

Birmingham City Council

Perry Barr Ward Forum Meeting

Thursday 20 October 2016

7pm

Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF

Meeting Notes

Present: Councillor Karen Trench in the Chair
Councillor Jon Hunt and Councillor Ray Hassall
Josh Hurd, West Midlands Fire Service
Kelly Whitehouse, Planning & Regeneration
Laura Reid, Planning & Regeneration
Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit
Kate Foley, Senior Service Manager, Place
Jayne Power, Place Manager
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were approximately 30 residents present.

1. Notice of Recording

Noted.

2. Petitions

None received

3. Notes of Previous Meeting

Notes agreed

Actions Update

Flooding - Councillor Hunt advised that discussions were ongoing with the Environment Agency regarding investment in flood prevention. It had been acknowledged that the recent flooding had been due to unprecedented rainfall. The motorway gullies & drains were in poor condition causing water to pour out which the Highways Agency needed to repair. The culvert had been surveyed and had been found to be in good condition, areas that had silted up would be cleared. The standard of drain cleaning/checking was still being discussed and Councillors were pressing for an improved programme.

A local resident thanked Clive Wright for his contribution but requested that residents be involved in finding solutions to the flooding issues rather than consulted once solutions had been identified.

The Chair reported that mapping of where the water came into and through the ward was being undertaken.

Kate Foley undertook to take details of a privately let property affected by the flood on Haddon Road.

4. Police Update

Police unavailable to attend, item deferred.

5. Fire Service Update

Meeting advised that on a 3year average there had been a spike in non-domestic premise & vehicle arson fires and a plan was in place, in conjunction with the police and City Council to combat. Safety tips surrounding Bonfire Night were provided and meeting advised that safety leaflets could be obtained by contacting joshuap.hurd@wmfs.net or on 0121 380 7515. There was some discussion regarding legislation governing use of fireworks and Josh undertook to check details and report back to the Councillors to forward to residents/neighbourhood watch groups. Residents were asked to contact Perry Barr Fire Station on the above number should they be aware of anyone requiring a free safe & well check.

6. Neighbourhood Plan

Briefing note circulated.

Concern expressed by Councillor Hassall regarding potential conflict between Neighbourhood Plan and City planning policy. Meeting advised that when formally adopted the Forum would have to adhere to policy.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that Balsall Heath Forum had an adopted Plan and the Jewellery Quarter were in the early stages. The Plan provided a vision for the wider area as a buy in at the local level and provided funding opportunities. The website would be launched on Monday with more details and an opportunity to comment –

www.birmingham.gov.uk/3Bsneighbourhooddevelopmentplan

Councillor Hunt, Chair of the Neighbourhood Forum, introduced the chairs of the 5 working groups based on key themes and by February it was planned to produce a scoping document setting out neighbourhoods and sites. Membership of the Forum was free to anyone living/working in the area. The emerging theme was to create a garden suburb.

Safer Spaces & Local Design – looking at road safety, safety in centres, safe corridors, aesthetics of new buildings, how areas could be enhanced. Over the next few months the group would be consulting on those issues.

Open Spaces & Green Spaces – looking at parks and also back land behind houses, allotments, facilities for children and spaces to plant fruit trees, vegetables etc.

Homes & Employment – focus on housing sites, employment sites, changes of use in residential areas, protection of spaces. Consultation with residents about housing supply identified need for elderly persons/private rented property. Discussions with housing would be welcomed. Also looking at commercial sites and accelerating development of those vacant and where there were conflicting uses in residential areas.

Local Business Centres – discussions with shop keepers on views to improve local centres. Businesses were enthusiastic about the process and had joined the

Neighbourhood Forum. Also visiting Perry Beeches and Great Barr Schools for their input.

Flooding & Drainage – very relevant to the Neighbourhood Plan. Schools involvement was being encouraged to monitor rainfall and planning permissions and gardens vs drives were being considered with a view to sustainable development.

Residents were encouraged to respond to the consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Items of Concern

a) Flooding

In response to the actions listed from the previous meeting, residents advised they had not received responses to the surveys they had completed. Councillor Hunt advised a meeting in response to City wide flooding had been held in Harborne. He undertook to chase up responses to the surveys.

b) Tower Hill Bridge

Action: Councillor Hassall to investigate overgrown trees/lighting issues with a view to having trees pruned.

c) Perrywood Road damaged pavement

Action: Councillors to take up issue of damaged pavement, which had been tarmacked and hardcore of grass verge creating flood risk.

d) Oscott Road

Local residents referred to the properties in Oscott Road that had previously belonged to the University but had been sold and were now being used as homes for people on bail. There had been a significant increase in rubbish, beds, mattresses and settees dumped on the pavements, dog fouling and police activity since the houses had been sold. People living in the properties were selling drugs, fighting, and this and their drunken behaviour and the police attending 2/3 times per week was very frightening for residents, especially as some were elderly. This had been going on for over a year and action was now needed to help the residents.

The following actions were agreed;

- **Jayne Power, Place Manager to take up the matter and investigate a Public Protection Order for the area.**
- **Consideration to be given to the mix of properties on Oscott Road (Councillors)**
- **Oscott Road to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan (Councillors/Kelly Whitehouse)**
- **Extension of the licensing regulations in respect of the private rented sector with a view to creating a special licensing area.**
- **Residents to email Councillors further details to be forwarded to Place Manager.**

e) Tucker Fasteners Site

In response to concerns raised by residents regarding intended use for the site, Councillor Hunt confirmed a planning application had been submitted for a distribution centre with parking for 33 HGV lorries. Residents expressed concern regarding increased traffic on side roads and the need for a dedicated junction to allow u-turns and proper access.

Councillor Hunt advised he had submitted his comments to the Planning Department.

f) Turnberry Park

Residents to provide Councillors with ideas for facilities that could be provided in the park. Consideration was being given to organising a Great Run.

Action: residents to send suggestions for facilities in parks to Councillors

g) Badshah Palace

Residents reported problems still be experienced with light on side of building. The owners of the banqueting suite had still not held a residents meeting. There was an ongoing issue with double parking at the front of the building and it was suggested that a line be drawn down the pavement with a walking person figure on one side.

Councillor Hassall undertook to take up the light issue with the Badshah Palace.

The Chair advised that enforcement work was being undertaken to try to resolve issues and this had been discussed at the police tasking meeting. Use of the Alexander Stadium car park and park and ride to the venue when large events were held had been suggested and this was under consideration. Environmental Health Officers were also looking into the use of fireworks and confetti bombs.

1. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm