

	KINGS NORTON WARD FORUM MEETING	
	WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7PM AT ODDINGLEY HALL, ODDINGLEY ROAD	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Peter Griffiths (Chair) and Councillor Simon Jevon</p> <p>Councillor Marje Bridle, Assistant Leader Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager P.C. Matthew Shakespeare, West Midlands Police</p> <p>There were 16 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Councillor Seabright	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Election of a Chair for 2017/18</u>	Agreed that Cllr Griffiths be appointed as Chair
2.	<u>Notice of Recordings</u>	Noted
3.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
4.	<p><u>Police Update</u></p> <p>P.C Shakespeare made the following points;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There had been a rise in crime generally – Patrols and plain clothes operations were in place to tackle vehicle crime – Residents encouraged to sign up to WMNow. PCSO's would help if assistance was needed. – The PSPO had made a great improvement in the area especially around anti-social behavior. A project team was working with vulnerable children in primary schools – Inspector Trinder was holding a World Café Event at The Factory, 23 September, 9am-1pm with information about the local team was doing in the community and funding opportunities. <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The next police surgery was at Oddingley Hall on Monday 18 September at 3pm – Mini-motos were causing a nuisance across Kings Norton and in particular on the Hawkesley Estate. – Motorbikes were regularly speeding along Redditch Road up to midnight creating a noise nuisance and disruption – There had been an arson attack on a void house in Little Hill Grove on 5 September but the property was still not 	

	<p>secured and children were gaining access. The neighbour to the property was elderly and concern was expressed for his safety as well as the children.</p> <p>In response PC Shakespeare said that the issue of mini-motos was known and Sergeant Tandy had called in the traffic team to assist. There were limitations to the action the local team could take and residents help was needed in tracking down the owners of the vehicles. Residents were encouraged to report through the 101 system so that a picture could be built. Similarly concerns regarding motorbikes on Redditch Road should be reported the same way. With regard to the property on Little Hill Grove, PC Shakespeare said he would follow up the concerns.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Ward Plan</u></p> <p>Councillor Marje Bridle explained her role as an Assistant Leader and the devolution agenda, working with local councillors and the community to adapt services to the local area and give councillors more influence and residents more control. To assist with prioritizing for budget setting each ward had been asked to draw up a ward plan. Councillors and residents needed to work together to set out the priorities for the ward. In response to queries raised regarding the boundary changes Councillor Bridle said that it was hoped that neighbourhoods would work together irrespective of ward boundaries.</p> <p>There was some discussion regarding priorities for Kings Norton and the following suggestions were made;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Fairway Day Centre threatened closure – need for service provided for vulnerable adults – Something for young people in the Rednal Road area – Empty shops, Vardon Way – appearance of the area, break-ins – need them occupied – open as a place to be used by children and young people – Bell Lane – shops shutting, very run down appearance – puts people off going. However it was on the boundary with another ward so the neighbouring councillors would also need to be on board to help tackle improvements. – The Green – parking was a major issue and would not be improved by the opening of the new co-op store. Concern over the impact on independent shops. This was a local centre that required action to improve. Lack of parking deterred people from using The Green, suggestion to provide free parking in the car park behind the pub to free up spaces around The Green. Also a need to stop people from parking up all day to use the train/bus into Birmingham. Greater enforcement was required – suggest enforcement officers from the Town Centre come to local areas at least once every 3 months. – New library at West Heath – money had been made available but the new library was not now being built, despite promises and consultation so query over whether residents views on priorities would be taken into account. 	

	<p>Kings Norton library – suggestion of better provision of activities/toys etc for pre-school age children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – More work experience for young people including at day centres to encourage greater understanding of all sections of the community. – Maintenance of hedges etc –generally Kings Norton was thought to be a clean and tidy area but there were pockets such as along Rednal Road where it was impossible to walk along the footpath due to over grown hedges. This discouraged walking to school, collected litter etc. Suggestion to determine and focus on hot spot areas for cleaning, regular pruning/maintenance. More litter bins throughout the ward. – Street Lighting – particular problem along boarder with Bromsgrove on Redditch Road going towards BCFC training ground. The lighting was very poor and made it difficult/unsafe for the apprentices attending the training ground to cross the road. There was also a dangerous drop at the side of the pavement towards the golf course. – Road safety – traffic island at The Green very dangerous & road markings needed re-aligning to improve safety and congestion. Consider introducing traffic lights. 20mph limits required enforcement, possible community speed watches. On Rednal Road the ‘slow down’ signs did work properly as obscured by bushes and there were only signs operating in one direction. – Road safety – pedestrian crossing needed near Hobbis House, Redditch Road to enable elderly to cross safely. <p>The Chair said that a further meeting on ward plans was being held at Greaves Hall on 29 September to hear ideas from the other side of the ward before combining into a ward plan.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>Neighbour Nuisance</u></p> <p>A local resident reported on a series of incidents directed at her by her neighbour and sought advice as her neighbour lived in a privately rented property. The Chair asked that she speak to the councillors at the conclusion of the meeting.</p> <p>b) <u>Fairway Day Centre</u></p> <p>Service users and carers of The Fairway Day Centre expressed their extreme concern at news to close The Fairway day Centre. Service users and carers had been invited to a meeting on 5 September where the intention to close had been advised but a letter received on 8 September stated the decision had been made. This had been done without consultation with service users or carers and the detrimental impact that the closure would have on its service users could not be stressed enough. The Fairways catered for adults with physical disabilities as well as people suffering from dementia and mental health problems across all age ranges and there was no other centre that offered</p>	

	<p>that. Many service users had been attending the centre for many years and strong friendship bonds had been forged. Service users had been told friendships would be maintained but there was no other centre that could accommodate all of the people using The Fairway.</p> <p>The report or minutes of the meeting where the decision had been taken could not be found.</p> <p>Assessments for care plans had recently been undertaken and one carer advised that her sons care plan stressed that nothing should change in his life to disrupt him. They had been advised a further assessment would have to be taken by a different set of social workers which was traumatic and undignified for her son. Letters had been sent to the Cabinet member but no response received.</p> <p>There was concern that as there was no-where for people with physical disabilities to go to meet other people, share activities etc they would end up staying at home, especially as people were living longer and carers were getting older. The Fairways gave people with additional needs a voice.</p> <p>While it was acknowledged that the Council was being forced to make cuts this decision was wrong and uninformed. There had been no consultation to enable service users and carers to put their view and the Cabinet Member and Director of Social Care & Health should visit The Fairway day centre.</p> <p>The Chair said there had been no consultation with councillors, the matter had not been discussed at Cabinet Committee and as there had been no consultation with service users and carers no decision should be made until this had happened.</p> <p>Action:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Chair to write on behalf of himself and Councillor Jevon to Graham Betts requesting proper consultation on the proposal to close The Fairway day centre and that any decision made be put on hold until this had occurred. – The Chief Executive to be copied into the letter. – Councillor Griffiths and Councillor Jevon to visit the day centre <p>c) <u>Meadows Care</u></p> <p>Phil Brooks, Commissioning Officer and Kerry Ewers, Manager, Wychall Lane children's home introduced themselves and asked residents if they had any queries or concerns regarding the Wychall Lane property. Concerns had been expressed prior to the home opening but there had been no contact from residents since. It was hoped that the children were integrating well into the local community. No comments were made.</p>	<p>Councillor Griffiths & Councillor Jevon</p>
7.	<p><u>Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Next meeting - 8 November 2017 at 7pm at Oddingley Hall.</p>	<p>Agreed</p>

8.	<u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u>	Agreed The Chair agreed to consult cllr Jevon in the event of a decision needing to be taken

Meeting ended 8.50pm