

SPARKHILL WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Sparkhill	DATE: 21 st June 2023
VENUE St Johns Church, St Johns Road B11 4RG	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8pm
COUNCILLORS Nicky Brennan & Rashad Mahmood	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 14
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Keith Smith, Kier Highway Steward Garry Dalton, Local Highway Engineer Amer Khan, Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator PCSO Stansbie & PCSO Chauhan, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager Paul Langford, Interim Strategic Director City Housing (CLT)	

WARD PRIORITIES:

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome

Councillor Brennan welcomed all to the meeting & advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

2. Highway Issues & Local Highway Budget

Update from Garry Dalton on the Local Highway budget/local highway issues and from Keith Smith, Kier –

- Last years Local Highway budget had been carried forward to spend in conjunction with this year's budget and

local schemes were currently being considered. Previous schemes had included bollards on pavements to prevent parking and removal of build-outs in pavements to create additional space.

- Residents made the following suggestions regarding potential spend for the local budget –
- Action to mitigate the parking issues along Stratford Road and encroachment onto the pavement by traders. Red route enforcement required. It was suggested that guard railings and bollards be installed along Stratford Road to prevent parking.
- Broken paving slabs Stratford Road (St Johns Road to Baker Street) required repair.
- Corner of Nansen Road/Stratford Road – measures to prevent inconsiderate parking (petition submitted to councillors)
- Percy Road (Avondale Rd to Fernley Rd) measures to prevent cars driving on the pavement and guard railings at crossing requested.
- Bollards requested at Grove Road (junction with Springfield Road)
- Enforcement was key to improving the illegal parking situation on Stratford Road but needed to be undertaken at times when the issue was at its peak and not early in the morning. The PCSO's concurred with the comments made regarding pavement parking as pedestrians were being forced into the road as they were unable to walk on the pavement. They offered to undertake joint operations with the council enforcement officers.
- Stratford Road was a thriving shopping centre, attracting huge numbers of visitors and therefore a policy reflecting this was required for the area.
- In response to concerns regarding obstructions on the highway, eg use of items to save on-street parking spaces, the meeting was advised to report to the Council via the BCC website so that Kier could undertake a site visit and issue a warning letter and remove cones. Police advised they did issue fines for obstructive parking.
- In response to comments regarding residents parking permit schemes, there was discussion regarding the lack of space in local roads, the number of cars per household and the process for implementing a controlled

parking scheme. There was considerable concern regarding parking issues in the area that were causing neighbour disputes and affecting everyday life, as well as blocking roads and Councillor Brennan undertook to have a conversation with the Cabinet Member

- Councillors advised residents to forward to them photographs of inconsiderate parking, encroachment etc and agreed to invite the Cabinet Member for Transport to a future meeting.
- Keith explained the role of the Kier Highway Stewards and Kiers responsibilities.
- Thanks extended for the installation of the new LED street lighting. Meeting advised of the programme to replace all street lighting across the city.
- Businesses operating from residential properties eg car dealers added to parking issues and there were calls for this to be managed through potential controlled parking areas.

3. Ward Plan Update

In response to comments Councillor Brennan set out the meetings that had been held to discuss the ward plan and that there had also been meetings with schools, school students and local organisations. The ward plan would now be drafted but was a fluid document and would be reviewed regularly and new priorities could be incorporated as and when they were identified. The draft ward plan would be brought back to the next ward meeting.

4. Local Updates/AOB

a) Notified issue from Chair of Friends of Sparkhill Park regarding Sparkhill Park

The Chair of the Friends of Sparkhill Park brought to the attention of the meeting the work that the Group had been doing working with police regarding night-time activities, requested Parks Department to provide a general clean of the Park, working with St Johns School around a potential lottery bid for playground equipment and urged more residents to come forward and be part of the Friends Group. He highlighted the lack of investment in the Park, the removal of play equipment that had not been replaced and the need for a forward plan to ensure that the Park was

not left to deteriorate. The Friends of Sparkhill Park had asked for details of the park's budget, when equipment would be replaced and maintenance undertaken but had received no response from the City Council. The Park was heavily used and there were concerns that as equipment got older and was removed due to safety reasons if replacement was not forthcoming use of the park would diminish and the future of the open space might be at risk. Residents commented that there had been a plan to install outdoor gym equipment, but this had not materialised and there was still an issue with pigeons being fed and general rubbish dumping and litter from the businesses in the vicinity. A more joined up approach to street cleaning was called for as street cleaners did not pick up rubbish from the Park.

Councillor Brennan advised that Sparkhill Park was part of the Ward Plan and that the next ward meeting could focus on green spaces.

b) MHRC – residents welcomed the MHRC vehicles but asked if the locations could be varied and more notice provided. Inglewood Road was suggested as a location. Councillor Brennan undertook to notify residents of the next 3 visits in advance.

c) Inglewood Road – alleyways were still attracting fly tipping as they were not secure and required securely gating.

d) Supported Accommodation – there had been a rise in the number of supported accommodation/HMO properties in the ward and this was creating anti-social behaviour, rubbish, littering, begging and anti-social activities in Sparkhill Park. Residents in these properties were not receiving the support they required and the properties needed better management. It was requested that Supported Housing be included in the Ward Plan as a priority and how the community could work with the council, management companies, landlords etc to ensure these problems were

resolved and incidents reduced.

e) Stratford Road Business Improvement District – calls for the creation of a BID. Councillors advised that a group of businesses were working towards this given that the Stratford Road shopping area was a destination point, similar to Soho Road and other areas. However, there was a cost to businesses and so a survey was to be undertaken to find the views of local traders.

ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Invite Cabinet Member for Transport to future ward meeting	1.Councillors/Kay Thomas	1. Date to be agreed
2. MHRC – notice of next 3 visits to be provided to residents in advance	2. Councillor Brennan	2.
3. Ward Plan inclusion of Supported Accommodation & Sparkhill Park as priorities	3. Councillors	3.