

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 13 JULY, 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERRY BARR
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 13
JULY, 2017 AT 1500 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Paulette Hamilton, Keith Linnecor, Mahmood Hussain, Hendrina Quinnen and Waseem Zaffar.

ALSO PRESENT

Neil De-Costa – Perry Barr District Head
Kate Foley, Acting Senior Service Manager, Housing (Central West)
Bryn Lewis, Project Manager, Big Birmingham Bikes
Sue Mellor, Cycling Projects Manager
Louisa Nisbett, Area Democratic Services Officer
Kyle Stott, Public Health

NOTICE OF RECORDING

1071 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.

There being no quorum the Chairman informed that the meeting would commence on an informal basis. During the discussion and at 1512 hours Councillor Paulette Hamilton attended the meeting. The meeting was therefore quorate.

BIG BIRMINGHAM BIKES INITIATIVE

1072 Bryn Lewis, Project Manager, Big Birmingham Bikes attended the meeting accompanied by Sue Mellor, Cycling Projects Manager. Bryn Lewis explained the progress made over the last few years also the plans for Phase 2 of the scheme with the use of a presentation document:-

(See document no. 1)

During the presentation and discussion the following points were made:-

- The scheme had been supported by the Department of Transport. The bikes could be identified by their orange colour and could be seen across the City.
- Each bike had a GPS tracker enabling data to be collected on use of the bikes mileage etc. Details were included in the presentation document.
- Life expectancy was shorter in deprived wards. The bikes encouraged people to exercise more and raise life expectancy. 3,400 bikes had been given to individuals, 400 bikes were in cycle centres, free to loan bikes, there were 200 Community Group Bikes and 22 Cycle Centres.
- They worked closely with a number of community groups across the City. Use of the bikes by individuals had been monitored and bikes could be reallocated. Reference was made to use of the bikes in Lozells and East Handsworth in the presentation document showing that the highest useage was between 1400 and 1759. Some analysis was being done for the other Wards.
- There were 426 bike owners in the Perry Barr District. A distance of 6,235 had been cycled. The highest use by an individual was 415 miles. It was proven that 3736 miles of car journey had been replaced with bike journeys. The bikes had benefitted people with Mental Health.
- The project was sustainable and it was managed by volunteers. They were training people to take a lead role, out of the 4,000 people who had been allocated with bikes 1,000 people had become volunteers. The miles being cycled in the City were increasing.
- **Phase 2** – There will be a new application process in September for Phase 2 of the project giving away 1500 bikes for regular use. There will be bike banks across the City supported with community training.
- Some work had been carried out with a social enterprise to recycle bikes from tips.
- Reference was made to the map showing where the bikes for phase 1 had been distributed.
- The majority of people from a cycling project in Small Heath were now cycling. 70% of people in the scheme were now also doing other exercise. Cycling also encouraged social interaction in communities and brought people out of isolation.
- Councillor Linnecor understood that the project was a good concept. He understood that the bikes were allocated to areas of deprivation and was worried that there were small areas of deprivation in isolated areas and this was not being taken into account so people were missing out. Councillor Linnecor asked that thought be given to people who did not fit the criteria to avoid divisions between communities.

- Councillor Zaffar welcomed the project. He had spoken to some women from a South Asian women's group and they said cycling had changed their lives. He was pleased to hear about the 1,000 volunteers from the 1,400 trained and was impressed with the work of Handsworth People Street Group. Moving forward work relating to parking issues around schools was essential. He welcomed the 2nd Phase of the programme in particular the work with schools.
- Councillor Hussain thanked Bryn Lewis for attending the meeting and said that the presentation had been very useful.

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND VICE CHAIR FOR PERRY BARR DISTRICT

It was proposed and seconded that

1073

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mahmood Hussain be elected as Chairman of Perry Barr District Committee and Councillor Gurdial Singh Atwal as Vice Chair for the period ending with the first meeting of the District Committee in the next Municipal Year.

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

1074

The membership of the Committee was noted as follows:-

Councillors

Gurdial Singh Atwal (Chairman), Paulette Hamilton and Narinder Kooner
(**Handsworth Wood Ward**)

Mahmood Hussain, Hendrina Quinnen (Chairman) and Waseem Zaffar (**Lozells and East Handsworth Ward**)

Tristan Chatfield (Chairman), Barbara Dring, and Keith Linnecor (**Oscott Ward**)

Jon Hunt, Morriam Jan and Karen Trench (Chairman), (**Perry Barr Ward**)

Khalid Mahmood, MP was also invited to attend all meetings in a non-voting capacity.

LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

1075

The Lead Officer arrangements were noted as follows:-

Lead Officer – Neil De-Costa

Area Democratic Services Officer – Louisa Nisbett

APOLOGIES

- 1076 Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Tristan Chatfield, Barbara Dring, Jon Hunt, Morriam Jan and Karen Trench.
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MINUTES

- 1077 The Minutes of the last meeting on 23 March, 2017, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1078 The Chairman reminded Members of the requirement to declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests and/prejudicial interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting.
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COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1079 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.
(See document no. 2)
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DISTRICT COMMITTEE FUNCTION AND GUIDELINES

- 1080 The Executive powers, Rules of Governance and terms of reference for District Committees (Article 10 of the Constitution) were received and noted:-
(See document no. 3)
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PERRY BARR DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS 2017/18

- 1081 **RESOLVED:-**

That the following appointments be agreed:-

- Corporate Parent Champion – Councillor Barbara Dring
- Cultural Heritage Champion - Councillor Waseem Zaffar
- Cycle Revolution Champion - Councillor Karen Trench

- Regulation 44 Visits – appointment deferred.
- Jobs and Skills Champion - Councillor Hendrina Quinnen
- Health and Wellbeing Champion - Councillor Paulette Hamilton
- Environmental Champion – All Ward Councillors (Councillor Linnecor Lead Member)

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1082

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

28 September, 2017	2
24 November, 2017	2
19 January, 2018	6
23 March, 2018	2

PERRY BARR HEALTH AND WELL BEING GROUP

1083

Kyle Stott and Sue Mellor attended for this item. The Cabinet Member for Health And Well Being, Councillor Paulette Hamilton was also in attendance.

Kyle Stott gave an overview of the Health and Well Being Group and an update on progress to date with the use of the following slides:-

(See document no. 4)

Following the presentation and during the discussion that ensued the following points were made:-

- Councillor Paulette Hamilton said that the Group was one of the most pleasurable tasks she had undertaken since she had been a Councillor. It was a pleasure to Chair the Group who worked with diverse people and organisations from all the Wards and set an example for the City.
- Councillor Zaffar commended the work done by the group. He said that the group had made a difference. With regard to the improvement of Primary Care Services, Councillor Zaffar asked how the group were working to hold CCG's to account. Kyle Stott replied that this was something to be considered and take on board as a positive steer.

- Councillor Paulette Hamilton highlighted a number of key events taking place and invited Councillors to attend. In reply to Councillor Mahmood Hussain, a newsletter for the community had been discussed and after the events it would be produced and sent out regularly.
- Neil De-Costa added the key events were on Wednesday 19 July, 1030 – 1300 hours – Public Health and Well Being Market Place. It was an important as it provided an opportunity for the key stakeholders to meet with the community and residents. With regard to the future of Health and Well Being there was a lot of good practice going on. The opportunities needed to be linked with stakeholders and the priorities. A conference about Dementia was being planned for 4 October, 2017 and Members will be invited. Members will receive training to understand the importance of Mental Health and the key challenges. 3 Key organisations in Perry Barr Wards will receive Mental Health First Aid Training at the end of September.
- Councillor Zaffar felt that the progress was remarkable and the District should celebrate. He congratulated everyone on the work done.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton informed that 6 meetings had taken place and it would be good if a few Councillors could attend.
- Councillor Hussain agreed that tremendous work had been done and he hoped it continued. He asked Neil De-Costa to circulate the dates to all the Councillors.

HOUSING LIAISON BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT, QUARTER 4, 2016-17

1084

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document no. 5)

Kate Foley explained that the report was in a different format to the normal Housing Transformation Board report however the information was the same. Kate gave a summary of the report outlining some of the information and during the discussion the following points were made:-

Void Turnarounds – Perry Barr was in a medium position compared to other Districts. There were a high number of sheltered accommodation in the District.

Percentage of Repair Jobs completed on time – A report of the implementation of the new contract was made at a previous meeting. 88.4% of jobs had been completed on time.

Response to Emergency Repairs in 2 hours – Perry Barr was doing better than some districts at 93.2%.

Routine Repairs within 30 days – 94.7%

Anti-Social Behaviour cases responded to on time – 100%

Perry Barr had a relatively small housing stock compared to other Districts.

In reply to a question from Councillor Paulette Hamilton relating to reassurance about cladding on tower blocks and work with regard to sprinklers in tower block to allay concerns from residents, Kate Foley informed that there was 1 high rise block in Perry Barr district. There was no cladding of the type being investigated anywhere in the city. There was some other type of cladding installed and they were running additional tests to ensure there were no issues. Visits were being made to every property and safety advice given. Fingertip inspections were made on firestopping measures and repairs were currently being inspected. Individual properties in all blocks had been asked if there were any issues. They worked with West Midlands Fires Service to ensure that correct advice was being given. A programme of further reassurance will be developed and they were working with a specialist with regard to the sprinklers.

Councillor Atwal questioned whether multi storey blocks had external fire escapes. Kate Foley informed that there were evacuation plans in every block in conjunction with WMFS. There was a 30 minute fire stopping mechanism built in, including in the communal area.

The Grenfield Tower incident was unprecedented. The safest course of action was to stay put and when WMFS attend they determine the evacuation. In reply to Councillor Atwal's question about firebreakers and external fire escape Kate Foley informed that buildings were being inspected. If there were changes to building regulations arising from Grenfield Tower they will be taken on board. In the meantime the Leader had agreed to the provision of sprinklers.

Councillor Linnecor suggested that fire blankets should be considered for all tenants in high rise properties. Kate Foley said they were working close with WMFS and the points made were valid and would be taken up with WMFS and experts to ensure the best way to manage was discussed.

WARD UPDATES

1085

The following updates were given:-

Oscott Ward – Councillor Linnecor

- Councillor Linnecor reported that Councillor Dring had been appointed as Chairman of Oscott Ward. The main item of the meeting agenda had been the Tree Campaign. A survey would be carried out looking at every tree in the Ward. West Police reported that there had been an increase in crime. There had been an increase in burglary and shed break ins. Oscott had low statistics compared to others. The 12 officers had been reduced down to 4. Officers were more proactive. They had recommended that the Government give proper funding to the police. Two libraries had been

given limited funding. They had worked with Witton Lodge Community Centre.

Handsworth Wood Ward – Councillor Atwal Chairman

- Councillor Atwal reported that residents felt that it was a waste of time reporting crime and there was a lack of support. He thanked the local community police for their help at the Fun Day event on Saturday. They had done a good job. Some Local Innovation Fund applications had been received some of which had been agreed.
- Councillor Paulette Hamilton highlighted an issue with anti-social behaviour in Handsworth Wood Ward. People were concerned with the summer holiday coming up. The Ward Councillors were taking the issue forward with the police. Rubbish was an issue in the Ward. Handsworth Wood in Bloom at the Uplads had brought the community together. Nearly 1,000 people and the Lord Mayor had attended an event on Saturday. This was an excellent example of the community and councillors working together.

Lozells and East Handsworth Ward – Councillor Quinnen Chairman

- Councillor Quinnen reported that several meetings had been held. The LIF process was almost completed.

Perry Barr Ward

- No Councillors were present.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1086 Items to be considered for future agendas were suggested as follows:-

- Bin Collection
- Amey
- Superintendent for Perry Barr – Feedback regarding the increase in Anti - Social behaviour.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1087 The following issues were raised as other urgent business:-

- Councillor Linnecor said there was an issue with speeding on Aldridge/Greenholm Road. He had highlighted the issue with the police and transportation. People were desperately reporting missed collections and he hoped for a speedy conclusion.
- Councillor Hussain was concerned about HMO's in Lozells and East Handsworth Ward. Illegal Parking was also a big issue as well as public drinking on the street. A lot of street parties were being held. They were

not so bad during the day however appropriate places should be used during the night.

- Councillor Atwal had complained about illegal parking for 4 or 5 years in particular a van parked on the pavement at Rookery Road causing an obstruction. He had asked that action be taken. He added that the lack of bin collections was a health hazard.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1088

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 1638 hours.

CHAIRMAN