

YARDLEY EAST WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: YARDLEY EAST	DATE: Thursday 21 March 2019
VENUE: St. Edburgha' s Church, Church Road, Yardley, B25 8PD	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.30pm
COUNCILLOR: Neil Eustace	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team, BCC Sgt Michael Wilson – Local Policing Team, WMP	

WARD PRIORITIES: To be identified/Ongoing

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

- 1. Notice of Recording** – Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
- 2. Cllr News and Updates**
Cllr Eustace advised of the following:-
 - Stechford Train Station – improvements works had started and would include the installation of disabled access and a footbridge. Work was expected to be completed by the end of November 2019.
 - Iron Lane Junction Improvements – work had commenced in March and was expected to be completed in 18 months. Key improvements included the widening of Station Road/Stechford Lane to create a dual carriageway; a new bridge over the River Cole; changes to the Burney Lane/Stechford Lane/Station Road roundabout; two new roundabouts junctions at Station Road/Flaxley Road/Iron Lane along with 5 new toucan crossings.
 - Waste Collection Service – the industrial dispute had been resolved. Discussions were ongoing with the collection crews to resume

the service and clear the backlog as soon as possible. In the meantime, residents should still continue to report missed collections to the Contact Centre or to Cllr Eustace.

- Former Cascades Leisure Centre site – meeting with officers due to be held within the next week or so to discuss the plans for the use of the site. Residents’ concerns and suggestions would be taken into account before a report was produced with details of the proposals.
- Amey Highway Improvements – ongoing contractual dispute between the City Council and Amey; urgent or dangerous repairs was the only work currently being carried out at the moment. It was hoped that routine maintenance work would resume
- Ward Plan Ideas and suggestions – residents were reminded to submit their ideas and suggestions which would be used to develop a Yardley East Ward Plan/Plan of Action to Cllr Eustace or the Community Governance Team as soon as possible. These would be discussed and agreed at the next Ward meeting.
- Special Thank You to local resident Mr Powell for picking up litter along Blakesley Road on a daily basis and helping to keep the road clean.

3. Policing Issues in the Ward

Following introductions, Sgt Mick Wilson advised of:-

- An increase in car thefts in Westacre Gardens and the immediate areas. The identity of the offender(s) as yet were unknown, however intelligence gathering was ongoing. Sgt Wilson suggested that residents in the immediate Westacre Gardens area should give consideration to setting up a StreetWatch or Neighbourhood Watch group – help and support would be provided by the local policing team.
- Active Citizens Fund/Proceeds of Crime (POCA) – constituted community groups could apply for funding for local projects or community related activities
- WM Now (West Midlands Now) – a messaging service provided by West Midlands Police. Residents were encouraged to sign up to the App to receive alerts and information relating to incidents in their immediate area.
- The local policing team consisted of 4 PCs and 2 PCSOs working alongside the Sgt
- Church Road Conservation Area – increase in drugs related issues currently being dealt with; some arrests had been made, however

residents reminded to remain vigilant and to report all incidents to the police.

- Following a spate of burglaries in Westacre Gardens, the alleged perpetrator had been arrested and remanded in custody. Residents were reminded to keep doors and windows locked and to consider replacing/securing the locks in UPVC doors with an anti-snap locking mechanism/device.

Several residents advised of ongoing concerns with burglaries and nuisance in St. Edburgha's Close. Obstructive/ dangerous parking in Westacre Gardens was also a cause for concern; cars were regularly parked on the bend or junctions of the cul-de-sacs. Sgt Wilson agreed to investigate/arrange for PCSOs to carry out observation and to action as appropriate. Sgt Wilson also advised of the Parksafes Initiative – residents could send photographic evidence (if it was safe to do so) of the parking obstruction along with a brief statement by email to WMP for further investigation.

Residents also advised of an increase in 'tagged graffiti' around the Conservation Area and the Park. Sgt Wilson agreed to raise the matter with the School Liaison Officer who visits the local schools across the ward.

4. Residents News and Updates

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Increase in dog mess where owners were not cleaning up after their pet. Residents advised to let Cllr Eustace know of problem areas so that details could be passed on to the City's Dog Warden for proactive enforcement action.
- Blakesley Road/Church Road junction – drivers ignoring the Give Way sign. Improved signage needed.
- Church Road – Amey barrier left around a hole for some time; however there's no sign of any work being carried out.

5. Petitions – None submitted

6. Any Other Business

There were no other issues raised.

7. Dates of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.