil Davis said that he told residents to report problems with ASB and scrambler bikes to the 101 number, although there had been difficulties getting through on the number. He referred to previous budget cuts and welcomed Neighbourhood Policing. He felt that police presence was valuable.
- The frustrations of being unable to reach the 101 number were shared. Maintaining team visibility in the ward was important in light of the loss of police stations.
- Councillor Rob Sealey echoed the comments made. People liked the information they got from W M Now. He felt the information could be more relevant to the local area. Councillor Rob Sealey asked for information regarding crime figures and mentioned that a serious incident had occurred. The police had been asked to come up with a plan.
- Councillor Barry Henley agreed that Ward based policing had harmed intelligence gathering at local level. He did not think that the 101 system was effective and continued that the way the police worked with the community was crucial.
- Karen Cheney was advised to speak to Mandy Platt about the PCSO's. She reported that a lot of community led events had taken place since November.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

409 The next meeting was scheduled to take place on Thursday, 16 March, 2017 in the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB.

Councillor Barry Henley noted that a Planning Committee meeting would take place on the same day. The Chairman undertook to take this into consideration.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

410 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

411 **RESOLVED: -**

Chairman to move:-

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

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The meeting ended at 1216 hours.

CHAIRMAN