

HARBORNE WARD MEETING NOTES

MONDAY 29 JANUARY 2019

6.30PM – 8.40PM

VENUE: The Community Room, Harborne Pool & Leisure Centre, Lordswood Road, B17 9QS	
COUNCILLORS: Jayne Francis & Peter Fowler	ATTENDEES: Approx. 30
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Fiona Alexander, Director of Communication, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Martyn Baker – Infrastructure Delivery Manager, BCC Marie Brown – District Engineer Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team APOLOGIES Cllr Francis – Lateness Sgt Khalil – Local Policing Team, WMP for absence	

WARD PRIORITIES: Not yet identified
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:
<p>Cllr Peter Fowler in the Chair</p> <p>1. Welcome & Introductions. Cllr Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>2. Notice of Recording The Chair advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt</p>

items.

3. Notes from the last meeting and Matters Arising

Noted.

Matters Arising:-

- Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods – the report had been approved by Cabinet. The Community Governance Manager agreed to email a copy of the report to interested residents.
- Harborne Primary School Annexe – meeting arranged at short notice just before Christmas. Residents felt that respective officers at the meeting had not listened to concerns regarding the admission criteria or the traffic management issues along Court Oak Road, and that a one-way traffic system on the side roads should be considered.
Marie Brown, District Engineer advised that the traffic calming measures initially proposed had been revised following a number of objections and that discussions were ongoing between Ward Cllrs and Highway Engineers to find an appropriate solution.
In the meantime, the matter had been referred to the Ombudsman. Residents would continue to be kept informed.

4. Policing Issues in the Ward

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Sgt Khalil.

Street Watch Update

Local resident Sarah Hanson briefly advised of the Harborne Street Watch that was set up in December with a group of 20 keen like-minded local volunteers who cared about their local area and the ward as a whole.

Training, insurance and equipment (i.e. high-vis jacket & torch) were provided by the police. Residents interested in getting involved/learning more or setting up their own Street Watch group should contact Sarah following the meeting or the police Street Watch section via email: streetwatch@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Street Watch Clinic run by the police would take place on Saturday, 9th March, 10.30 -12.30, Moor Pool Hall

Residents were also encouraged to sign up to the West Midlands Now (WM NOW) Service provided by WMP to receive alerts regarding

incidents/advice relating to their immediate neighbourhood.

Councillors and residents commended the work of Sarah and the other volunteers in the Harborne Street Watch Group.

5. Hospital Masterplan – Parking and Management Measures

Following introductions, Fiona Alexander, Director of Communications advised of the following:-

- Ongoing work and discussions with staff to reduce car journeys to and from the QE Hospital site. Where appropriate, car sharing and better use of public transport to and from the hospital site was encouraged.
- Investments in cycling provision at the site and upgrading of the cycle routes
- Working across all the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS foundation Trust sites (QE; Heartlands; Good Hope, Solihull Hospital and Community Services and Birmingham Chest Clinic) to improve parking provision and staff mode of travel to and from work by trying to ensure that where possible, staff did were located close to their home address.
- Adequate patient and visitor parking provision remained a priority; approx. 500 additional parking spaces had been made available following the rationalisation of staff car parking provision
- Working with Council Highways Officers to see how congestion could be effectively managed/reduced, particularly at peak times
- Acknowledges that parking in residential streets remained an issue and staff actively encouraged not to do so; however on-street parking was not illegal and could not be controlled by the Trust. Where driveways had been blocked or obstructed by staff, residents were advised to contact the Trust Security Manager (contact details: grant.moss@uhb.nhs.uk; 0121 371 2000)
- Park and Ride would continue to be looked at as a suitable alternative in the Rubery/Longbridge area as a significant number of staff travelled in from that side of the city
- There was insufficient space on the hospital site for a multi-storey car park. A vacant area of land towards the end of Vincent Drive had been considered as a possibility; however the submission of a planning application and associated building and maintenance costs remained an issue.

Residents advised of the following:-

- Greater consideration must be given to providing staff car parking either on site or the park and ride facility. Most of the staff worked shifts and it was unfair to expect them to use public transport which was not always reliable. Their safety to and from work should be taken into account.
- Improved parking provision for outpatients should also be given greater consideration

- The hospital site had been allowed to expand without due consideration, stricter checks and balances. As a result, local residents had been left to deal with traffic congestion, air pollution and obstructive parking on a daily basis without any consideration of the impact on their lives.
- The hospital was no longer a local facility, but one that offered specialist services and treatments to patients nationally and further afield. Ongoing residents' views and concerns expressed as the hospital site continued to expand had not been taken into account at any time.
- Consideration should be given to using the land by Malins Grove for providing parking if there was nowhere else within the site considered suitable. In addition, the site was away from Bristol Road which was already heavily congested.
- Hospital parking was completely out of control; action must be taken by Council Officers and the Hospital Trust to properly address the situation. The former Selly Oak hospital site should have been retained and used as parking provision instead of being disposed of. Residents were left unable to go about their daily lives, have home deliveries or enjoy the peace and quiet of their homes, which was totally unacceptable.

Responding to residents, Fiona Alexander agreed to take residents' comments, concerns and suggestions on-board and that discussions with all partners would continue to see how the situation could be addressed/improved. Councillors and residents would continue to be kept informed. In addition, Cllr Fowler proposed the following:-

"This ward forum resolves to write to the Council to express its concern about the proposal in the draft Development Management Plan to limit on-site parking provision within new developments and the exacerbating impact this will have on already congested roads around Harborne, including near the hospital site. This forum believes that draft development management plan should be amended to ensure that planning policies allow for sufficient parking provision across the city."

The motion proposed was unanimously supported by residents.

6. Parking Consultation in Harborne

Following introductions, Martyn Baker, Infrastructure Delivery Manager, BCC, gave details of a proposed scheme in partnership with the Hospital Trust and the University of Birmingham to address parking in key roads around both sites. A traffic management study had been carried out which focussed on a mile radius (approx. 20 min walk) from the sites as evidence showed that car drivers were less likely to park and walk if this took longer than 20 minutes.

Six areas had been identified for the Harborne area – all had 2 options available for consideration and were a combination of limited parking/time restrictions (2 hrs), parking permits and No Waiting at any time.

Details of each scheme would be provided to residents in the areas affected for their views and comments. It was hoped that once the consultation process, comments and concerns were addressed, the schemes would be implemented in March 2020.

Several residents felt it was unfair to ask them to pay for parking permits when the situation was not of their own making especially as there was no guarantee of a parking space even if they had a permit. Residents also made reference to the presentation last February by City Council Officers regarding the Hospital & University Masterplan and traffic measures and sought assurances and confirmation that the funding was still available. Martyn Baker confirmed that the funding was still available, and that the options had been developed as a result of the Masterplan.

Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation once the details had been made available.

7. The Royalty – Information Update

Rob Sutton, Harborne Royalty Trust advised of a recent meeting in January with the building owner and his representatives. Following the fire, a structural report carried out had been positive despite the damage to the auditorium. Discussions were ongoing with all parties to see how progress could be moved forward and a suitable solution found to bring the building back into use.

Residents would continue to be kept informed.

8. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns

- Ward Meeting Arrangements

Residents opposed the 6.30pm starting time as well as the reduction in the length of the meeting from 2hrs to 1.5hrs, and that this left very little time for meaningful discussions, especially where the Agenda had significant issues of concern.

The choice of meeting venue was also a cause for concern, and that other venues like the Kenrick Centre were more appropriate and user friendly. The 7pm start was more appropriate for a public meeting, especially as many residents worked full time.

Cllr Francis advised that a number of residents had felt that 6.30pm was a more suitable start, and following a vote, and a show of hands, residents indicated this was the case.

It was suggested and agreed that residents would be asked at the start of each meeting for their view on the meeting starting time as well as the choice of venue. The duration of the meeting would depend on the Agenda items to be discussed.

- Electric Car Charging Points

Cllr Fowler agreed to find out if any charging points had been planned for the ward and to advise residents accordingly.

- Ward Plans

Residents were briefly advised that each ward was required to look at and prioritise its areas of concern so that a Ward Plan/plan of action could be developed to see how these priorities could be addressed over a period of time.

A Ward Priorities Template was issued to residents for information and initial discussions in the first instance. The Plan would be a working document, amended and updated over the next three years as priorities were discussed, agreed and actioned where appropriate.

This would be continued to be discussed and agreed at future meetings

9. Petitions

None submitted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged and residents advised accordingly.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm