

# **Birmingham City Council**

## **Perry Barr Ward Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 16 March 2017**

**7pm**

**Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillor Karen Trench in the Chair  
Councillor Jon Hunt  
Sergeant Blackman, West Midlands Police  
PC Willis, West Midlands Police  
Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit  
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were approximately 35 residents present.

**1. Notice of Recording**

Noted.

**2. Apologies – Mike Perks, Reverend Smith**

**3. Tributes to the late Councillor Ray Hassall**

The Chair paid tribute to Councillor Hassall, followed by a tribute from Councillor Hunt and then local residents and representatives of groups from the ward. Councillor Hunt advised a civic memorial would be held in May. The meeting then stood in a minutes silence in respect of the late Councillor Ray Hassall.

**4. Petitions**

None received

**5. Notes of Previous Meeting**

**Notes agreed**

**Actions Update**

- i) Oscott Road – Councillor Hunt said that the action points had been picked up but unfortunately it had not been possible to include Oscott Road in the Neighbourhood Plan. Meetings had been held with the agents responsible for housing people in the properties and the situation had improved. The meeting was advised that a formal request had been made for the Oscott

Road area to be included in the extension of the Council's private rented sector licensing scheme.

## **6. Police Update**

PC Willis updated the meeting on recent crime statistics and advised that year on year figures showed a slight increase and while this was still low for Birmingham extra vigilance was recommended. Burglary was a force priority.

Theft from motor vehicles was also an issue, therefore a reminder not to leave valuables on show and tamper proof number plate screws were available from the police and some fixing events would be taking place across the ward.

A local resident stated that he had rung 101 recently and had been given incorrect advice.

PC Willis urged residents to phone any crime that was not an emergency, through the 101 number as this created a trail if issues escalated. 101 was not an emergency number and he acknowledged that it sometimes took a while to get through and undertook to feedback residents frustrations with the system.

Burglary packs were distributed and more could be obtained if necessary.

In response to an issue raised about Neighbourhood Watch meetings, **PC Willis undertook to email the police statistics.**

## **7. Local Innovation Fund**

Councillor Hunt explained the purpose of the Local Innovation Fund, priorities, criteria and process for spend. A ward advisory board had met to talk through the LIF for Perry Barr and formulated a plan for the ward priorities in line with the city objectives – health & well being, jobs & skills & neighbourhood planning. Groups had been asked to submit proposals and the following had emerged.

The following presentations were then made;

### **i) 29 plus Health**

Zulfigar Khan, GHC outlined a proposal to support those aged 29+ and with health issues or having been made redundant etc into work. Health and employment were linked and health issues affected job chances while unemployment affected health so it was proposed to work from Witton Community Centre to support people into work by screening a person and assessing employment needs then offering help with CV's, interview skills, advice on work/roles etc. Volunteers would also be trained to work with staff to ensure the work was sustainable. By the end of the first 12 onths of the project it would be expected to get at least one person per month into work and to have trained 12-20 volunteers. The proposal requested £9,500.

### **ii) Health & Well Being Sustainability Plan**

To promote health and well-being activity and through the development of a ward plan Councillors have consulted residents and ideas for park based activity at Turnberry Park emerged. The park had been improved but £8k LIF funding was needed to undertake research to ensure the right activities were provided with a 2,5 and 9 year plan. Councillor Hunt added that S106 money had been allocated to Turnberry Park to lay paths etc and match funding was being sought from Sport England

iii) 3B'S Neighbourhood Plan

Mark Clarke detailed the proposal for support to enhance the Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Planning Forum had been running for 6 months had 100 members and had worked up a plan for the 3 B's area including – residential locations, improvement to local centres, open spaces, flooding, the canal area. The Neighbourhood Plan enable local residents to be involved in the planning policies for the area and therefore £10k LIF funding was sought to engage a planning consultant to work on the detail of the Plan. Match funding would be sought. The Plan aligned with core city policies and LIF priorities.

iv) Friends of Perry Hall Park

The proposal was to provide an out-door gym in the park with equipment for all to use. A run was already organised weekly in the park along with basket ball and tai chi so gym equipment would complement existing activities. The Friends of Group had already contacted the Constituency Parks Manager and the council would maintain the equipment once installed and Active Parks would provide lessons on how to use the equipment. £10k of LIF funding would provide 4/5 pieces of equipment.

v) Jericho Trust

Councillor Hunt said that the Jericho Foundation were interested in clearing and planting trees on a derelict piece of land between Calshot Road and The Rise and restore Perry Wood. This would align with the Neighbourhood Plan, environmental & flooding issues. Jericho had met with members of the planning forum and was working on costings. The cost of the trees would come from another source.

There was some discussion regarding the proposals and at the request of the Chair the meeting was requested by a show of hands to indicate support for each proposal. All proposals were supported by the meeting.

**Action: All proposals supported by the meeting.**

## **8. Items of Concern**

a) Speeding A34

Residents expressed concern regarding speeding vehicles on the A34 between Scott Arms & Perry Barr and urgently requested speed cameras be installed as had been the case in other areas of the city. It was queried whether there were any cameras on the road, if they were working and how many speeding tickets were issued.

**Action: i) Police to provide information on mobile speed checks, numbers of tickets issued and support for more speed cameras. ii) District Engineer requested for information on monitoring on the A34**

b) Great Barr Medical Centre

Concern expressed that since the medical centre had moved from Scott Arms to Queslett Road it was difficult to access especially for older patients as it required catching 2 buses.

Action: Councillor Hunt undertook to contact Transport for West Midlands to request they investigate the bus service and that the previously changed no. 46 route be re-instated to enable people to get to Queslett Road.

1. **Authority to Chairman and Officers**  
Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm