

## STIRCHLEY WARD MEETING NOTES

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| <b>WARD:</b> Stirchley   | <b>DATE:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> November 2023                                   |
| <b>VENUE:</b> Stirchley Baths Community Hub, Bournville Lane B30 2JT   | <b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.30pm                                       |
| <b>COUNCILLOR</b> Mary Locke   | <b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 17   |
| <b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b><br>Stuart Cross, Kier Highway Steward<br>Sergeant Casey Corbett, West Midlands Police<br>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager | <b>VISITING SPEAKER:</b><br>Tom McNeil, Assistant Police & Crime Commissioner |

### CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Bold Prosperous Stirchley
2. A Bold Inclusive Stirchley
3. A Bold Safe Stirchley
4. A Bold Healthy Stirchley
5. A Bold Green Stirchley
6. A Bold Local Stirchley

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

#### 1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

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

#### 2. Tom McNeil, Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner – Local Policing

Tom McNeil explained his role and the pressures facing West Midlands Police force. The PCC had lobbied Government in response to constant requests from the community for additional local police officers and 700 additional officers had been recruited across the West Midlands.

In response to specific challenges, car crime was an issue in Stirchley and also across the West Midlands, therefore a specific task force had been set up and had revealed that as well as isolated thefts there was also an organised crime element. Road safety was also a major issue and had been the focus of

a targeted operation.

In response to a comment regarding police officers in Stirchley not acting in respect of cars parked on zig zag markings, double yellow lines, illegal number plates etc the meeting was advised that those issues were enforceable by the council enforcement officers, but the police would enforce for obstruction. Residents were also encouraged to report inconsiderate parking. Additional resources had been allocated to the 101 number so that calls were answered more quickly. Sergeant Corbett said the team had been conducting speed checks around Stirchley. Dangerous driving could be reported through the police portal and again reporting was encouraged as it influenced data and resources. Councillor Locke also suggested that residents register for WMNow, Crimestoppers and police tasking meetings. She added that she was a representative on the Community Strategic Partnership, a joint working body, bringing together public sector organisations.

Residents highlighted anti-social behaviour and crime issues, especially involving drugs, related to the increase in exempt properties and houses in multiple occupation and the effect it was having on the neighbourhood. Tom McNeil acknowledged there were problems associated with some multiple occupied houses and that because of this and the association with organised crime West Midlands Police had lobbied government for a vetting procedure before an individual could become a landlord. Sergeant Corbett addressed the specific local address that had been raised and advised the property was a young person's care home, and the police were working with the carers in relation to a number of problems. Residents were urged to continue reporting so that a log could be created and the local team made aware of problems that could then be investigated with the care team at the property. Councillor Locke also added that she had met with the manager at the property and was arranging a meeting with the Childrens Trust and the manager so that a detailed discussion could be had. Residents said that the main issues centred around the blatant smoking of cannabis and drug dealing. Sergeant Corbett undertook to take details at the conclusion of the meeting. A property in Ivy Road was also mentioned and Sergeant Corbett said Councillor Locke and the PCSO's had been working to arrange meetings to tackle ASB and drug related crimes. Councillor Locke advised that complaints had been reported to Planning Enforcement but residents needed to continue reporting issues to build a wider case so action could be taken.

Sergeant Corbett provided crime statistics and advised that generally overall crime had reduced from the same time last year. The only crime to have increased was robbery by 9.6%. However, this had mainly been because of a group of 4 people committing crimes who had now been arrested and charged. Reports of a vulnerable adult being taken advantage of had been investigated, a carer appointed, and social workers involved. Speed Watch had been operating on Pershore Road and another location would be chosen. In response to concerns regarding electric bikes, the meeting was advised that bikes were seized in certain circumstances.

There was a discussion around Police Tasking meetings and residents felt a meeting should be held in Stirchley so residents from the area could attend.

Sergeant Corbett said that location was chosen as a central point between the 3 wards the team covered. PCSO's were out walking their patch all day and due to increased crime had less time to spend at meetings, however coffee mornings were attended and the tasking meetings were held at 2pm in the winter and at 7pm for people who were working.

### **3. Kier Highways Update**

Stuart Cross updated on winter maintenance and advised that the slip road in Cartland Road was due for resurfacing.

In response to comments/questions, Stuart made the following points –

- Use of cones to segregate areas was being stopped as they were easy to remove and road closure notifications were undertaken by letter to the properties affected.
- Bond Street dropped kerb – the dropped kerb on one side of the road had been reinstated due to the poor condition of the concrete but the other side had not required repair. The water drainage issue had been investigated and required action, but this was not a maintenance issue so would be the responsibility of the City Council
- Grit bin Bond Street – the removal of this had been investigated but there had not been a bin at this location on the map. Each bin had a cost implication so this location would have to be considered by the local engineer. Councillor Locke undertook to contact the local engineer.
- Clearing of leaves Bournville bridge – thanks extending for the clearing of the area and as a result the road had not flooded during recent heavy rain.
- Mayfield Road (off Pershore Road) Flooding – Stuart to investigate.
- Blocked drains Elmfield Road – Stuart to request action.

### **4. Alan Bale, Sustainable Stirchley – Apology submitted.**

### **5. Local Updates/ Issues**

**Councillor Locke reported –**

- Next MHRC 20 December Morrisons car park
- Site visit to 3 new stations – Pineapple Station making good progress, work continuing 24/7 for 2 weeks to maintain progress. Issue at the Moseley site had been rectified therefore it was hoped work at that site would catch up with the other locations. Parking queries had been raised and it was hoped to get an update to a ward meeting in the New Year.
- Next meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

| ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE  | WHO   | BY WHEN |
|--|---|---------|
| 1. Grit bin, Bond Street<br><br>2. Flooding Mayfield Road (off Pershore Rd)<br><br>3. Blocked drains Elmfield Road | Cllr Locke to contact local engineer.<br>2. Stuart Cross to investigate<br><br>3. Stuart Cross to raise investigation |         |