

JOINT FOUR OAKS AND MERE GREEN WARD MEETING ACTION NOTES

WARD: Four Oaks and Mere Green	DATE: 29 th July 2019
VENUE: Mere Green Community Centre	START/FINISH TIMES: 7.00pm 8.40pm
COUNCILLOR: Birmingham City Councillors Jenkins and Cornish Sutton Coldfield Town Councillor Ward ,Cumming ,Horrocks and Raut	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 65
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lesley Bannister ,John Mole ,John Porter and Police SRG Greg Richards	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

WARD PRIORITIES: - Proposed and agreed

Four Oaks Agreed Ward Priorities

- Respond to crime and reassurance - while working with police to alleviate fear of crime and criminal activity
- Park and Ride at Blake Street – consider feasibility of multi-level parking to alleviate pressure on highways and remove the inconsiderate parking of individuals accessing the station
- Street cleaning and maintenance of verges.
- Improve the uptake of clean travel mechanisms while increasing lanes and promoting all green styles of travel
- Examine the notion of a pedestrian crossing at Streetly Lane
- Improve highway infrastructure at Tamworth Road to reduce accidents and dangerous driving (right turn filter)
- Increase Alcohol Restricted Signage at The Fordrough
- Focus required on pot holes across the ward

Mere Green Agreed Ward Priorities

- Reassurance from police that they can respond appropriately to reported incidents and, if it re-occurs, anti-social behaviour in the centre of Mere Green.
- Park and Ride at Blake Street – consider feasibility of multi-level parking to alleviate commuter parking pressure on highways.
- Street cleaning and maintenance of verges.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. **Introduction** by Cllr Cornish
2. **Notice Of Recording** read by Cllr Cornish
3. **Apologies** - Town Councillor Simon Ward
4. **TRW Development** – Cllr Cornish declared that she is a member of the Planning Committee for this item . Update given on the site this included that the site was now owned by the Lidl supermarket chain and as at the 29th July no planning application for the sites development had been received by Birmingham City Council , however Cllr Jenkins said that an application was expected by the end of the month and that there would be a consultation period thereafter .Cllr Jenkins went on to say that he had received numerous comments from the Mere Green residents on this subject and the vast majority were not positive sighting that residents main concerns were the effect on parking , traffic congestion and keeping the traffic flowing in the Mere Green area.
5. **Four Oaks Estate** – Certificate of Lawfulness. Cllr Cornish stated that due to ongoing legal proceeding she could not comment on this other than there was a legal assessment underway and the outcome was expected in mid- August. Ron Forrest the Chairman of the Four Oaks Estate said that residents and the committee of the estate were looking at gating the estate in order to put a stop to thought traffic and the associated repair and maintenance costs this had on the private roads on the estate.
6. **Recycling and Waste Collections - Discussion** on the continued problems that both Wards were experiencing with waste collection these were noted by both Councillors.
7. **Grass Cutting** – **John Porter** the Parks manager for Sutton Coldfield and Erdington gave an update on the reason for the current lack of grass cutting and other grounds maintenance contract issues ,explaining that after 10 years the contact had come back in house and that this had caused a few initial temporary problems with the maintenance program not starting on time this year John explained this was mostly due to the delay in the procurement of the new equipment required adding that the exceptionally wet summer hadn't helped the situation either .The residents were critical of the process but welcomed John reassurances that the equipment was now arriving and maintenance was under way .John then went onto explain the biodiversity measures taking place for grass verge mowing and wildflower planting that were planned in order to encourage Bee's population and other wildlife.
8. **Ward Plan** – Cllr Cornish re capped on the last Ward meetings discussion on the Ward Plans for Mere Green and Four Oaks for residents reading out the proposed priorities. Cllr Jenkins and Cllr Cornish asked the residents if there was anything further prioties they wished to add or felt hadn't been address and after a discussion the plans were adjusted slightly to incorporate commuter parking issues, greener travel and pot holes to the list of priorities.(Full list above)

9. **Local Police and Crime prevention** – Police SRG Greg Richards gave updates on- the Crime stat's saying most significantly burglary was on the increase in the area and gave advice on crime prevention ; Street Watch Scheme ; cross boundary protocols ;obstructive parking ; potential closure of Sutton Police station & front desk provision and West midland Police email alerts .
10. **Neighbourhood forum** - Derek Gasson from the NHF put out a plea for more members he said that without an increase in membership the forum wasn't sustainable.
11. **Street Watch and Moor Hall Neighbourhood Watch** update and promotion from a local resident on the benefits of both schemes and how they both worked as a deterrent, he said that he was amazed by the effect of popping on a high Vis jacket and walking the streets he said it actually makes cars slow down.
12. **Town Council update** - Cllr Claire Horrock's announced the that Town Council would be Consulting on the Strategic Plan for Sutton Coldfield 2020 to 2023 from 2nd September to 11th October and information packs would be ready shortly which would be emailed out to community groups and there would be pop stalls and events in the Town Centre during the six week consultation period with all details being on the Town Council Website <https://www.suttoncoldfieldtowncouncil.gov.uk/the-council/>
13. **Meeting Closed at 8.40 pm .**

ACTION – NO RECORDED ACTIONS	WHO	BY WHEN

AOB:

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):