

SPARKHILL WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Sparkhill	DATE: 9 October 2018
VENUE: St Johns Church, St Johns Road B11 4RG	START/FINISH TIMES: 7.30pm to 9.10pm
COUNCILLOR: Nicky Brennan	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 50+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alan Porter, Senior Local Engineer Stuart Cross, Amey Highway Steward Sergeant Hanif Ullah, West Midlands Police	GUEST SPEAKER: Cllr Majid Mahmood- Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Waste & Recycling APOLOGY: Roger Godsiff M.P.
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Fly tipping & Street Rubbish2. Parking in the Ward - Problems & Solutions3. Residents News/ Updates	
ITEM & ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. <u>Fly Tipping & Street Rubbish</u> Cllr Mahmood circulated maps of a new model for street cleaning. Each road to get a beat sweeper and a mini-sweeper. In Sparkhill a waste enforcement operation had been undertaken on 25 September and in response to resident's complaints action had been taken in respect of flyposting along the Stratford Road and prosecutions had been made. The new working pattern for the crews had begun from 24 September and a rapid response team would respond to any excess waste. In response to fly tipping 3 prosecutions were progressing following evidence found in dumped rubbish, 44 premises on the Stratford Road had been found without adequate waste disposal contracts so would be prosecuted via a FPN. Cllr Mahmood said that Sparkhill was a hotspot and he received many complaints via the councillors but people were reluctant to come forward in support of their complaint. He suggested that neighbours share the cost of a bulky waste collection and used the HRC at Tyseley. Residents made the following points;<ul style="list-style-type: none">- One of the main problems was the number of take-away food outlets on Stratford Rd. There were too many in comparison to the	

local population and they were situated near to schools. It was queried how planning permission was granted for further takeaways. Cllr Mahmood said the council had tried to limit to 10% in local centres but were ultimately tied by planning legislation.

- **Action: Councillor Brennan suggested residents contact her in respect of planning applications as she objected to all applications for take-aways. She undertook to post all planning applications relevant to the ward on social media.**
- The number of missed collections in the ward was highlighted and that many were down to no information being provided about the change of collection day.
- Due to lack of space in many roads rubbish had to be put out on the road. Therefore those roads should be cleared first so that rubbish was not left on the street all day. **Cllr Mahmood stated that by 9am all of the ward would be cleared of any left rubbish. If necessary larger bins could be provided.**
- Rubbish on the streets was not being cleared by the street cleaners. Much of the rubbish was caused by people visiting restaurants rather than local people but more regular cleaning on Stratford Road was required. There was rubbish in the Park which could be cut down if the Park was locked at night. **Cllr Mahmood undertook to take this back as a suggestion. He asked residents to speak to their councillors about where they believed streets needed more cleaning**
- Some of the rubbish that ended up on the streets resulted from residents leaving side waste by their bins that was not collected. There should be a penalty for this to encourage behaviour change.
- There were a number of groups in the area that engaged in litter picks and clean ups. A volunteer lead clean up took place on Sundays and therefore the street cleaner was not required on Monday and it was **requested that the street cleaner be deployed on another day in the week.**

2. Parking in the Ward – Problems & Solutions

Grove Road - Residents referenced a petition that had been started over 3 years ago in respect of a one-way system for Grove Road. The request had been rejected at the time due to lack of finance, with advice from the Local Engineer that £25k needed to be raised to complete a one-way road TRO. The situation had become worse over that time, especially as ambulances and buses for children with special needs regularly had difficulties accessing the road and the inconsiderate parking situation was becoming intolerable for residents. The community wanted to be involved but needed support from the councillors and council. Suggestions such as residents parking scheme, widen road, multi storey car park for businesses.

Clarence Road – double yellow lines extended at junction therefore 2/3 parking spaces lost. College car park had too few spaces and the

red route impacted on parking, therefore cars were being parked on the pavement. Disabled bay markings outside houses where no people with disabilities lived also added to the problems – the guidelines for disabled bay markings was requested. Alan Porter advised;

- There were currently no finances available to create a one-way system for Grove Road. Priority had to be given to road safety based on accident statistics.
- Disabled bays were not necessarily for a person with a physical disability. The markings were a courtesy mark and not enforceable and therefore did not give the person any more right to park there than anyone else. Bays were not removed when a person died or moved house. The Government was currently considering changing the rules regarding parking bays.
- **Action: Alan Porter to discuss Grove Road with Local Engineer and pursue a case for Government funding as Birmingham City Council did not have the budget.**
- **Councillor Brennan to lobby Cabinet Member and start a new petition**

Sergeant Ullah made the following points;

- The problems were mainly caused by the number of cars per household
- The police would react to cases of obstruction where a car was blocking a resident's car on the driveway but not cars trying to access a drive.
- There was no quick fix to the parking problems in the area but a new project – Operation Park Safe – could help. Residents were invited to take photographs of illegally parked cars that the police would use to prosecute drivers.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):