

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, 14 JULY 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 14 JULY 2016 AT 1030 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4,
COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Alex Buchanan, Phil Davis, Barry Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Changese Khan, Mike Leddy, Mary Locke, Karen McCarthy and Eva Phillips.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Karen Cheney – Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support
Melvin Powell - Place Manager, Billesley Ward
Darren Share - MBE, Assistant Director, Waste Management
Ron Webb - Place Manager, Bournville Ward
Errol Wilson - Committee Manager

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first District Committee of the new Municipal Year.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

346 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

As it was the first meeting of the Municipal Year the Chairman welcomed back colleagues who had been re-elected. She welcomed Councillor Mary Locke who had been elected and whose first meeting this was.

At this juncture the Chairman handed over the Chair to Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support for the Committee to elect an Executive Member and Deputy Executive Member for Selly Oak District for the 2016/2017 municipal Year.

ELECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DEPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SELLY OAK DISTRICT

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

347 **RESOLVED:** -

- a) That Councillor Karen McCarthy be elected Executive Member for Selly Oak District for 2016/2017, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Alex Buchanan be appointed Committee Vice-Chairman for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair)

APOLOGIES

348 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors Susan Barnett Brigid Jones and Rob Sealey. An apology was also submitted by Steve McCabe Member of Parliament for Selly Oak Constituency.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports was available for public inspection via the web-stream.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

349 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -

Councillors Philip Davis, Alex Buchanan and Susan Barnett (Billesley Ward).

Councillors Mary Locke, Rob Sealey and Timothy Huxtable (Bournville Ward).

Councillors Eva Phillips, Mike Ward and Dr Barry Henley (Brandwood Ward).

Councillors Karen McCarthy, Changese Khan and Brigid Jones (Selly Oak Ward).

Co-opted Members:-

West Midlands Fire Service Representative

West Midlands Police Representative

2 District Housing Panel Members

1 Member of the Youth Council

The Chairman stated that a meeting of the Housing Panel needed to be convened for the new Municipal Year and that this was included on the work programme. The Committee agreed for the co-option to continue.

MINUTES

Minute No. 343

Line 2 of the first paragraph "... the connective communities and ..." should read "... the Connecting Communities and ..."

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RESOLVED: -

That, subject to the amendments, the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2016 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

In relation to matters arising from the Minutes, the following were amongst the matters raised: -

- (i) In referring to an officer not being present in terms of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution (BCR) Phases 2 and 3 Consultation as outlined on pages 197 – 198, Councillor Huxtable enquired whether there had been any feedback in relation to the comments and questions raised during that section.
- (ii) In terms of the feedback from the Neighbourhood Challenge Jobs and Skills (page 202) where he enquired how the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) would operate and what was the fund in terms of financial support how it had been administered by Districts and whether there had been any update on the LIF now that they were well into the new Municipal Year.
- (iii) The Chairman advised that they did not have any information on the LIF at present, but there was a meeting of the new Cabinet Committee – Local Leadership on Tuesday 19 July 2016 so she was hopeful that they would have information to share following the meeting. She added that BCR would be invited to attend the District Committee meeting in autumn.
- (iv) Ms Cheney advised that she did not have any feedback concerning BCR, but that she was aware that there were a number of developments in terms of bike cover and bike rides that had started in the District. Specific reference to those questions she did not have anyone come back to her with those.
- (v) Councillor Huxtable commented that it was disappointing and that the question was asked as to what the purpose was of the paintings of large bicycles in the middle of the road in Stoney Lane, Sparkbrook. It should be easy to get a straightforward answer from highways officers concerning the question.
- (vi) The Chairman advised that they would try and get answers to the questions ahead of the next Committee meeting. She added that from where those signs had appeared elsewhere, they were advisory signs in areas of high cycle use as they were on Edgbaston Park Road near Birmingham University.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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No declarations of interest were submitted.

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DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following schedule of District Committee Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

352 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Functions and Guidelines be noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

353 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct for meetings of the District Committee be noted.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2016/2017

354 **RESOLVED: -**

That the Selly Oak District Committee meet at 1030 hours, at the Council House on the following dates:-

22 September 2016
17 November 2016
26 January 2017
16 March 2017

All meetings will be held on Thursdays, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB

The Chairman advised that at some point during the Municipal Year they would have an additional meeting, but that she was happy to wait until September 2016 to decide whether that should be held in October, December or February, but this was dependent on the work programme.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

355 **(a) Corporate Parenting Champion**

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Susan Barnett be appointed the Corporate Parenting Champion for Selly Oak District.

(b) Dementia Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Karen McCarthy be appointed the Dementia Champion for Selly Oak District.

(c) District Parent Partnership Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Susan Barnett be appointed the District Parent Partnership Champion for Selly Oak District.

(d) Cultural and Heritage Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Phil Davis be appointed the Cultural and Heritage Champion for Selly Oak District.

(e) Jobs and Skills Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Eva Phillips be appointed the Jobs and Skills Champion for Selly Oak District.

(f) Youth Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Mike Leddy be appointed the Youth Champion for Selly Oak District.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 2015/2016 AND SELLY OAK DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET REPORT

The following performance report and performance narrative from the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See Document No. 3)

a) Housing Transformation Board Performance Report Quarter 4 2015/2016

Ron Webb, Place Manager, Bournville Ward made the following statements: -

- ❖ The teams were working in partnership with agencies such as the West Midlands Fire Service particularly concerning issues of hoarding. One example relates to a tenant who had hundreds of gas canisters where she had been sniffing gas – an ongoing substance misuse.

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- ❖ Officers worked collectively to remove the health and safety risk by removing all the butane canisters from the property. They had carried this through the referral to the Fire Service, the Mental Health Teams and other bodies and coming forward to the present day, the tenant was now 'clean'.
- ❖ The Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Team in the Druids Heath area had a number of individuals involved in an investigation which led to a multi-agency approach with the Police and Social Services. Five Notices of Seeking Possession were issued and a number of unacceptable behaviour contracts will be issued. It was hoped that this would reduce the effect of the ASB in that area.
- ❖ The Happy Valley Festival took place on the 1st June 2016 and officers attended and supported that event. This was part of playing a community cohesion role and developing the community as a whole.
- ❖ Mr Webb noted the Chairman's comment in relation to the recent flooding in Selly Oak Ward and undertook to take the information back. He stated that the information in relation to the flooding would be included in the next report as this had happened after the current report was prepared.
- ❖ Mr Webb noted Councillor Henley's disappointment concerning the staff that were bringing empty properties, (particularly the private sector) back into use that had been transferred elsewhere and advised that he had no further information, but that he was aware that the team had reduced in size which had led to the drop in performance.
- ❖ Mr Webb noted Councillor Phillips concerns regarding the rating of the High Rise Blocks in Druids Heath and advised that the ratings were a national standard that they rate the properties to. The assessments were based on the cleaning and the general decoration and this was something they had control of locally.
- ❖ Mr Webb noted Councillor Leddy's comment concerning the *useless* amount of information that had been recorded and reported on and advised that he was aware that the contracts do change, but that certain things were the standards set by Government.

Councillor Buchanan made reference to the cleanliness of properties and stated that the assessments were carried out at a set time and that he agreed that a number of properties did not come up to the standards when the Members visited them. He added that this was a moving target and when the assessments were done, they were done in the correct manner. He further stated that Mr Powell had worked well with the Members as the Place Manager for Billesley.

b) Selly Oak District Environmental Budget Report

In relation to the District Environmental Budget the Chairman advised that she had requested from Jonathan Antill, Acting Senior Service Manager the costing for addressing some of the parking issues in Fladbury Crescent as the Selly Oak bid for this year.

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An extensive discussion took place and the following is a summary of the principal points made:-

- (i) The issue was whether they were spending the money on the right things. Reference was made to the dropped kerbs at Moore House that given that there was to be a Scrutiny Committee Review on Green Space Protection which would touch on barriers, verges etc., there was an interesting question on dropped kerb expenditure and that from what was seen in Billesley, this did not work.
- (ii) Traditional barriers were more effective, but there were cost and maintenance issues. The question was what element of the expenditure they were making in terms of the capital that goes on dropped kerbs across the District as there was a question mark about its effectiveness. It was noted that the kerbs being discussed were dropped kerbs not double kerbs.
- (iii) The Chairman advised that this was the Housing Environmental Budget rather than the *minor highways works 'pot'*. The dropped kerbing for Moore House was around creating safe parking on a dangerous bend and this was a decision that the Committee had already made. They were looking for suggestions this year which could be costed.
- (iv) A systematic approach to netting off balconies should be employed when flats were void as the public health risk was enormous from large amounts of guano. Mr Webb advised that the netting of balconies were excluded from this particular budget, but that he would take the information back to Mr Antill for a decision.
- (v) The slippage for 2015/16 equates to the entire 2016/17 allocation on the budget position statement. Suggestions were put forward as to how this could be spent and these could be included in a future programme to eliminate any slippage from the 2016/17 allocation.
- (vi) Shelley Tower would be re-floored and was Bournville's share for this year. Projects that were queueing should be made known as it helps the Committee to understand what was available elsewhere.
- (vii) Several pathways that were the responsibility of Housing around Druids Heath did not meet highways standards in terms of broken pavers and trip areas. In terms of the Housing Revenue Account and any capital, some works should be undertaken by Housing in this field. It was a matter of balancing what should be maintenance – what should come from this pot and what should come from the Housing Liaison Board budget.
- (viii) The replacement of street lighting would be a capital asset rather than maintenance or repair one. This issue was raised in the Chamber on several occasions regarding orphan lamp columns. Several orphan lamp columns that were not part of the Highways Private Finance Initiative were on Housing land and were therefore Housing's responsibility.
- (ix) There appeared to be no plans in place to replace them with modern efficient LED street lighting which will save the city a huge amount of money in terms

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of the electricity budget as well as being environmentally friendly. As a District, Selly Oak should lead the way in putting these ideas forward.

- (x) The Chairman stated that she was in agreement with the point made concerning slippage. She suggested that Mark Rodgers be invited to the District Committee meeting in September 2016 concerning the issue. She added that it would be useful if they had on the report an *awaiting costing* heading so that Members were aware of what was in the mix.
- (xi) In Allens Croft a number of small plots of land believed to be Housing land were too small for development was fenced off and allowed to be overgrown. Although they were cut-back every couple of years, they were an eyesore. These plots could be turned into community gardens where they could be worked by some of the residents.

Mr Webb stated that it was his understanding that the budget did not cover ground work other than hard stuff. If they were to put in hard landscaping, they could use the budget for that and associated horticultural works, but the project must avoid being 100% horticultural type works. He undertook to take the issue away and check with his colleagues.

The Chairman thanked Ron Webb and Melvin Powell for attending the meeting. It was

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RESOLVED: -

The Committee approved the work for Shelley Tower and the schemes for last year as set out in the report.

CLEANER STREETS

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Darren Share, MBE, Assistant Director, Waste Management made introductory comments relating to *Cleaner Streets*.

In response to questions and comments, Mr Share made the following statements: -

- a. They did not have a single solution for the whole city as they were still working on it. Each set of flats may have a different solution, so they had examples of what could be introduced and had worked. They had introduced the large trade waste containers to some flats which had started to make a difference.
- b. For some flats it was recognised that they still needed to have a sack collection and this was being considered which would enabled them to identify residential legitimate waste from the flats separate to any fly-tipping waste that was coming in.
- c. There were three different solutions that they were trying to tackle Ward by Ward looking at each individual case by case to come up with a solution to improve the service across the whole city.
- d. Community participation was huge across the city and they were pushing the RHS community which was a neighbourhood campaign. For those that were

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already active, this was a very simple process to go through with people coming in to independently assess communities and they were issued with certificates and awards ceremonies and various things.

- e. As a Council they wanted to support and develop those communities that were actually doing something. This was something that was slightly underplayed with the community aspect. As part of *Cleaner Streets*, they wanted to show that this was a true partnership between the communities, Council and the Third Sector.
- f. In relation to the clean-up cost after the travellers and the fly-tipping, Mr Share undertook to provide Members with the figures. A protocol had been developed with the Police and the enforcement agencies which had reduced the time travellers and itinerants were on the sites, but there was still a cost for clear-up afterwards.
- g. Fly-tipping was more complicated to identify as some rubbish might be household collection from flats etc. that may have been missed. To identify everything as fly-tipping was complicated and was the reason they were looking at different coloured sacks so they could identify what was and was not household refuse.
- h. They had been some significant prosecutions over the last few months that had shown that there had been some pro-active work in trying to prevent fly-tipping.

At this juncture, an extensive discussion took place and the following is a summary of the principal points made:-

- 1. It appeared that the Police seemed to be walking away from the existing protocol on Travellers so if they could enlist the help of Mr Share in discussing with the Police the impact on the whole public purse of them not following the short procedures to get people moved on that would be helpful.
- 2. The wheelie bins had had a great effect but there were isolated places in Billesley where black sacks still appear – these could be from flats or could be tipped as people did not have a wheelie bin. One of the things that would help in keeping cleaner streets was that when the bin men were picking up household waste; if there were bin bags they could collect these as well.
- 3. This was something that they needed to change and they were looking to change it. The aim was to reduce the amount of waste that was produced and at the moment the household waste collection rate went up. They were picking up more rubbish off the street and the challenge was to try and reduce that.
- 4. A lot of work needed to be done concerning the element of the *Three R Programme*. This comes through education and working with communities to show that they could do things in a different way. It was no point driving past the refuse, they should be collecting it. They needed to find a solution to reduce the overall waste.

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5. The protocol referred to earlier by the Chairman was agreed with West Midlands Police. The Chairman was referring to the specific use of the Section 61 powers under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act. The fact that the Police seemed to have walked away from it, was a frustration shared by a lot of senior park managers across the city as this had left the City Council to use their own Civil Enforcement powers which was a longer process in terms of the eviction.
6. The guidance from the Home Office that was issued to all Police and Crime Commissioners seemed clear to him that the Police was expected to use Section 61 powers in defined circumstances. Defined circumstances include urban parks and urban nature reserves.
7. Given the rising number of these incidents (two ongoing in the District), a summit was necessary to take forward the issues concerning the Police and how the Council defend the parks without turning them into fortresses.
8. They were working with the crews to ensure that where they collect the wheelie bins from, they were required to then put them back in the same place. This work was ongoing with the staff to ensure they could improve that service over the next few weeks.
9. All residents and households had been assessed for wheelie bins and there were a number that were red carded for access reasons and had remained on the sack process. These properties had been reassessed, but if people were now saying that they were willing to or could now accommodate a wheelie bin. Mr Share undertook to investigate the cases referred to by Councillor Locke.
10. It was noted that there were litter pickers, high visibility jackets and gloves that community groups could borrow from the District Community Hub at Stirchley Baths. Some groups were already going out on a regular basis, but that there was equipment that was free to use. Waste Management had a number of sacks that could be handed out to local community groups litter pickers and to arrange collection of anything that was collected. The community groups could contact Lifford Lane Depot and arrange in advance to pick up the rubbish following a litter pick.
11. Members were interested in more pro-active enforcements and that a focused campaign around fly-tipping issues should be done. A confidential number that people could report fly-tipping issues to when they saw fly-tipping could be provided. Mobile CCTV could be made available to get some prosecution out of fly-tipping as this then sends a message which was what they lacked in a number of areas within the Ward.
12. They were trying to co-ordinate activities so that they go to areas and send the enforcement team which were a limited number of people to areas where they could make a difference. The Depots through the intelligence of the staff that had picked up or were identifying a few spots which they then referred onto enforcement team who would then go out. They had their own collection carts and they will empty bags on the street, looking for and collecting evidence and following up with enforcement prosecutions and a number of things.

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13. There had been a rise in the number of successful prosecutions. As part of the Cleaner Streets Campaign they were looking at ways of getting the message out through soft media, social media, local heroes' campaign and people walking past pieces of litter that had been raised. Campaigns will be going out over the summer to remind people to take responsibility.
14. Some residents in Selly Oak had tracked what was happening at the fly-tipping hotspots. They occasionally had problems where it was reported for enforcements and that was the week the bin crew decided they would clear everything.
15. It would be useful if Members were able to access templates of letters and to know which letters and leaflets they could use when they know there was a problem before it reaches the stage with somebody with enforcement powers. If Members could also have a note on when it was possible to use mobile CCTV it would also be useful.

Mr Share undertook to speak with Tony Quigley, Head of the Enforcement Unit and would come up with a protocol. There were restrictions around using mobile CCTV and they would put this information in a note and circulate it to the Members.

The Chairman thanked Darren Share, for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT JOBS AND SKILLS PANEL

358

Councillor Eva Phillips gave the following verbal update: -

- i. The first meeting of the Panel had been held with a number of providers including the Department for Work and Pension (DWP), Councillors, Youth Service, but they were unable to make contact with the Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP).
- ii. Some of the things picked up in the Neighbourhood Challenge particularly around transport across the city, were being picked up centrally. She expressed disappointment by this as she felt that there had been times for these things to be resolved over the past 15 – 20 years and she was hopeful that on a local level they could start to resolve some of these problems.
- iii. Going forward the Panel was looking at continuing to work with any new providers and the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI). They wanted to link in with them to ensure that the money was spent on the priorities in the area from people who knows the area and the priorities.
- iv. They were looking forward to getting an update on the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) as they would like to spend some of this on making a best practice tool kit for work experience. This would make it easier for local businesses to offer work experience as the DWP had advised that this as a successful way of helping people to get back into work.
- v. A suggestion was that a skills event could be held early next year where they would have lots of different things happening and people would be able to

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attend and have a go at a number of different things and find a new skill that they could then take on.

The Chairman commented that this was a continuing piece of work and as many Members as possible would need to get involved with this. They had moved on from that Neighbourhood Challenge to the mainstream Jobs and Skills Panel.

UPDATE ON NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES DIVISION

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Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support gave the following verbal update on the item:-

- a) In March 2016 they were called the District Services Division along with the ten Districts across the city. They were now moving into an interim structure and were now known as Neighbourhood and Communities Division.
 - b) Chris Jordan was the senior officer heading up the Division. All District Committees had a senior officer as the District Head – for Selly Oak and Hall Green District Ms Cheney was the District Lead. Services were now coordinated on a citywide basis with one District head taking on a citywide portfolio alongside their responsibilities for one or two Districts.
 - c) Lesley Poulton was responsible for School Crossing Patrols and Community Services; Mike Davis was responsible for Neighbourhood Advice and Information Services with Richard Davies being responsible for Libraries. The citywide local community governance and support was headed up by Karen Cheney. This includes the support for the new Ward meetings, the overview and support for the Neighbourhood Forums, Community Planning, Neighbourhood Challenge and the Local Innovation Fund.
 - d) Karen Cheney's team was made up of four Community Support and Development Officers in the city; three Governance Managers and an additional senior member of staff
 - e) In relation to engineers and car parks, they were no longer part of the Neighbourhood and Communities Division and were now directly managed by Alistair Campbell, Head of Resilience and Local Engineering. There was an emerging structure with a continuance as part of the devolution process particularly in line with the new Cabinet Committee - Local Leadership.
 - f) Although this was not part of the District Services management, the Arts Forum and Arts Champions for each District area will continue
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WARD MEETINGS AND NEW ACTION TRACKER DATABASE

360

Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support made introductory comments concerning the item.

(See Document No. 4)

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The governance managers had responsibility for certain Districts and the Wards within those Districts. For Selly Oak District, the Governance Manager was Kay Thomas.

Councillor Phillips commented that Kay Thomas was excellent in terms of Community engagement and working with Members. They were enjoying having her as part of the team.

Councillor Dr Henley expressed caution in accessing the databases and briefly explained the reasons for doing so.

DISTRICT WORK PROGRAMME

Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support made introductory comments relating to the work programme.

(See Document No. 5)

In response to an enquiry by Councillor Huxtable, Ms Cheney advised that in terms of healthy villages, there had been a lot of change of officers, but it was not *dead and buried*, but was in abeyance as it was something that could be linked into the LIF when it was introduced.

- 361 **RESOLVED: -**
- i. The Committee agreed for Road Safety to be the Neighbourhood Challenge for Selly Oak District this year; and
 - ii. That the work programme be noted.
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FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK

362 Karen Cheney, Selly Oak District Head and Service Lead for Community Governance and Support advised that there had be a lot of successful spring/summer community led events throughout the District - Happy Valley, Cocomad, at Cotteridge Park, and Selly Oak Festival.

Bournbrook All Out Morning was held on the 30 June 2016 and was linked to the Additional Licensing Consultation that was going on.

In terms of partnership work they had 60 partners including in attendance on the day – Birmingham City Council, West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, HMRC and others which was useful.

The Additional Licensing Consultation ends in October 2016.

The District received the following awards - Renaissance Award 2015 was awarded to Stirchley Baths by the Birmingham Civic Society. Stirchley Baths has also won the West Midlands Regional Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Award for

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Community Benefit in June 2016, which means that they will be entered for the National Finals in autumn.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

363 No other urgent business was submitted.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

305 **RESOLVED: -**

Chairman to move:-

"That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee."

The meeting ended at 1205 hours.

CHAIRMAN