

SOHO & JEWELLERY QUARTER WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Soho & Jewellery Quarter	DATE: 23 October 2018
VENUE: Handsworth Baptist Church, Victoria Road B21 0SA	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.50pm
COUNCILLORS: Sybil Spence & Chaman Lal	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 8
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Alan Lawless, West Midlands Police Sergeant Matt Muldoon, West Midlands Police Keith Smith, Amey Highway Steward Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Police Update

Sergeant Lawless provided an update on the work of the Neighbourhood Team highlighting a crack-down on ASB around Summerfield Park & DB Wines through the use of notices & fines. The PCSO'S were working in local schools and with community groups to keep lines of communication open. The Soho Road team had changed shift patterns to dovetail with the neighbourhood team so that officers should be on duty for most of the time.

Sergeant Lawless highlighted the use of on-line reporting and 'live chat' facilities on the police website and encouraged residents to sign up to WMNow to receive regular updates.

Sergeant Muldoon provided an update for the Jewellery Quarter part of the ward and highlighted work done in respect of a 'problem' family. The closure of the JQ police station had caused concern for local businesses and efforts were being made to get CCTV installed in the JQ. Community Protection Notices had been issued in respect of people begging and if breached they would be banned from the JQ.

2. Update from Amey Highway Steward

Keith Smith explained the inspection process undertaken by Amey and that he carried out walkabouts once a month with both the Soho and JQ BIDs. Residents were urged to report any defects through the councils website or via 0121 303 6644.

In response to concerns raised regarding the railings outside Brookfield School, Keith undertook to take the details at the conclusion of the meeting.

It was reported that a lamppost had been replaced on Victoria Road opposite Boulton Oasis School and the paving slabs had sunken and were dangerous. Keith undertook to carry out an inspection.

A local resident said that he had received a response from Amey to everything he had reported and the issues had been inspected, however sometimes it took up to 3 visits to get the location correct and so if there could be a more open dialogue with Amey when defects were reported this might save time.

In response to other issues raised, Keith said that the programme of works was still under discussion but when agreed the list would be shared with councillors.

3. Dudley Road Highway Improvement Scheme – information was circulated

4. Local Innovation Fund Project Update

Soho Market Place – Hermin McIntosh together with 3 young people who had attended and taken part in the event on 27 August gave a brief outline of the work undertaken to deliver the event and of the event itself.

The clearance of the site, work to make safe and the event cost 3 times the LIF funding provided and the group had worked with Mossvale maintenance company, local businesses and young people. The aim was to have the event lead by young people and this had been achieved. On the day there were stalls, market place, children's corner, workshops & competitions. Renee who had won 2nd place in a DJ competition on the day had used the prize money to travel around the country gaining experience and this had led to an apprenticeship. Nathan said he had attended as he had heard about the event and that it was a safe place and he had used prize money to develop his music. The workshops had been useful and had continued and not been a one off which was welcomed.

Hermin advised that they had carried on working with the young people, although that had not been part of the LIF bid, due to the

success of the workshops, which had initially be designed as 'one offs'. The event had been independently evaluated and a report produced. Discussions were underway with the Arts Council re: funding a further event and volunteering/apprenticeship opportunities. In response to questions the meeting was advised that over 500 people attended the event and that local people were involved. Data from questionnaires handed to all attendees regarding travel and transport would show addresses. Hermin undertook to share the information & evaluation with Pat Whyte.

5. **Residents News/Updates**

- a) **Junction of Pitsford Street/Clissold Street** – residents had continually campaigned for safety measures at this junction and now there had been an accident causing a fatality. Councillor Spence said that the District Engineer had been looking into measures at that junction but had advised that there was no action that could be taken. She felt however that due to the dangerous nature of the junction there needed to be traffic signals or an island and undertook to pursue with the District Engineer.
- b) **Parking** – parking issues across the ward due to people leaving their cars to work in the city centre. It was acknowledged that this was a city wide problem and Councillor Lal referred to government funding being made available as part of the Clean Air Zone and that a package to alleviate problems in the area could be examined as part of that.
- c) **Ninevah Road** - resident's complained regarding prostitution associated to a property which had been reported to the landlord and police. Councillor Lal asked that the details be forwarded to him so that he could pursue with the police.
- d) **Ward Plan** – Councillor Spence said that at the next meeting ideas for priorities and solutions to making the ward a better place to live would be discussed and residents views on this were important to create the ward plan.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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