

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum
19 September 2017 at 7pm
at Hollymoor Centre, Manor Park Grove

Present: Councillors Andy Cartwright, Carole Griffiths and Ian Cruise
Kevin Hicks, Assistant Director, Highways & Infrastructure
Glenn Smith, District Engineer
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 16 residents also in attendance

1. **Election of a Chair for 2017/2018** – Councillor Cartwright was elected as Chair
2. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
3. **Apologies** – Councillor Cruise for lateness, Richard Burden M.P & Sgt Howard
4. **Petitions** – none submitted
5. **Police Update** – item deferred
6. **Highway Update on Parking – Bristol Road South**

The Chair stated that the current parking restrictions were affecting businesses on the road as cars parked for long periods of time and therefore shoppers were unable to park, subsequently business was being lost. A local trader said that the three hours parking, no return in two, was ruining his business. Businesses had accepted 2 hour parking restrictions after some feedback on proposals put forward but there had been no consultation on 3 hour parking limits. The first businesses had been aware was when the signs had been erected. One hour parking limits would deter people parking all day but business permits would be required for customers. The traders had signed a petition to this effect. A local garage was also parking cars in the parking bays outside the shops all day.

It was reported that the garage parked vehicles in School Close as well as outside the shops. Parking enforcement had been contacted as the vehicles had been parked over 'H' markings, on double yellow lines and had blocked the entrance to the apartments.

The Chair called for a review of the situation and pointed out that parking in Sunbury Road had been re-visited.

Kevin Hicks made the following points;

- He acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the implementation of the parking restrictions
- The results of the consultation had indicated that one hour parking was too short and so three hours had been instigated.
- He undertook to look at the concerns about lack of consultation on the three hour parking and any particular issues around parking enforcement.
- He asked if the wish was for more enforcement of the three hour parking restriction or a return to one hour parking.
- He undertook to arrange 2 daily enforcement visits and would advise of the number of tickets issued and how many vehicles had been moved on.

- School Close would also be included in the enforcement exercise and the issue of the garage would be taken up with parking enforcement

Glenn Smith advised that consultation would have to be undertaken to change the parking restrictions and funding found to implement the process.

7. LOCAL INNOVATION FUND UPDATE

Gemma Cartwright outlined the concept for the LIF proposal which had come from a community meeting where different community groups, faith groups, partners and councillors had come together and under the theme of 'Longbridge Moving Forward' the following proposals that made a difference to the community had been suggested;

a) Frankley Family Forum

A voluntary group of parents working from Frankley Children's Centre who had identified a missing need for training/support for people working in schools with children with special needs. Support was often not forthcoming and because of this children with special needs were being excluded from school. This in turn affected the entire family as the excluded child had to be at home between 9am -3pm. The parents wanted to be trained to enable them to set up a support service to work in schools. In response to questions the meeting was advised that schools had already been contacted and were supportive, schools already had to buy in specialist support and the group could tailor the support to the need and would be local people offering a local service.

b) New Starts

Marion Keynon outlined the furniture project that provided furniture for people moving into their first accommodation or who had a change of circumstances, to prevent them getting into debt. New Starts was already established in Bromsgrove but had increasing numbers of clientele from south Birmingham. New Starts already covered the cost of the van, running costs and sold some furniture so was self- sustainable. It was hoped to work in Longbridge but some funding was necessary to help this happen. New Starts was already working with Frankley Parish Council. Volunteer training would be provided.

c) Over 25's Crisis Support in Longbridge Moving Forward

Helen Sephton spoke of the increasing numbers of over 25 year olds needing debt advice but advice for this group was not available. A programme had been created to enable over 25's to see a case worker who would offer help and support from start to finish, including how to manage finances. Workshops would also be provided.

d) B31 Voices

LIF funding was sought to help B31 Voices help community groups to improve communication. In response to a question it was agreed that this could work with 'Nextdoor' to form a partnership.

e) Chapple Craft

Idea to set up evening classes – most that existed were in the day time – for arts and craft sessions for working people to help improve mental health and well-being to be delivered from the Hollymoor Chapple.

f) **Fox's Grow Your Own**

Residents of Fox Hollies Grove wished to set up a community group and a community garden to promote intergenerational work through developing an organic garden. In response to a question the meeting was advised that there were already links to the Eco Centre.

g) **Playdays Play Group**

The group at St Stephen's Church hoped to establish a sensory garden where vegetables could be grown to enable a 'cook your own' and cookery skills project could be set up linked to the college and The Project.

h) **Early Years Support for Longbridge Ward**

In conjunction with the police the proposal was to offer sports coaching aimed at years 6 & 7 and children 'on the brink' linked with guidance and role models. In response to a question the meeting was advised that funding via the Police and Crime Commissioner had been sought but Longbridge was not a priority.

i) **What About.....**

The funding was sought for a feasibility study to engage young people in the area and focus on their wants/needs and develop their ideas. Run in conjunction with The Project and eventually to be rolled out to other groups.

j) **Pickleball 35's**

To deliver sport instruction to the over 35's to encourage exercise and the use of local resources.

k) **Aurora Project**

A referral project run by West Midland Fire Service in response to the numerous fires started at the quarry. Those young people responsible would be offered courses and referrals could also be made by schools.

l) **Group from the Community**

Funding sought to finance sessions for the local groups involved in the LIF proposals and others to be taught how to write bids, constitutions, policies etc to enable them to be self-sufficient and grow stronger.

At each ward forum meeting groups that had received LIF money would provide an update on the progress of their initiative. The groups would also work together, meet regularly and support one another to write bids and attract alternative funding.

The Councillors were required to sign off the proposals for final approval by the Cabinet Committee Local Leadership.

8. RESIDENTS ISSUES

- a) **Graffiti** – the amount of graffiti along the A38 was growing, including on bus shelters, shops, advertising hoardings etc. Residents had moved as much as possible but it still remained on signal control boxes. There had also been an increase in fly posting,

including on School Close attributable to the same blind companies. Councillor Cruise requested that photographs be sent to him and he would take up with the City Council and highlight on social media. It was requested that the council remove any graffiti and that prosecutions be sought in respect of the fly posting.

- b) **Parking** – concern was expressed that residents were being deterred from using Frankley businesses at the shopping centre due to street drinkers congregating in the area. Businesses had asked for a Public Space Protection Order. The Chair said a PSPO was being considered but information needed to be sent to the police to provide the evidence needed. This had become a priority at Police Tasking.
- c) **North Worcester Golf Course** – reference made to the refusal of the planning application and the reasons. The developer was able to appeal to the Secretary of State and if this happened residents would be able to make representations. The impact of the development on the community would be devastating and therefore an alternative use for the site needed to be suggested. A senior school, industrial unit, mental health unit were all viable options but the community needed to be forthcoming. Heritage was highlighted as an important aspect as was a 'green lung' for the area especially in view of the amount of development already taking place in the ward. Longbridge could not sustain any more houses as the strain on local services and the local infrastructure would be intolerable. There was also concern with regard to the safety of the club house
Action:- It was agreed to set up a steering group of local residents to come up with suggestions for the viable use of the North Worcester Golf Course site to be taken forward by Councillors and M.P. Councillor Cruise to raise club house safety at Community Safety Partnership meeting.
- d) **King George Pub** – in response to questions about the future of the building Councillor Cruise said that the bowling green was an asset of community value and the pub was Grade II Listed so attempts were being made to turn that into an asset of community value.
- e) **Scrap Yard, JK Auto's** – concerns raised regarding noise nuisance and enforcement of issues previously complained of. Councillor Cruise undertook to raise at the Community Safety Partnership meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next Ward Forum meeting in November.

9. AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

Noted and agreed

Meeting ended at 8.45pm