

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27
OCTOBER 2015 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Mick Brown in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Des Hughes,
Mick Finnegan, Penny Holbrook, Gareth Moore, Gary Sambrook,
and Mike Sharpe.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
John Mole – Ward Support Officer
Andrew Barnes – Employment and Skills Service Contract Manager
Mark Rodgers – Housing Manager
John Porter – Constituency Parks Manager
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING

290 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

291 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Josh Jones, Lynda Clinton and Ron Storer and Superintendent Brandon Langley, West Midlands Police and the District Solicitor for their inability to attend the meeting. An apology for lateness was submitted on behalf of Councillor Robert Alden.

MINUTES

292 **RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 30 June 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

In response to a question regarding District Champions reporting to District Committee the Chair advised that the matter was in hand and that all District Champions will be required to give a progress report to a future meeting.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUPS

It was agreed that in keeping with the Kerslake report nominations be sought from both the ruling party and the opposition party, with the exception being the Community Safety Panel, and that Councillor Josh Jones as Chairman of the District Committee be appointed to attend all Partnership Working Groups as a roving Member as required.

Members of the opposition party welcomed the concept of the cross party working agreement.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the following Members be appointed to serve on the following Partnership Working Groups:

- Employment Panel – Councillors Mike Sharpe and Bob Beauchamp
 - Health Panel – Councillors Mick Brown and Gareth Moore
 - Clean and Green Panel – Councillors Des Hughes and Robert Alden
 - Housing Panel – Councillors Penny Holbrook and Gary Sambrook
 - Community Safety Panel – Councillor Lynda Clinton.
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ERDINGTON DISTRICT JOBS AND SKILLS PLAN 2015

The following report from the Employment and Skills Service was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

Andrew Barnes, Employment and Skills Service Contract Manager introduced the report and highlighted the salient points.

Councillor Penny Holbrook, Cabinet Member for Skills, Learning and Culture stated that the model facilitated in each of the Districts Jobs and Skills Plans originated from the example implemented by the Erdington District Committee and she highlighted the need for each District Committee to develop their own Plan as issues should be faced and tackled on a local level. She emphasised that it was important that all Ward Councillors, Citywide, become involved in their own District Jobs and Skills Plan in order to ensure that all issues pertinent to their specific District are addressed.

Members welcomed the report and noted the fall in unemployment figures for the Erdington District. However, the following comments, concerns and observations were raised:

- Figures in the Appendix need to be updated particularly in relation to the proportion of pupils achieving 5 or more GCSEs
- Paragraph 2.3 – need to mention Wryley Birch Estate as an area of redevelopment.
- Section 4 – Tyburn Ward is not Castle Vale. Figures for the Tyburn Ward were requested.
- All abbreviations and jargon throughout the report need to be written in full in order for members of the public to understand the meaning.
- Page 23 – delete Merlin Adventure.
- Page 22 – Is there a Job Centre nearer to Erdington District from that in Chelmsley Wood?
- Stockland Green Technical College did not have a sixth form but had educational links with the Arthur Terry Partnership.
- Page 5 – The Lyndshurst Estate has been rebranded and is now called Abbey Fields.
- Court Lane Allotments continue to be in existence.
- A break-down of how the Youth Promise initiative was working in the Erdington District was requested.
- Transport and connectivity issues need to be addressed and highlighted in the Plan.
- There is a need to identify and reflect in the Plan skills and progression for those currently in employment.

The Chairman thanked Andrew Barnes and Afzal Hussain, Witton Lodge Community Association for all their hard work and diligence in compiling the report.

Andrew Barnes confirmed that he would amend the report as per the comments raised and circulate to all Erdington District Members in due course.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the Erdington District Jobs and Skills Plan 2015 be noted and updated as detailed in the above preamble.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2015/16

The following report from the Service Director, Place Directorate was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

Mark Rodgers, Housing Manager introduced the report and stated that all projects listed in Appendix 1 of the report had now been completed.

He made reference to Appendix 2 of the report and stated that following recent discussions it has been proposed to amend the projects listed in this year's Environmental Budget to include the supply and fitting of netting to communal balconies in Alnwick House, Arundel House, Berkeley House, Stokesay House and Windsor House in the Erdington Ward at a cost of £28,545.00. In order to meet that expenditure it is proposed to defer the proposals for the schemes at Kingsbridge House and Lyndon House in Kingstanding Ward to 2016/17.

Councillor Sambrook requested that it be placed on record his disappointment that two projects in the Kingstanding Ward had been deferred for future completion and requested that it be a recommendation that the new projects mentioned be approved with the proviso that the two deferred Kingstanding projects are approved in next year's Environmental Budget subject to an allocation of funding.

Following a short discussion it was -

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RESOLVED:-

- (i) That approval be given to the following projects at a cost of £152,529.69 to be funded by the Environmental Budget 2015/16:
 - Supply and fit netting to communal balconies in Alnwick House, Arundel House, Berkeley House, Stokesay House and Windsor House in Erdington Ward.
 - Supply and fit 900 mm bow top metal fence at 7–15 Lakes Road in Kingstanding Ward
 - Renew fascia in UPVC at 27–37 Wryley Way in Kingstanding Ward
 - Renew fascia in UPVC at 28–34 Wryley Way in Kingstanding Ward
 - Replace timber fence to drying area with 1 metre high bow top fencing, remove slabs and form storage area for wheelie bins at 39-45 Wryley Way in Kingstanding Ward
 - Supply and fit railings to perimeter at Greenford House in Kingstanding Ward
 - Re-surface service road to garage site at Oxted Croft in Stockland Green Ward
 - Supply and fit gate of 50 Sidcup Road at rear of 49-59 Edmonton Avenue in Kingstanding Ward
 - Replace 219m timber fencing with 1200mm high bow top fencing at 81-121 Fentham Road in Stockland Green Ward
 - Supply and fit bow top metal fencing to frontage at 8-22 Scarfell Drive in Stockland Green Ward
 - Create parking provision in Inland Road in Tyburn Ward
 - (ii) That the two projects deferred from this year's budget (Kingsbridge House and Lynton House) be forwarded for approval at next year's Environmental Budget 2016/17.
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CLEAN AND GREEN SUB-COMMITTEE

John Porter, Constituency Parks Manager gave a verbal update on the work implemented by the Clean and Green Sub-Committee and made the following points:

- Partnership working and developments in the Erdington District were going from strength to strength – residents engaging in a variety of interesting strategic and non-strategic projects – Friends of Rookery Park, Friends of the Pimple are just a few groups that are actively engaging in the District.
- Grounds maintenance contract – each small patch of grass or a hedge is called an asset and in the Erdington District the grounds maintenance team manage 12,556 assets. In the last 6 months the team have undertaken 122,813 different tasks.
- He was aware that the Team were behind on the wild flower area at Centre Park in Castle Vale but it was due to a difficult year both nationally and locally with poppy seeds. He advised that the Team will revisit all World War 1 features and refresh the poppy seeds on those areas.
- The Grounds Maintenance Team is working in a number of areas throughout the Erdington District. The meadow in Castle Vale is soon to be declared the best wild meadow and Nature Reserve in the City. In Pype Hayes an old building is being redeveloped into a hotel and the hotel developer has expressed a desire to work in partnership with the Council and enhance the grounds around the hotel. Also investigating ways in which park areas can be more utilised and in Pype Hayes Park organising a circus onsite and also a National cycle cross event.
- The Green Corridor that runs from Sutton Park down to Gravelly Hill touching several Erdington Wards – working to develop an urban health and wellbeing Park offering different activities to the local community in the Erdington District.

Members expressed grave concern with regard to security and stated that all green open spaces in the Erdington District should be adequately protected and secured to prevent travellers gaining access and vandalising the sites.

John Porter concurred with Members concerns and stated that the recent incident of travellers invading Pype Hayes Park was currently under investigation.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on the Clean and Green Sub-Committee be noted.

NORTH BIRMINGHAM TRUST

The Vice Chairman advised that Councillor Josh Jones, District Chairman, was due to give a verbal report on the North Birmingham Trust and in the absence of the Chairman he proposed that a written report be compiled and submitted to the next all Members meeting for discussion.

It was -

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RESOLVED:-

That a written report on the North Birmingham Trust be submitted to all Members of the Erdington District Committee prior to the next all Members meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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RESOLVED:-

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Erdington District Committee be held on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 1400 hours in Committee Room 2, The Council House.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

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No issues of other urgent business were submitted.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

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RESOLVED:-

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 1520 hours.

CHAIRMAN