

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**

**YARDLEY DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE  
21 JULY 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2016 AT 1330 HOURS  
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillors Sue Anderson, Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry, Basharat Dad, Neil Eustace, Roger Harmer, Zafar Iqbal, Carol Jones, John O'Shea, Stewart Stacey, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward.

**ALSO PRESENT:** -

Chris Jordan	- Head of Service Integration
Lesley Bannister	- Community Governance and Support Team
Paul Walls	- Leisure Project & Client Manager
Jamie Bryant	- Birmingham Community Leisure Trust
Rose Bansal	- Place Manager, Sheldon
Mushtaq Hussain	- Place Manager, Lea Hall
Pete Barratt	- Street Scene
Mark Ward	- Chief Inspector, WMP
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

\*\*\*\*\*

**ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DUPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

373

**RESOLVED:** -

- a) That Councillor Mike Ward be elected Chairman (Executive Member) for Yardley District for the Municipal Year 2016/2017, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Basharat Dad be appointed Committee Vice-Chairperson for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Mike Ward in the Chair)

At this juncture, the Chairman thanked Councillor Sue Anderson for her chairmanship of Yardley District Committee for the past four years and for all her efforts and hard work which was reiterated by members.

Councillor Sue Anderson confirmed that she would continue to support the two Employment and Skills and Health and Wellbeing Partnerships although the executive member would also be expected to attend the meetings. She further confirmed that she would continue in the role as the Corporate Parent Champion for Yardley District.

---

**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

- 374 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
- 

**MEMBERSHIP OF YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:**

- 375 To note the membership of the Committee as follows:-

**Councillors** :- Roger Harmer, John O'Shea and Stewart Stacey (Acocks Green Ward)

**Councillors** :- Sue Anderson, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward (Sheldon Ward)

**Councillors** :- Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry and Zafar Iqbal (South Yardley Ward)

**Councillors** :- Neil Eustace, Basharat Dad and Carol Jones (Stechford and Yardley North Ward).

**CO-OPTED MEMBERS:-**

Rob Davis, Station Commander, WMFS (to provide a substitute if unavailable)  
Mark Ward, Chief Inspector, WMP (to provide a substitute if unavailable)

---

**LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS**

- 376 To note the Lead Officer arrangements as follows:-

Lead Officer – (Yardley) – Richard Davies  
Area Democratic Services Officer – Marie Reynolds

---

**APOLOGIES**

- 377 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Tilsley for lateness and from Councillors Iqbal, Eustace and O'Shea for having to leave the meeting prematurely in order to attend a further meeting.

## **Yardley District Committee – 21 July 2016**

It was noted that Chris Jordan was in attendance at the meeting as Richard Davies, Yardley District Lead was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

---

### **MINUTES**

- 378 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 28 January 2016 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment on page 471; that Councillor Tilsley had not agreed to circulate training dates.
- 

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

- 379 The following appointments were noted:-

Corporate Parent Champion (Councillor Sue Anderson)  
Special Education Needs Champion (Councillor Zafar Iqbal)  
Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion (Councillor Nawaz Ali)  
Cultural Heritage Champion (Councillor Paul Tilsley)  
Regulation 33 Visits (Councillor Sue Anderson)

Councillor Sue Anderson referred to Regulation 44 visits and stated that they were the children's homes which included all of the private homes where children from Birmingham lived. With regard to Regulation 33 visits, she confirmed that she would continue visiting the 2 establishments within the district. She added that Councillor O'Shea had volunteered to partner her with visits to 2 homes within Acocks Green Ward and therefore she would be arranging partnering for members in order that this year they all could undertake visits.

---

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

- 380 No declarations were submitted
- 

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The following Code of Conduct for meetings of Yardley District Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

- 381 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct be noted.

---

### **DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES**

The following District Committee's Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

382

**RESOLVED;-**

That the District Committee's Functions and Guidelines be noted.

---

**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT  
QUARTER 4 2016 & YARDLEY DISTRICT NARRATIVE**

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Mushtaq Hussain, Place Manager gave an overview of the report and the narrative and as a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

The Chairman highlighted that fortunately the red indicators were not due to under-performance in the east and that the best void turnaround performance was within the east of the city which he stated was good news

Very serious concerns were raised by members regarding off road bikes and associated vehicles causing major disturbances with communities and tenants of the housing department. Councillor Tilsley requested an assurance from the department that tenancy regulations would be enforced rigorously where there were found to be perpetrators living in council properties.

Rose Bansal, Place Manager confirmed that the department was working closely with the police in tackling this issue. She highlighted that residents were beginning to be more proactive in coming forward and providing valuable information which was resulting in more action being taken by the department and the police. She added that the police were issuing more warrants in this area of work.

Councillor Tilsley highlighted the importance of the public reporting any known perpetrators to the department or the police. The Chairman suggested that if the public were reluctant to report to the police they could contact their local councillors who would report on their behalf.

Councillor Anderson referred to the number of housing association properties and private rentals in the district and suggested that an appeal should be extended to all in reporting the perpetrators.

Councillor Harmer highlighted the importance of the issue being prioritised and progressed through all parts of the city council system as he explained that in the past this had not always been the case. He highlighted how the police in Solihull were tackling the issue and the training sessions they had undertaken

with the magistrates in order that they understood the level of impact it had on the public. He further highlighted that after the training, magistrates had become more rigorous in their sentencing behaviour. He added that he welcomed the fact that the department was taking the issue much more seriously and highlighted the importance of perpetrators being made aware of the significant consequences if they continued to demonstrate anti-social behaviour.

Councillor O'Shea highlighted the importance that people now had the confidence to report these issues and believed that action would be taken. He further highlighted that although there had been a large number of bikes ceased it was still not enough. He added that this particular issue involved not just young people but some very serious criminals and at times, residents had had difficulty in reporting these issues by phone to the police. He stated that the city council as a landlord should clearly publicise the likely outcome if off road vehicles were used anti-socially as it was unfair on the community.

Following several comments from members, Rose Bansal confirmed that the public could report either to the police or to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team at Lea Hall, as it was a joint working partnership.

Chief Inspector Mark Ward confirmed that Superintendent Bas Javid was leading on this from a force perspective. He further confirmed that the police had agreed that a slightly different approach should be taken together with 'buy in' from the city council, and that due to the associated criminal behaviour taking place, the police were trying to make it more criminal focused. He referred to the work that the police had carried out relating to investigations and that it had been agreed that there would be a nominated lead to take responsibility across the piece for off road bikes. He highlighted that it had reached a level across the West Midlands area where it could not continue to escalate.

He added that Inspector Dave Keen who covered Yardley District had been to various meetings and had been part of the off road summit and was working closely with Chief Inspector Jack Hadley, Solihull in addressing this issue and pushing it forward. He further added that there would be additional dedicated resources in tackling this issue and that they had requested a dedicated CPS lawyer as well as looking for a point of contact from the city council in terms of civil interventions, and for 'buy in' from the social registered landlord sector and support from local councillors.

In response to several comments relating to communication, Mark Ward confirmed that there was a communication plan in place and that there was the monitoring of all open spaces as would be expected. With regard to drones he confirmed that he was unsure as to whether they had been considered however agreed to take back. He further agreed to provide to members a breakdown of the number of bikes that had been seized in the district on a ward basis.

Councillor Anderson stated that due to the fact that there would now be a dedicated team in place tackling the issue and other associated criminal activity, and whilst recognising it was a long-term plan, suggested it would be useful to have an update at the next meeting of the outcomes in order that this could be then fed back to residents.

Mark Ward stressed that it was not just a police issue and that all had a part to play in terms of encouragement and bringing information forward. He referred to the active citizen meeting that had taken place in the north side of the city and subsequently explained how it worked with members of the community providing support and although it was in its infancy he confirmed that they would be looking to replicate in other areas of the city.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mark Ward, Mushtaq Hussain and Rose Bansal for reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

383

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report and comments be noted.

---

**PLACE MANAGERS' UPDATE**

The following Report – Street Scene East was submitted:-

(See document No. 4)

Pete Barratt, Street Scene Co-ordinator, gave an overview of the report and as a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Pete Barratt highlighted that before they undertook a litter pick the area would be leafleted in order that residents were aware of when it was taking place. With regard to targeting areas, he confirmed that when items were deposited they were photographed and properties were leafleted and residents visited by the department as a means to educate them in order to try and change their behaviour patterns. He added that there had been occasions when residents had deposited rubbish outside their properties and after receiving a visit from the department advising them that they could be fined, they had often retrieved it.

He further explained the difficulties relating to enforcement and unless there was a witness or a strong burden of proof, it was very difficult to prosecute. He stated however that with the badgering of people and almost naming and shaming and through education, there had been a reduction of litter and fly-tipping in certain areas. With regard to litter picking, he stated that the lack of resident participation was somewhat frustrating, especially, when numerous projects had been organised and in many cases it had resulted in only the local councillors and estate teams participating in the litter picks.

Mushtaq Hussain referred to other areas where litter picks had been quite successful with place managers working with local community groups. He added that one of the main focal points was educating children who in turn educated their parents.

Pete Barratt confirmed that they had ordered 8 CCTV cameras for east quadrant and that they could be relocated 8 times per year although it involved a cost. At present he was not aware of where they would be positioned however hoped that every ward would have an opportunity of the benefit of a camera. He believed that the best way forward in tackling litter was educating at grass roots level and the need to get environmental/green issues on to the nursery agenda.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

384

**RESOLVED:-**

That the report and comments be noted.

---

**FOX HOLLIES LEISURE CENTRE AND STECHFORD CASCADES -  
UPDATE**

Paul Walls, Leisure Projects Client Manager and Jamie Bryant, Partnership Manager provided an update.

Jamie Bryant confirmed that at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre the squash courts and sports hall had been refreshed and a new fitness suite had recently been completed. The suite contained all types of equipment as well as a large matted area that was suitable for all different types of programmes. Reference was made to the partnership working with Ninestiles School to ensure that the facilities were suitable for the students and their curriculum.

He added that the next programme of works would be the changing rooms whereby completion was expected by Christmas. He further added that the patronage had increased considerably with the introduction of school holiday schemes and that there had been a favourable response through social media regarding the new facilities at the centre.

It was noted that at Stechford Cascades and Fox Hollies there had been the introduction of large inflatables which was proving popular with the current children's holiday schemes and splash parties.

It was noted that the swimming pools at Stechford Cascades had been closed on Friday 8 July 2016 as a precautionary measure due to the testing for Cryptosporidium. If the results were proven negative they were looking to re-open tomorrow. As a result of a recent incident, additional measures would be taken by the trust to ensure all of their pools were safe to use.

Paul Walls reported that planning permission had now been granted for the new Stechford Leisure Centre pool and that work would begin with the removal of the existing flumes, prior to construction commencing on 12 September 2016 at the site next door. He further reported, that the existing play area would be demolished as part of the redevelopment and that a new play area would be installed in the adjacent park land although the location had not yet been determined, as this was subject to public consultation which would commence shortly.

He confirmed that the new centre would include new sports hall courts, swimming pools, a 120 station fitness suite, dance studio, community room and café. He added that there would be provision to permit specifically sexed swimming sessions and that completion was expected by March 2018. Demolition of the existing building would take place after the new centre was fully operational.

It was noted that there would be a ground breaking ceremony where members would be invited to come along.

Councillor Eustace stated that it was good news for the play area and subsequently highlighted the importance of the play area being located in a prime visual position.

Councillor Dad thanked Paul and Jamie for the comprehensive update and for taking on board the provision for privacy and female swimming.

Councillor Anderson referred to the excellent facilities at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre and highlighted that it far outshone any facilities within the private sector.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Paul and Jamie for reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

385

**RESOLVED:-**

That the update and comments be noted.

---

At this juncture, the Chairman decided to vary the order of the agenda.

**EAST COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP TO UPDATE**

Chief Inspector Mark Ward briefly explained the changes in West Midlands Police and the programme the police had responded to in terms of austerity.

He reported that from November 2016 the local policing unit would be moving into neighbourhood policing units and that Birmingham North and East would become one policing unit. He explained that it was a more effective and efficient way of working for the police as they would be able to use the nearest resource available, and that the service would not affect the public in any way. He referred to the fact that there would be an increase in neighbourhood policing in Birmingham North and East and a slight reduction in other areas of the West Midlands. With regard to Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's) it was reported that there would be subject to some change in due course.

He reported that there would be the introduction of body cameras for all 999 response officers over the coming months. The cameras had been trialled in other areas and had proven to be very useful in capturing evidence.



It was noted that at a local level, Inspector Dave Keen remained in place as did all of the other neighbourhood sergeants and neighbourhood teams.

In response to comments and questions from members the following points were made:-

Mark Ward stated that he was not aware that Stechford Police Station was closing. He confirmed that the designated custody block was now in Perry Barr and that the plan was for the neighbourhood police officers to remain in the locality, whilst the response function would take prisoners over to the custody block. He further reported that there was now a drive to deal with out of court disposals far more than court disposals as scientific indicators were alluding to better outcomes. He further highlighted the introduction of procedural justice which was a way of getting the victim and offender together in respect of lower level anti-social behaviour issues whereupon again scientific indicators were alluding to better outcomes.

He highlighted that the force had looked at identifying a lead for the whole of West Midlands with regard to dealing with travellers and encampments. He confirmed that locally Dave Keen and Jacqui Kennedy were working on a joint protocol and at this given time, was not sure if the document had been signed off by the police. He added that it would bring together the Birmingham police powers and Birmingham city powers in tackling these types of issues.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Chief Inspector Mark Ward for updating the committee.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

386

**RESOLVED:-**

That the information be noted.

---

**WARD MEETINGS AND THE NEW WAY OF WORKING AND THE  
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE NEW WARD ACTION TRACKER DATABASE**

The following information for Ward Meetings and New “Ward Tracker” Data base was submitted:-

(See document No. 5)

Chris Jordan, Head of Service Integration introduced the document highlighting that there was a greater emphasis now on less formal meetings and more flexible engagement with local communities. It was noted that there were no longer formal minutes of meetings as these were now replaced with action notes.

At this juncture Lesley Bannister, Community Governance and Support Team introduced the ward action tracker highlighting that the system would track all of the actions raised at the meetings and remain on the database until resolved.

## Yardley District Committee – 21 July 2016

She added that it was a way of illustrating at ward level what had been raised and could be used as an indicator of what was happening across the city and whether there were any particular themes emerging.

It was noted that Lesley Bannister, Beverley Edmead and Kay Thomas would continue to provide officer support at ward meetings/forums.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

387 **RESOLVED:-**

That the information be noted.

---

### **SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2016/17**

388 The following schedule of meetings was noted:-

All meetings would be held on the following Thursdays at 13:30 hours in The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham:

29 September 2016 – Room 2	24 November 2016 – Room 6
26 January 2017 – Room 6	23 March 2017 – Room 6

---

### **FUTURE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS/DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME**

389 Councillor Anderson reported on the Employment and Skills Partnership and the successfulness of the Job Centre Plus in helping people into employment. Reference was made to the number of local employment offices that had provided support and the job fayres that were being organised.

Further reference was made to the various employment opportunities in Tyseley and over the next 12 months opportunities would continue to increase.

---

### **DATE OF NEXT YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING**

390 The next Yardley District Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 29 September 2016 at 13:30 hours in Committee Room 2, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB.

---

### **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS**

391 **RESOLVED:-**

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

---

The meeting ended at 15:25 hours.

.....  
CHAIRMAN