

## OSCOTT WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD: OSCOTT</b>	<b>DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2022</b>
<b>VENUE: ST MATTHEWS CHURCH, BIRDBROOK RD B44 8RA</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 2pm – 4.05pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLORS BARBARA DRING &amp; DARIUS SANDHU</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 6</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>SERGEANT THOMAS MAHONEY</b> <b>CARLA BELLE, COMMUNITY SUPPORT &amp; DEVELOPMENT OFFICER</b> <b>KAY THOMAS, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MANAGER</b>	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Dring welcomed all to the meeting and reminded that the press/public could record or take photographs except where there were private or exempt items.

#### 2. Police Update from Sergeant Mahoney

Sergeant Mahoney explained that he covered the Perry Barr part of the constituency and Sergeant Claire Jones covered Oscott but they worked together, with a team of 12 PC's and 2 PCSO's and the Inspector for the area was Inspector Dawn Fox.

General crime rates were stable with youth violence, burglary and robbery all reducing. In relation to Greenholme Road issues, a resident had been charged with 14 offences and had been in custody, with a prevention notice served regarding the offences committed. Another hot spot was Kingstanding Circle and the area was heavily patrolled.

Residents raised a number of issues around anti-social behaviour caused by groups of young people breaching the gate to the shopping centre adjacent to the derelict Kingstanding Pub and getting into flats above shops and onto the roof. The police had responded to calls

that it was not a police matter although those involved had been trespassing into neighbouring gardens and doing drugs. There was also a safety issue when the young people were on the roof. Councillor Dring added that police support would assist the community in getting action taken with regard to the shopping centre. Sergeant Mahoney said that it would assist with the ASB if the gate was locked, although the 'leaders' of the group were in youth custody and the others had bail conditions attached and help had been offered to Trading Standards with regard to the sale of gas cannisters. The derelict shopping centre had only two stores left in situ, the site had been purchased by Lidl but needed to submit a planning application. The two remaining shops needed to leave the precinct so that the site could be secured and the car park closed. Until that happened there was little that could be done although officers were patrolling but could not take action in civil matters. With regard to drug use the meeting was advised that diversionary tactics would be used to achieve long term solutions and the work undertaken on Kingstanding Circle had helped reduce issues.

In response to concerns raised regarding police response to a reported knife crime incident at King George park, Sergeant Mahoney undertook to investigate.

### **3. The Environment – Discussion with Councillor Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member for the Environment**

Councillor Mahmood introduced his role and responsibilities as Cabinet Member for the Environment which included parks, waste management, fly tipping etc. He referred to the closure of Perry Barr HRC and said the re-opening was hoped for early February and acknowledged the closure had effected refuse collections but improvements had been made over the past few weeks but the aim was for zero missed collections. Additional funding for waste had been requested but the council was facing overall budget cuts.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that crews were being assembled to deal with leaf fall, but leaves had fallen earlier this year therefore the service was having to catch up. Councillor Mahmood urged residents to continue to report failures and said collections were to be tracked in real time so it could be seen where things were going wrong. With regard fly tipping, Oscott was 46<sup>th</sup> cleanest ward out of 69 but received regular MHRC vehicle visits which had replaced the free bulky waste collections and crews could assist anyone with difficulties with access. Fly tipping crews had also been doubled and prosecutions were made. Alleyway clearance was being stepped up to include private alleyways where there were community clean-ups and assistance would be provided for community groups litter picking etc. The Love Your Streets initiative had been introduced to bring partners and the community together

to clean up particular hot spots in their area and councillors could provide details of specific areas in Oscott to be included in the initiative.

There were further questions regarding rubbish collection and the cost of bulky waste collections that were not affordable for all. Councillor Mahmood said that all crews had specific jobs and due to capacity issues on the trucks could only pick up certain amounts of rubbish, therefore it was difficult to pick up fly tipped waste while on their rounds, although crews now had the technology to report fly tipping. With regard to the cost of garden waste collections, not all residents had a garden and would therefore be subsidising those with gardens if no charge was made. The Council had however put cost of living crisis funding from green waste subsidies into other services. Councillor Mahmood also added that he wanted to merge housing crews and depot crews so that the services could work together and not be dependant on land ownership. A hardstanding was to be installed in Bevis Grove so that communal bins could be provided and end the rubbish issues.

The issue with missed collections was not improving, for example Southgate Road had missed collections 3 weeks out of 5. Councillor Sandhu added that this was not down to access issues as half of the street had been missed or bins collected on one side of the street only. Where the bins were emptied the paper recycling pods were dis-guarded all over the road. Councillor Dring said that assisted collections were also being missed. Councillor Mahmood noted the issues raised and asked councillor to track Southgate Road and contact him if a collection was missed. He added that he would address the reasons for so many missed collections. There had been a driver shortage and the council was trying to recruit new drivers and up-skill existing drivers licences.

In response to a query from Councillor Sandhu regarding street sweepers, Councillor Mahmood asked him to email the issues and he would have the rota schedules sent to him.

#### **4. Update on the progress of the Village Green**

Councillor Dring advised that the report was due to go before the Licensing Committee in the very near future and a positive outcome was hoped for. The community had undertaken a great deal of work and supported the application and funded had been secured for maintenance over the next 12 months.

## **5. Ward Planning**

Councillor Dring advised that each ward was required to draw up a ward action plan with the community and local stakeholders, looking at local priorities and actions/solutions. It was suggested that the discussion on the ward plan begin at the next ward meeting.

## **6. Local Updates/Issues/Councillor Updates**

- a) Councillor Sandhu reported that he had met with the highways team regarding the tree pruning programme and complaints about missed trees. He had also reported the condition of some of the roads and Brockwell Road had now been marked out for pothole repairs and weeds, dog mess and gully cleaning had been raised with the appropriate officers. With regard to complaints of trees overhanging gardens from the park, this had been raised with parks officers for some pruning work.
- b) Planning Applications – a local resident expressed concern regarding the number of planning applications being submitted in the area and the lack of communication with the local community. An application for more retail units in Shady Lane was totally inappropriate as there was already traffic congestion that caused difficulties for the refuse vehicles to manoeuvre and the design was not in keeping with the local area. There did not appear to be any consideration for the environment. The councillors said that they had objected to the application on the grounds of over intensity.

### **c) Bleed Control Kits –**

The meeting was advised that the installation of Bleed Control Kits was something that had been felt important for the area and had been achieved with the assistance of funding from two local pubs, Second City and Sportsmans Rest.

The Bleed Control Kits were demonstrated to the meeting and it was explained that they were provided by a non-profit organisation to organisations and community groups for free but the group/organisation had to pay for training to use the kit. Councillor Dring had supported the initiative and helped bring the kits to Oscott. The pubs mentioned earlier had seen the benefit and had trained their staff. In response to questions the meeting was advised that training cost £300 for 20 people but assistance could be given in some cases. Youth clubs had been provided with free kits and awareness was being raised across the city.

**After some discussion it was agreed that the introduction of Bleed Control Kits into more establishments across the ward be a priority for the Ward Plan**

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