

## KINGS NORTON SOUTH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

<b>WARD:</b> Kings Norton South	<b>DATE:</b> Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>VENUE:</b> Hawksley Community Centre	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6:00 pm – 7:40 pm
<b>COUNCILLOR/S:</b> Rob Grant	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 9
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> ToF Islam – Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator, Kerry Leslie – Community Development & Support Officer, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	<b>VISITING SPEAKER(S):</b> Neighbourhood Police Team for Kings Norton South

### CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

- A Prosperous Kings Norton South
- A Inclusive Kings Norton South
- A Safe Kings Norton South
- A Healthy Kings Norton South
- A Green Kings Norton South
- A Local Kings Norton South

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions & Notice of Recording

Councillor Grant introduced himself and welcomed residents for attending the ward forum meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting.

#### 2. Local Police Update

The Neighbourhood Police Team gave an update on work they are currently doing which includes

- The main work they are currently doing is identifying youths who are causing ASB behaviour in Hawksley Square. 5 arrests have been made and they have been charged with various crimes
- With Christmas approaching, officers are being posted elsewhere based on demand which is mainly in the City Centre. Most, if not all, Neighbourhood Police Teams have been redirected to other areas over the Christmas period

- The current crime statistics from Nov 2022-Nov 2023 are, domestic, burglaries and car crimes have reduced by 56% and robberies have increased by 16%

#### Q&A

- With Neighbourhood Police Teams redirected, does this impact response to emergencies? – There are dedicated response teams to respond to 999 calls therefore this does not affect response to emergencies
- Is there still a team or an officer that works with pupils in the local schools? – PC Shakespeare is a School Liaison Officer and covers all secondary schools in the ward. He also visits other schools outside the ward to educate and do talks on knife crime
- Are there more Domestic Violence victims coming forward? – There is always a steady amount unfortunately however not all victims who report DV make a statement therefore it is difficult to make prosecution
- Who can we contact to arrange for speedwatch and streetwatch? – This is run by a PCSO under a separate team
- Do the police use drones and are there any drones based in Kings Norton? – Drone teams come out on a lot of jobs and have thermal detections therefore making it easier to see and make arrests. There is one drone based in Bournville and one in Perry Barr
- Has the S114 affected Police? – No, the police operate on a separate funding allocation not related to local councils

### **3. Local Engagement Project – Tof Islam**

Tof Islam introduced himself to residents as the Neighbourhood Action Coordinator for the ward. He explained that he spoke to police about speedwatch and streetwatch, as there have been multiple complaints from residents about speeding. Street and speed watch could reduce crime in the area. Tof will keep residents updated when he has spoken to someone in the police to arrange a speedwatch.

The local scouts group are trying to create a more accessible venue. The current venue they use is very cold and no wheelchair access is available. If you or anyone you know may like to get involved in this project, please email Tof on **Tof.Islam@birmingham.gov.uk**

### **4. Road, Pavements & Street Lighting**

The Councillor gave an update on the Highways works taking place in the area

- There have been multiple reports of speeding on Mass House Lane by the college and there being no parking spaces. He met with Stuart, the Highways engineer from Kier, and talks have started to potentially get double yellow lines to reduce the issue. He is working with Councillor Aitken, the councillor for Kings Norton North to make this happen by combining ward funds. The Highways budget is unaffected by the S114 notice issued by the city council. There will be a new budget announced before Christmas which will give a better idea of what money can be spent

- There is a crossing point being put in on Edgewood Road to make it easier for those with mobility issues and to add a central barrier to act as a traffic calming measure
- The workmen working on the new build houses on Redditch Road and Northfield Road have created lots of ditches and the roads are in a poor state. There is a petition to restore the pavement on Redditch Road by ALDI. The current pavement is too thin and difficult to use for those on mobility scooters and wheelchair users. The pavement on the opposite side are to be reinstated
- Tunnel Lane Park will be completed soon. The Councillor is working with Tof to create of a Friends of Group for that park and if any residents would like to get involved, please contact Tof, [Tof.Islam@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Tof.Islam@birmingham.gov.uk)

#### 5. **Cost of Living Support**

The Councillor explained he was invited to visit and volunteer at a Foodbank in the Kings Norton industrial estate on Castle Road, by Lifford Lane. They have been operating for 10 years. There were unfortunately extensive queues at the foodbank. Northfield Community Partnerships are available for support.

Please see [appendices one](#) for support if you, or someone you know is affected by the Cost of Living crisis.

#### **AOB:**

- Hawksley Square – back of the shops the paving slabs are dangerous and a serious trip hazard. The Councillor will make Stuart from Kier aware
- Hills Mead Road demolition will begin next summer potentially
- Eckington Walk was cleaned up a few months ago
- Left to the towerblocks on Shannon Road was previously piled with rubbish which had been cleared in the past and has stayed clear
- If you'd like a litter clean up on your road, please contact The Councillor and he will bring the equipment to arrange this

## Appendices One



# HelpinBrum

## Find Help In Brum Are you concerned about the rise in cost of living?

Find some helpful contact details for advice and support.

Birmingham City Council and partners are working to support and offer guidance to our residents during the cost of living crisis in the UK.

We want to support as many of our residents as possible across key areas which are outlined in this leaflet.

### Warm Welcome:

We are working with the local community and a partnership of voluntary and community sector organisations to expand a network of warm spaces. These spaces will be available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond.

There are several existing Warm Welcome Spaces within local communities across the city. Warm Welcome Spaces are:

- inclusive and non-judgmental
- heated and free to access

The services at each space will vary but may include:

- information on further support and available guidance
- opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things
- free internet access, computers and charging points
- a friendly environment to connect with others within the community

You can find details of our current Birmingham Warm Welcome Spaces at

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/warmwelcome)

Keeping checking back online as more spaces will be launched weekly.

### Benefits and Money Advice:

During the cost of living crisis, it is also important to ensure you have access to the right benefits and money advice for you. There are several information portals below which can help.

To find out what benefits you are entitled to, it is best to use the Benefits Calculator provided by the Government. Find out more by using this link [www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support](http://www.gov.uk/check-benefits-financial-support)

Birmingham City Council has also developed several support factsheets which provide useful information on a range of debt related issues. You can view and download Information on [www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadviceteam](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/debtadviceteam)

If you are struggling with debt and need advice and support you can also visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum) which can help direct you to the right information.

There are also other services who offer free and confidential advice:

- The Project - Benefit, debt and housing advice  
0121 453 0606 | [www.theprojectbirmingham.org](http://www.theprojectbirmingham.org)
- Citizens Advice Birmingham - Advice on benefits, debt, housing and more  
Freephone 0808 278 7990 (Mon – Fri 9.30 am – 4.30pm) | [www.bcabs.org.uk](http://www.bcabs.org.uk)
- Disability Resource Centre - Advice and advocacy services for disabled people  
03030 402 040 | [www.disability.co.uk](http://www.disability.co.uk)

### Energy Efficiency:

As energy costs rise we are committed to reducing energy bills and helping everyone to keep warm as we head into the winter months.

There are several schemes already available for residents, with full information and guidance available at

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyhelp)

There has been a significant rise in energy scams linked to the cost of living crisis.

There is some helpful support on the Birmingham City Council website to avoid these scams.

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/energyscam)

## Food Support:

The cost of living crisis has made it much more difficult for many people to afford food. If this is something you are experiencing, there are several information points below which can help.

### Foodbanks:

We know that accessing a foodbank or other projects for the first time can be daunting. However, the volunteers do their utmost to make visitors feel welcome.

With one visitor saying *"It was just a small personal touch that made you feel welcome and on the occasions where I was on a tiny budget, it also felt like somebody did care that times were tough."*

To find a foodbank or other food support please visit <https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/foodhelp>

### Healthy Start card

If you are 10 weeks pregnant or more, have a child under four years old, or you or your family get certain benefits, you may be able to qualify for a Healthy Start card.

The card has money on it to be used in shops to buy: plain liquid cow's milk; fresh, frozen, and tinned fruit and vegetables; fresh, dried, and tinned pulses; and infant formula milk based on cow's milk. You can also get free vitamins.

To find out more and way to apply visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/healthystart](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/healthystart)

### Free School Meals

You can also check if your child can get free school meals, visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-meals](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/school-meals) to see if you are eligible. (This will also automatically register you for the Holidays, Activities and Food Programme.)

## More Information Available

Even more information is available on the Birmingham City Council website [www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/helpinbrum) which can guide you to various organisations depending on the help you may require. Alternatively, phone 0121 303 9944 and one of our customer service team will be able to help you.

## Other Support Available

There is also a lot of support at a local and national level. Here are some key contacts if you need information or guidance:

### Age UK Birmingham

Information, advice and helpline services for older people (50+), their families and carers  
0121 437 0479 | [www.ageuk.org.uk/birmingham](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/birmingham)

### Birmingham Mind

Providing advice, information and signposting for people affected by mental health issues  
0121 262 3555 | [www.birminghammind.org](http://www.birminghammind.org)

### Moneyhelper

Advice to help improve your finances  
0800 138 7777 | [www.moneyhelper.org.uk](http://www.moneyhelper.org.uk)

### Stop Loan Sharks

Investigates and prosecutes illegal money lenders and provides support for borrowers  
0300 555 2222 | [www.stoploansharks.co.uk](http://www.stoploansharks.co.uk)

### Turn2Us

Information and financial support  
0808 802 2000 | [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)

### Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid

Support for women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse  
0800 800 0028 | [www.bswaid.org](http://www.bswaid.org)

### Shelter

Housing advice 0808 800 4444 | [www.england.shelter.org.uk](http://www.england.shelter.org.uk)

### The Active Wellbeing Society

Listen and Connect support people to feel heard, connect with others, be active, live well and access information  
0121 728 7030 | [www.theaws.co.uk/listen-connect](http://www.theaws.co.uk/listen-connect)

### The Refugee and Migrant Centre

Advice on immigration, housing & destitution, welfare & health, employment & education, resettlement and citizenship  
0121 374 0140 | [www.rmcentre.org.uk](http://www.rmcentre.org.uk)

### Spitfire Services

Advice on money, benefit, housing and employment issues  
0121 747 5932 | [www.spitfireservices.org.uk](http://www.spitfireservices.org.uk)