

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER
2016**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER, 2016 AT 1030 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Alex Buchanan, Barry Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Brigid Jones, Changese Khan, Mike Leddy, Mary Locke, Karen McCarthy and Eva Phillips, Rob Sealy.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Jonathan Antill – Senior Service Manager, Landlord Services
Karen Cheney – Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support
Mark Croxford – Head of Environmental Health
Louisa Nisbett - Committee Manager
Mark Rodgers – Housing Manager

NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

365 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.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream

APOLOGIES

366 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Phil Davis. An apology was also submitted on behalf of Inspector Andrew Hodgetts.

MINUTES

Minute No. 349 – fourth line – **delete** Mike Ward and **replace with** Mike Leddy.

Minute No. 360 – Councillor Barry Henley had expressed caution in relying on Access databases, a brand of database from Microsoft, he was making the point that Access was not reliable when there were a large number of users.

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RESOLVED:-

That, subject to the amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July, 2016 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

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Councillor Huxtable pointed out that Road Safety had been agreed as a District challenge for the current year and asked the current position with the challenge. He continued that any further delay could result in the Committee losing time from the municipal year. The Council were already substantially into the New Year therefore it was important that the issue be addressed as a matter of urgency. The Chairman informed that they were waiting for Hall Green Ward to complete their work following that some workshop dates could be arranged. As there was only one Neighbourhood Challenge it could be looked at properly.

HOUSING

1. Birmingham Council Housing Investment Programme Environmental Works Budget 2016/17

The following report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

Mark Rodgers attended the meeting and presented the report. During the discussion the following points were made:-

1. Mark Rodgers reminded the Committee that £78,400 had been allocated to the budget for 2015/16. Most of the projects had been completed. Reference was made to appendix 1 of the report showing the status of the projects.
2. The 2 projects carried forward this year that were outstanding were projects at Shelly Tower and Highters Close. Both were due for completion at the end of October 2016. Work approved for Moor House was due to start on site week commencing 17 October for completion in 6 weeks.
3. The project for Middleton Road door entry system work had been packaged together and they were negotiating on the price. The work should be complete at the end of the financial year.
4. Mark Rodgers asked that the Committee consider the projects listed on Appendix 2. Councillor Alex Buchanan asked that agreement of the projects listed be

deferred in order to consider a big project in the Billesley Ward that had not yet been brought forward but would benefit Tenants and residents in the Billesley Ward. The Chairman commented that she was disappointed that the project had not been already brought forward, however she welcomed the proposal and suggested that the Billesley and Bournville projects in appendix 2 be agreed. This was seconded. With regard to the Fladbury Crescent, Selly Oak proposal, the Chairman questioned whether £2,500 per parking space was good value for money. It was further suggested that the project for Billesley Ward be submitted to the October or November meeting. At present it was expected that the funding would continue.

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RESOLVED:-

- i. That the projects for the Billesley and Bournville Ward, as set out in the report be approved; and
- ii. That the project for Fladbury Crescent, Selly Oak be deferred;
- iii. That consideration of a project for the Billesley Ward be brought forward to the next meeting.

2. Update on District Housing and Place Management

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The following Performance Narrative, Quarter 1, 2016/2017 was received and noted.

(See document no. 2)

Jonathan Antill, Senior Service Manager attended the meeting to give a verbal update. During the discussion the following points were made:-

1. Jonathan Antill gave a summary of page 27 of 30, the performance narrative set out in the report.
2. Jonathan Antill expressed thanks to Michael McMillan. Melvin Powell had now taken over and Kirsty Steward was the new Anti-Social Behaviour Officer. The Place Management Assessment and Review had taken place with Jacqui Kennedy.
3. Some examples of issues dealt with were given including one ton of green waste being cleared and individual hoarding issues.
4. The Street Scene Officer was tasked to work on all the roads. All were welcome to meet the team on Saturday, 24 September, 2016. Councillor Eva Phillips asked that there be a similar plan for Druids Heath in the future and Jonathan Antill undertook to take this on board. Danielle Baker had been nominated as a finalist for an award.
5. Councillor Huxtable asked the current position with the Empty Garage Strategy.
6. Councillor Huxtable said that the HLB was having problems putting up a plaque for a former resident and longstanding member owing to the cost being £30, £5 over the limit. He requested that transport be found for residents attending HLB

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meetings as some were waiting for up to 2 hours following meetings due to the City Council policy to use only TOA taxis.

7. Councillor Huxtable said there were concerns regarding lack of engagement with the community now that Masefield Community Centre was now a Health and Well Being Centre.
 8. The Chair asked that the purchase of the plaque be sorted out. With regard to problems with taxis, they were required to be booked well in advance.
 9. Councillor Leddy did not feel that Place Management was a priority in Brandwood Ward despite the Managers doing a good job. He felt that them being given the responsibility of place management was a step too far and that there should be a dedicated post.
 10. The Chairman asked Jonathan Antill to take the comments away to his team.
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TRAVELLERS IN THE DISTRICT

371 Mark Croxford attended the meeting as requested to give an update. Apologies had been received from Inspector Hodgetts. During the discussion the following points were made:-

1. There had been difficulties in the District throughout the summer owing to groups of travellers coming and going. Mark Croxford gave a summary of action that could be taken upon the arrival of travellers including clear notification to leave.
2. Incursions on land were tolerated owing to travellers being legally protected in the UK. A needs assessment must be made prior to a decision being made. Mark Croxford described the instances when Section 61 Criminal Justice Public Order Act (CJPOA) eviction powers could be used, such as there being 6 or more caravans and damage being caused to land or property. Once a S61 notice was served the police could stop anyone from the group returning to the land for 3 months, otherwise they would face being arrested. One disadvantage was that the caravans moved from site to site.
3. Following a review it had been identified that the biggest problem was the statutory duty to have a transient site. A meeting was due to take place with the Chief Executive and 7 Local Authorities to look at how to deal with the issue and look at partners to set up a shared transient site.
4. The traveller's way of life gave them the ability to earn money from residents for carrying out work without a trading licence.
5. The Chairman informed that a new group had arrived in Selly Park and stressed the importance of people recording incidents. Travellers also reported any hate incidents and these were investigated by the police.
6. Councillor Rob Sealy had found it hard to explain to residents why no preventative measures had been carried out owing to pressures of budgets etc. He felt that some proactive work would help and a longer term solution needed to be found.

7. Jonathan Antill explained that open spaces belonging to Parks and Education were vulnerable. They could try to restrict access to sites however they did not have the budget for all large open sites. They needed to think about clever restrictions to land to prevent them being broken onto. The Chairman added that Selly Park recreation ground was open on 4 sides and would be expensive to protect. The cost to the public purse needed to be considered.
8. In reply to a query from Councillor Mary Locke about the cost and timeframe for a permanent site, Jonathan Antill answered that the sites considered for a permanent site had not come to fruition. The burden needed to be shared with other Local Authorities.
9. Councillor Huxtable commented that excise and customs was required to be paid for legal trading activity and this was probably not being done. He referred to 'bundling' used for flood alleviation e.g. at Woodlands Park Road. Councillor Huxtable asked how the Council was working with the Environment Agency and mentioned the funds previously allocated for capital improvement work as one off measures in the 12/13 and 13/14 budgets that had now been discontinued. He said there had been missed opportunities in the in the Birmingham Development Plan.
10. Jonathan Antill was due to attend a review meeting the following day to look at incursions. He would need to make an enquiry about the costs. He was not aware of any barriers used by the Environment Agency but would look into it.
11. Councillor Huxtable spoke about the proactive and highly commended work carried out by officers.
12. The Chairman asked that it be placed on record her thanks to Bill and Dave and the other officers who had helped her over the weekend and the other organisations on the front line with police officers, speaking to shopkeepers and residents. Mark Croxford asked that it be put on record that another group that should be acknowledged was the Friends of Parks Group who had helped with the clearing up etc.
13. In reply to comments from Councillor Barry Henley about whether the cooperation from the police was satisfactory noting that under a Section 77 CJPOA a vehicle could not be ceased. He also queried when Birmingham City Council would have their own site. Mark Croxford replied that there was a policy issue regarding the police and there were differences in the powers that could be used by the police and the Local Authority. Section 61 and 77 could become offences that led to an arrest. They had used the civil rights of the landowner to recover the land. The police had Section 62 and 78 CJPOA powers.
14. Councillor Huxtable referred to the wider issue of use of S61 powers by Police and Crime Commissioners giving examples of different Local Authorities and said that it needed to be looked into in terms of best practice. The Chairman said that Dorset was having discussions with the Home Office. It was agreed that there was an issue and some clarification was needed as this could affect where travellers encamped. The Chairman asked Mark Croxford to take back the point and queried whether the Home Office should be lobbied for clarification.

The Chairman thanked Mark Croxford for attending the meeting.

LOCAL INNOVATION FUND

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Karen Cheney undertook to send a copy of the report approved by Cabinet subject to 'Call in' to Members as soon as possible. During the discussion the following points were made:-

1. The key message was that Councillors would take the programme forward as part of their local leadership role working with local stakeholders - residents and community groups in their Wards. £2M per annum fund would be divided equally by 40 Wards. Each Ward would receive £48K per annum. A small amount of £80K had been set aside for administration and to try to maximise funding i.e. match funding for larger pots of money.
 2. It was made clear that LIF was not the same as previous Community Chest Funds. The investment was for innovative ways of working – “Doing things differently in neighbourhoods to make better places to live” with citizens that Members would take forward for local solutions and priorities in the Ward. The report and appendices were on the Committee Management Information System (CMIS). There was also a Ward proposal form which was Hopefully straight forward to complete after Ward meetings to decide priorities for innovation. The Community Governance and Support Team were on standby to support any Ward with the process.
 3. Karen Cheney would be happy to arrange a session for Selly Oak District Members. The Local Innovative Fund, LIF had the ability to optimise opportunities. Another source of funding was the Police's Active Citizen's Fund. The Chairman said that ideas could be generated from a Workshop event in October.
 4. There were a number of key priorities as indicated on the ward proposal form. Karen Cheney read out the LIF priorities including the guidance on good practice.
 5. Councillor Sue Barnett welcomed the funding and said it was an opportunity to think outside the box. As the District Corporate Parent Champion and Corporate Parent on behalf of Birmingham City Council she asked the Cabinet Member for Schools Children and Families and District Jobs and Skills Champion to join her in asking all Wards and Districts when commissioning work through the fund to think whether a child in care or care leaver could be given a work experience or apprentice opportunity.
 6. In relation to previous sources of funding Councillor Huxtable referred to the manner in which LILA, Neighbourhood Funding and Community Chest etc. were spent. He stated that officers and Neighbourhood Managers had been commissioned to transform neighbourhoods. He hoped that the funding would be used wisely in Selly Oak District. He hoped that Bournville Ward Committee would have the Neighbourhood Challenge as the substantial item on the agenda.
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DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

Following a brief discussion it was agreed that a meeting should be arranged for October and suggested that Environmental Issues could be taken forward. The Chairman and District Head would check the dates and inform Members. The Chairman said that a less formal meeting was needed to identify partners and skills needed for the Road Safety work. A date should be arranged in October for this.

1. Karen Cheney would update the work programme and send it out with the additional meeting added.
2. Neighbourhood Challenge - Karen Cheney would follow this up with the Chairman.
3. Jobs and Skills Panel – A meeting had been arranged for 12 October, 2016 at Stirchley Baths, to be chaired by Councillor Eva Phillips.
4. Ward Priorities - The Ward Chairmen had been asked for their Ward priorities. There was one or two outstanding.
5. District Housing Panel meetings – This was outstanding. Karen Cheney would follow this up.
6. Healthy Villages - In reply to Councillor Huxtable, Healthy villages did not appear on the work programme. Now that the LIF had been introduced there could be an opportunity to take this forward in the specific Ward. Councillor Huxtable said there was a specific area identified in Cotteridge and asked what had happened to the geographically based pilot. The Chairman would try to get more information about progress made before a decision was made on spending.

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RESOLVED: -

That a Committee meeting be agreed for October, 2016 (The Chairman to inform Members of the date).

FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK

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Karen Cheney gave an update as follows:-

- Jobs and Skills – Some positive work had been done in partnership with providers arranging job fairs etc. locally.
- Active Citizens Workshop -The police had run a workshop in Brandwood based around the new funding that was available with links to the Local Innovation Fund.
- 2 Birmingham Community Matters – peer to peer support Pilots based at Stirchley Baths and Ladywood had been set up to support local groups and

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individuals wanting to make a difference to the community. The Stirchley Baths pilot had been successful.

- A final summer event had been held called the 'Stirchley Bash' and a variety of events in the community had been supported e.g. the summer tea party and heritage weekend. Central TV had used the baths for the West Midlands Heritage Weekend.
- Stirchley Baths to hold a Fun Palace event on 1/10/16 – part of an International and national movement and were supporting the community led fun event. The theme was water.
- Unfortunately the lead had been stolen from the roof at Stirchley Baths in August.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

- 375 Councillor Susan Barnett said there will be a series of meeting for all District Corporate Champions and she will be attending as a Champion for Selly Oak.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 376 **RESOLVED: -**

Chairman to move:-

"That 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 1202 hours.

CHAIRMAN