

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 28
SEPTEMBER, 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERRY BARR
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 28
SEPTEMBER, 2017 AT 1500 HOURS, IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: -

Councillor Mahmood Hussain in the Chair

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Barbara Dring, Jon Hunt,
Keith Linnecor and Karen Trench

ALSO PRESENT

Neil De-Costa – Perry Barr District Head
Eddie Fellows - AMEY
Suryah Latif – West Midlands Police
Inspector Noeleen Murrin – West Midlands Police
Louisa Nisbett - Area Democratic Services Officer
Lucy O’Grady - AMEY

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 1089 The Chairman advised that this meeting would 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

- 1090 Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tristan Chatfield, Paulette Hamilton, Morriam Jan, Narinder Kooner, Hendrina Quinnen and Waseem Zaffar.
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MINUTES

- 1091 The Minutes of the last meeting on 13 July, 2017, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1092 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.
(See document no. 1)
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AMEY

- 1093 Eddie Fellows and Lucy O'Grady attended for this item and gave an update as follows:-
- Eddie Fellows informed that there had been concerns expressed about the highway programme not meeting local needs and being in the best priority order. They had undertaken a lot of work with colleagues in Highways with regard to the best new way of working. A new way of working will be trialled until Christmas and will then continue subject to it being successful.
 - Footways could be prioritised by areas requiring carriageway maintenance subject to agreement. This was a new way of working to allow areas that looked worse to be prioritised.
 - Villa Road was in the new programme for 2015. They were aware that there were areas that were quite deteriorated.
 - They would work to a fixed specification for Highway Services at local level with colleagues in Highways then look to adjust the way of working following a trial up to Christmas. If the trial was successful it would be rolled out.
 - Councillor Linnecor was not aware of any change in policy. He wanted footpaths to be done when needed and not have to wait until the area was prioritised. He said that the work should be done on request following an inspection.
 - Councillor Linnecor continued that Oscott Ward was doing a major campaign to have trees pruned. Some trees had been pruned already however he questioned whether AMEY were late in pruning the others and whether the Ward Councillors would be consulted.
 - Eddie Fellows gave reassurance that AMEY was still responsible for the condition of all footpaths. If there was a safety issue they responded. He clarified that only the full carriageway was included in the new arrangement. Lucy O'Grady was aware there was some pruning due to be

done in October or November. They will produce a list and a report will be submitted to Oscott Ward meeting.

- Councillor Jon Hunt spoke about problems with pavements in the Ward adding that if they were downhill, pedestrians were more likely to trip on them. He felt that this had never been taken on board. He did not think that the new system for prioritising areas would work as if an area was deemed to be satisfactory then one road that was not satisfactory could be left behind because it was in that area. He also raised the issue of damage in industrial areas.
- Eddie Fellows confirmed that the process would apply across the whole City. There would be the same standards in industrial areas as there was in an area with a heavy footfall. The new system allowed them to be more attuned to local needs. If a road needed to be done all the work would be done in that area.
- Councillor Dring reported that there was a major problem with footways in Oscott as a number of roads were old with sunken and raised paving slabs. She had been in an accident related to this. She mentioned the lack of enforcement for cars parked on pavements. There were also major problems with dangerous potholes on Cooksey Lane, Shady Lane and Kingstanding Road. These needed to be repaired or brought up to standard. The concrete roads needed to be repaired. Councillor Dring continued that the lack of pruning would cause problems with flooding owing to lack of pruning the fallen leaves. The leaves on trees blocked out the light from lampposts. Councillor Dring asked for some reassurance that the flyposting would be taken down in the Ward. It was understood that it was the responsibility of AMEY.
- Eddie Fellows answered that it had been recognised that a lot of old footways and paving had not been addressed in the specification of the contract and the new system would address this. He acknowledged that cars parked on pavements was a major issue and worked closely with Kevin Hicks to try to address the problem supported by the police. Action could be taken under Traffic Regulation Orders. AMEY did not have powers to remove vehicles. This was a challenge for any major City. There was more car ownership than parking available. He could guarantee that he would do all he could.
- Lucy O'Grady confirmed the return of 4 Highway Stewards across the Network. Councillors will be given their details. They would work closely with the Inspectors and tackle the perpetrators of flyposting. Lucy O'Grady did not have the details of the potholes on Cooksey/Shady Lane.
- AMEY were aware where there were heavily tree lined roads and used a smart approach to the drainage system so that were aware when the drains needed to be cleared by the drainage team. The work was report based and they had an inventory of the drainage system.

- Lucy O'Grady said that any flyposting on street furniture would be removed. Assistance was called in to remove large posters however it would be removed.
- Councillor Atwal had met officers in his Ward. Some Roads had been repaired and others not. There was a problem with dangerous long roots of trees damaging footpaths. He was disappointed at the progress made. When the workmen came to fix a manhole on Soho Road the lorry had parked inconsiderately blocking the traffic leading to complaints.
- Lucy O'Grady was aware of the case. The manhole cover belonged to Severn Trent. As they were obligated to make the road safe they had carried out a temporary repair and reported a Section 81 to Severn Trent to repair it. Severn Trent had 6 months to carry out a repair on apparatus. Work should be carried out according to the specification and the specification on the repair was audited to ensure work was a satisfactory standard. Councillor Atwal asked for a copy of the specification.
- Councillor Atwal had raised the issue of the shopkeeper parking the van on the pavement at the Ward meeting and he had reported it to the police. Lucy O'Grady had undertaken a recent walk of Soho Road and was aware of problems with footpaths and parking. This had been reported to the Highway Inspector. The area will be patrolled.
- Councillor Linnecor asked for assurance that the parked cars would be removed to carry out the pruning and clearing the drains. Eddie Fellows informed that they attempted to carry out a job 3 times if cars were causing an obstruction. If they were unsuccessful notices were left and a Traffic Regulation Order used as the last resort.
- Grass verges were a major problem around the City. They tried to maintain a balance between sensible parking and maintaining the grass.
- Councillor Trench was pleased with the analysis of gully cleansing. She needed reassurance the roads were clear. Councillor Trench asked for an analysis of Perry Barr Ward so that they were aware of the schedule.
- Councillor Hussain had received a lot of complaints from residents about the state of Villa Road saying it had been neglected. A commitment had been made to complete work on Church Hill Road however it was still not done. He had not received a satisfactory response to his complaints. The pavement and carriageway were being used to place goods on. BCC should enforce illegal parking. A petition had also been submitted. Councillor Hussain added that there had also been 2 major accidents on Heathfield Road.
- Lucy O'Grady informed that a meeting with residents was being held the following week and Villa Road was subject to approval. She was pleased with progress made to change the system of prioritising roads but could not give a specific date.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

1094

Inspector Noeleen Murrin and Suryah Latif, West Midlands Police, attended for this meeting. During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- ASB had risen in the summer but was now at a plateau.
- There were plans for Outreach work to be carried out in areas.
- There was a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Handsworth. Some tickets had been given out by the police. The fine could be followed by prosecution.
- They had received funding for Anti-Social Behaviour and work was ongoing. A lot of community members wanted to assist in ASB and they were looking at how they could assist.
- Oscott Ward were linking in with Elim Church..
- Councillor Linnecor said that there was a lack of police presence in Oscott and lack of police officers to deal with ASB .therefore residents no longer bothered to report ASB to the Ward Councillors for them to pass on to the police. Unless there was an increase in police officers the situation would not improve.
- Noeleen Murrin said that PCSO's were undertaking work on ASB after receiving training. The location of the police station did not affect the results. There was a hotspot for ASB on Kingstanding Circle.
- Councillor Dring reported that there were a lot of empty properties in Oscott also a lot of vulnerable elderly people. They were intimidated and harassed by young people causing ASB. Drug problems were also more prevalent in Oscott and problems at certain locations.
- Noeleen Murrin undertook to raise the issue in the Safer Communities Group. They needed intelligence with regard to drug dealing to get to the root of the problem.
- Councillor Jon Hunt said that ASB was not just caused by young people and an analysis of the age range of perpetrators needed to be done. . There had been complaints about the 101 Service and Noeleen Murrin would feed that back.
- In response to the definition of ASB Noeleen Murrin said that ASB also incorporated all the different crime groups. Fireworks were also recorded as crime.

- Councillor Hussain said that there were major problems with ASB in Handsworth as there were a lot of hostels in the Ward. He mentioned Gibson Road, Wellesbourne Road, Lime Grove and Archibald Roads. There had been 4 cars smashed on Heathfield Road on the Sunday. Councillor Hussain questioned what had happened to the additional staff. He had also sent some correspondence to the police about illegal parking and obstruction on the pavement.
- With regard to parking problems, Noeleen Murrin said that preventative measures needed to be considered and it was an ongoing challenge. Staffing was limited although there had been extra officers people had retired, resigned and moved therefore there were less officers.
- Councillor Linnecor accepted that there was limited parking on roads and that cars parked on corners. He said that Bells Islands Parking was a priority. There were also problems with speeding and residents could not see to get off their drives. A meeting would be held on 11 October, 2017 in Oscott. Councillor Linnecor referred to parking problems outside schools. He asked the police to take action. People were also parking across dropped kerbed. Officers needed to be firm and it was critical they spoke to the person concerned.
- Noeleen Murrin was not aware of the officer who had been run over and the reason no action had been taken. There were 33 schools in Perry Barr Constituency and the teams had done some patrols around the schools. The Ward Councillors could help to prioritise the worst areas. Councillor Dring said that Mary Vale School would be a good start.
- Councillor Atwal thanked Noeleen Murrin for their good work in the Ward. He said that a resident was parking and causing an obstruction on Oxhill and Rookery Road and had told him he had permission from the police to put out a cone.
- Noeleen Murrin reported that there was ongoing work taking place with the traffic team on Oxhill /Rookery Road starting 6 weeks ago. Some tickets had been issued. They probably needed to communicate positive action better so that people were aware of action they had taken.
- Councillor Trench said that different ways to clamp down on parking issues affecting people in the District should be looked at including partnership working with AMEY and Birmingham City Council. This should include enforcement. Councillor Trench suggested looking at the work the private sector were doing to solve problems using technology and limited resources.
- Suryah Latif asked if Councillor Trench was referring to London red routes. She was in agreement that resources were limited. They needed to consider different ways to overcome the problems and would welcome any additional information.

- In reply to Councillor Dring they were aware of the cyclists causing ASB. They had to consider the health and safety aspect and could not give chase however they could target the cyclists if they had the information. Schools had looked at safety with regard to cycling.

WARD UPDATES

1095 The following updates were given:-

Handsworth Wood Ward – Councillor Atwal Chairman

- Councillor Atwal reported that the following were problems in the Ward:-
 - Waste Collection
 - Anti Social Behaviour
 - Parking around schools
 - Cleansiness
 - Collection of leaves
- Councillor Atwal was concerned that residents had attended a Ward meeting and been disruptive and had behaved in an unacceptable manner. They had requested that the police remove them from the meeting.

Lozells and East Handsworth Ward – Councillor Hussain

At the Ward meeting the previous Tuesday they had discussed the future model of Birmingham City Council. The Local Innovation Funds had been agreed. The Ward Plan had been updated. There were concerns about Fleet and Waste Management.

Oscott Ward – Councillor Dring

They had been successful in saving 2 Libraries with Local Innovation Funds. – Perry Common and Kingstanding in partnership with Witton Lodge. There was an ongoing major campaign about trees led by Councillor Linnekor. They had campaigned successfully for the detached playing fields. Some travellers parked on school grounds had been moved on quickly using legislation.

Perry Barr – Councillor Jon Hunt

The Ward meeting will take place later today. Anti-Social Behaviour involving adults was on the agenda. There had been an accident involving a mother and baby at the weekend who had been run over at a location on Walsall Road that there had previously been petitions about. Their LIF bids had been agreed.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1096 Items to be considered for future agendas were suggested as follows:-

- Jobs and Skills delivery update from the Employment Team
- An update from the depot manager – Nick Reid, regarding waste management in Perry Barr District
- An update report from Neil De-Costa and Cllr Hussain regarding District business
- Kate Foley is to attend to provide an update on the Landlord Services future operating model
- Local Innovation Fund updates – March meeting
- Update on Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1097

RESOLVED:-

The following schedule of meetings was agreed for future District Committee meetings in the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB on the following Thursdays at 1500 hours:-

Committee Room

30 November, 2017	2
19 January, 2018	6
23 March, 2018	2

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1098

RESOLVED:-

That 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 1659 hours.

CHAIRMAN