

	<b>NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM</b>	
	<b>19 JUNE 2017 AT WEST HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HAMPSTEAD HOUSE, CONDOVER ROAD B31 3QY</b>	
	<b>ACTION NOTES</b>	
In Attendance	<p>Councillors Randal Brew, Debbie Clancy and Brett O'Reilly</p> <p>Richard Burden M.P.</p> <p>Varinder Raulia, Ward Champion  Phil Richards, West Midlands Fire Service  Harry Singh, Restorative Justice Service  Joy Whitehouse &amp; Alexia Katsaitis, Youth Promise Plus  Jas Chahal, Transportation  Nigel Vincent, Transportation  Steve Jones &amp; Simon Comber, Fitzgerald Contractors  Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>Approximately 30 residents were in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Sergeant Lamerton, Ruth Bowles	
Agenda Item		<b>Action</b>
1.	<p><b><u>Election of chairman for 2017/18</u></b></p> <p><u>Minutes Silence</u>  The Chair asked that everyone stand for a minutes silence to show their respect to the victims of the Grenfell Tower tragedy.</p>	Cllr Debbie Clancy elected as Chairman
2.	<p><b><u>Notice of Recordings</u></b></p> <p>Phil Richards, WMFS, advised that the crew's day to day duties were being filmed as part of a documentary by Really TV and asked if any residents had objections to the filming continuing.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>No objections</p>
3.	<p><b><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></b></p> <p>Notes agreed and following updates provided:-  <u>Victoria Common</u>– Councillor Brew advised that he had met with Sue Amey but due to lack of funding improvements were not possible. This was not acceptable as the football season was imminent. Councillor O'Reilly said that he had met with the Deputy Leader to request action in view of the forthcoming football season, the pre-election period had halted certain actions but the Deputy Leader was seeking funds.  <u>Wandsworth House</u> – The Chair said she would pursue the issue of CCTV in the block at the next HLB meeting. The police had patrolled the block and no further reports had been received.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Chair (for HLB)</p>

	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund</u> – The Chair explained that after the presentation made to the previous meeting the proposals had been signed off but there was £15k of the funding still available therefore further ideas were welcomed.</p> <p><u>Fleet &amp; Waste Management</u> – information still outstanding re cost of garden waste v cost of clearing dumped garden waste.</p> <p><u>Multi Agency Crime Convention</u> – Cllr O'Reilly reported this was in the process of being arranged.</p>	
4.	<b><u>Petitions</u></b>	None submitted
5.	<p><b><u>Policing Issues</u></b></p> <p>Issues raised at the previous meeting, in particular anti- social behaviour matters were being monitored.</p>	
6.	<p><b><u>Fire Service Update</u></b></p> <p>Watch Commander Phil Richards referred to reports of vehicle arson discussed at the previous meeting and advised that the number of cases had dropped dramatically. Residents were encouraged to continue reporting incidents to the Fire Service as well as the police as this helped build intelligence which ultimately enabled the service to help the local community. There had been a number of recent reports of fires in local parks where students had been burning exercise books following the end of exams and residents were asked to remind their children of the safety risks.</p> <p>In view of the gang related issues recently highlighted a joint event was being arranged between the police and fire service on 10 July which would be advertised through B31 Voices.</p> <p>Grenfell Tower – in response to concerns raised the meeting was advised that most tower blocks in Birmingham had 2 staircases and did not have the cladding associated with the tragedy in London. Flats had fire safety doors designed to hold a fire and blocks in Birmingham were built in 'parts' to prevent the spread of fire. In the event of a fire in a tower block advice was provided about the safest way to make an escape. Should residents feel they needed safety advice they should contact the station and a visit could be arranged. It was vital to keep communal areas, bin stores etc tidy and free of rubbish and to report broken windows or smoke alarms to the Fire Service as well as the council.</p> <p>In response to discussions regarding sprinklers in tower blocks Councillor O'Reilly said that the Leader of the Council had committed to the installation of sprinklers as part of capital</p>	All

	<p>maintenance projects. Concerns had been raised by tenants regarding polystyrene tiles in flats and whilst this was really an issue for the resident Cllr O'Reilly suggested anyone with concerns contact him and he would raise with the housing department. Phil Richards asked that the Fire Service be also informed so that it could be flagged on their system.</p> <p>Councillor Brew welcomed the comments regarding sprinklers and reiterated the comments made regarding the need to keep blocks tidy both inside and out. Councillors had been in contact with housing regarding the renovations to the poets blocks and would be pursuing regular updates. Cllr Brew asked that thanks be extended to the Fire Service for the work undertaken and that special thanks and gratitude be extended to the London Fire Service.</p> <p>Richard Burden M.P. endorsed all comments made and referred to the briefing note issued by housing. Enquiries had been made regarding cladding on tower blocks in Birmingham and it was different to that used in London. The generosity of people across the country in response to the Grenfell Tower fire was to be applauded and Northfield Fire Station was acting as a drop off point for donations by 24 June. A list of what was needed could be found on Facebook.</p>	
7.	<p><b><u>Birmingham Restorative Justice Service</u></b></p> <p>Harry Singh explained the service available to help with neighbor disputes and anti-social behaviour bringing all parties together to tackle issues face to face. The team was made up of 5 police staff and 5 housing staff who worked with all housing providers via referrals from professionals. The work undertaken was cross tenure and was free. A contact list and information leaflets were circulated.</p>	
8.	<p><b><u>Youth Promise Plus</u></b></p> <p>Alexia explained the service provided for 15-25 year old's who were not in education, employment or training and in particular assistance to overcoming barriers to employment/training. The team worked from Northfield Job Centre and provided one to one out reach in Weoley. Access to community centres/community venues was being sought so that the service could be offered away from the Job Centre and any offer of a room would be welcomed as would contact from any local group wishing to work with Youth Promise Plus.</p> <p>In response to a query from Cllr Brew Alexia confirmed that connections had been made with Smart Works. He also suggested that older people could be encouraged to volunteer to work with the young people. Alexia advised that she organized workshops to bring people together to help build confidence as</p>	

	<p>this was one of the main barriers and also urged anyone with volunteering opportunities or work experience possibilities to get in touch.</p> <p>Cllr O'Reilly referred to the high youth unemployment rate in Birmingham and the establishment of skills boards to tackle the problem.</p> <p>It was agreed that Joy/Alexia be invited to attend future meetings to provide updates.</p>	<p>Youth Promise Plus to provide regular updates to future meetings</p>
9.	<p><b><u>Longbridge Lane Highway Improvements Update</u></b></p> <p>Jas Chahal outlined the details of the Longbridge Connectivity Project and the 7 works packages detailed on the map circulated. Reference was made to the consultation with residents in summer 2015 and approval for the scheme in December 2015.</p> <p>A group of residents said they had not been consulted, that their opinions had not been sought and they had not received any information about the works. The highway development works were having a negative impact on residents but no concern was shown to residents.</p> <p>Residents pointed out that regular updates had been provided at ward meetings for the past 3/4 years and the plans had been provided and discussions held. A number of residents affected by the plans pointed out that they had been consulted and had received information about the plans.</p> <p>A resident from Cofton Lane said that traffic was speeding along the service road to avoid queuing at the island due to the problems caused by the traffic lights. Speed restrictions and speed humps had been requested but refused. Varinder Raulia said that staff would be accessible on site during the works and advised residents to contact himself or their councillors with any issues. Regular updates would be provided at this and the Longbridge ward meeting.</p> <p>The following points were then made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fitzgerald's had been chosen in view of quality of work and track record on engagement</li> <li>– There would be disruption and works would go on until January 2019</li> <li>– A compound area would be set up for liaison with residents with a drop in facility on a fortnightly basis with staff</li> <li>– 24 hour emergency numbers would be made available</li> <li>– It was acknowledged that temporary 4 way traffic signals</li> </ul>	

	<p>would cause disruption but every effort would be made to minimize the impact and restricted hours for the lights would be put in place. Staff would be happy to meet with residents to discuss.</p> <p>Residents then made the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Between Bristol Road and Longbridge Lane the traffic was already slow therefore a set of 4 way lights would need to be synchronized or the disruption would be intolerable. Due to the number of schools on Turves Green traffic travelling across Groveley Lane was very heavy and the service road was being used as a rat run. M&amp;S vehicles did not use Longbridge Lane and if other lorries did the same problems would be exacerbated.</li> <li>– It was queried whether an air quality impact assessment had been undertaken before the works with a follow up after completion to assess the effect on people with health issues.</li> <li>– Could action be taken to ensure that the utilities companies did not dig up roads and pavements after the works had been completed.</li> <li>– Could the contractors be requested not to park on residential roads</li> <li>– The markings on the service roads were not visible</li> <li>– Where the two lanes merged into one outside The Factory a warning sign needed to be erected as a matter of urgency as motorists could not see the road markings when there was queuing traffic and there was no other indication. The Chair undertook to refer this to the District Engineer.</li> </ul> <p>In response the meeting was advised that there was time to discuss and make appropriate arrangements for the Groveley Lane/Cofton Road junction and the project managers from Fitzgerald would be happy to meet and discuss with residents. With regard to air quality the traffic junctions were designed to improve efficiency and deal with forecasted traffic. Further information could be provided to the next meeting. Fitzgerald's would be co-ordinating the utilities companies to try to ensure they did their work in the first instance and used communal trenches where possible. Contractors would park in the compound. Comments regarding the road markings on the service road had been noted and they would be refreshed.</p> <p>Richard Burden M.P. queried the responsibility for circulating information and reminded the meeting that not all residents had access to social media and therefore door to door leaflet drops with advanced information about the scheduling of works would be welcomed.</p>	<p>Air quality information to be presented at future meeting (Jas Chahal)</p> <p>Lane merging sign - Chair to refer to District Engineer</p>
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	<p>Cllr Brew stressed the need to look at how Fitzgerald and the council liaised with residents and suggested engaging local voluntary groups to help disseminate information. He had requested that yellow box markings be installed at side roads to aid access and egress</p> <p><b>Action: i) Regular updates to be provided at ward meetings</b>  <b>ii) Air quality information to be provided at future meeting</b>  <b>iii) Request for lane merging sign to be referred to District Engineer</b></p>	Regular updates to be provided to future meetings
10.	<p><b><u>Issues of Local Concern</u></b></p> <p>a) <u>42 Chatham Road</u> – meeting advised that the matter had still not been resolved. The Chair and Cllr Brew undertook to take action</p> <p>b) <u>Merrishaw Road, drug issue</u> – activity by Fairfax School reported to the police but still ongoing.</p>	<p>Chair &amp; Cllr Brew</p> <p>Chair to pursue</p>
11.	<p><b><u>Items for Future Agendas</u></b></p> <p>a) Updates from Youth Promise Plus</p> <p>b) Longbridge Connectivity Project updates</p>	
12.	<p><b><u>Dates of Future Meetings</u></b></p> <p>All at 7pm at Hampstead House;</p> <p>18 September 2017      15 January 2018  20 November 2017      19 March 2018</p>	Agreed
11.	<b><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></b>	Agreed

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm