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|               | <b>NECHELLS WARD MEETING</b>   |  |
|               | <b>13 OCTOBER 2016 AT 6.30PM AT STANHOPE HALL, EMILY STREET, HIGHGATE</b>  |  |
|               | <b>ACTION NOTES</b>  |  |
| In Attendance | Councillor Tahir Ali and Councillor Yvonne Mosquito<br>Alex Warsama, Place Manager<br>Sergeant Loy, West Midlands Police<br>PC Sam Jepson, West Midlands Police<br>Ken Brown, Community Development & Support Officer<br>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager<br><br>There were approximately 20 residents in attendance   |  |
| Apologies     | Councillor Rashid  |  |
| Agenda Item   |  | <b>Action</b>  |
| 1.            | <b><u>Election of a Chair for 2016/17</u></b>  | Councillor Mosquito was elected as Chair for 2016/17 |
| 2.            | <b><u>Notice of Recordings</u></b>   | Noted  |
| 3.            | <b><u>Petitions</u></b><br><br>Residents reported a petition was circulating calling on the Council to keep Nechells Green Community Centre open.  | None Submitted                                       |
| 4.            | <b><u>Community Safety Issues</u></b><br><br>Sergeant Loy reported the following; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– A recent high court injunction had been granted to prohibit street racing, including bikes, over Birmingham &amp; Solihull, which would be publicised.</li> <li>– There was now a Public Space Protection Order in place for Millennium Point</li> <li>– Police changes – officers being issued with new technology and more dedicated front line officers. Highgate &amp; Digbeth had become 2 separate areas, with Digbeth moving to the City Centre team in view of the night time economy. From November the new team would have 9/10 officers with 3/4 dedicated to Highgate to deal with neighbourhood issues. Sergeant Loy was responsible for Highgate.</li> <li>– Year on year crime figures had increased but plans were in place to combat this.</li> </ul> Residents then made the following points; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Horton Square/ Gooch Street had issues with drugs, prostitution, drug dealing - causing shop keepers to not renew their leases, residents felt intimidated and would not use the shops and this was having a further detrimental effect on the area. It was queried whether the cctv was</li> </ul> |  |

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|    | <p>working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Similar issues were reported in the Nechells Park Road area, leaving residents feeling frightened and isolated. More police patrols and community action was required.</li> <li>– The community needed to provide the police with evidence and work with them to improve the community</li> <li>– A sustainable strategy to deal with the root causes of the crime in Highgate was required.</li> <li>– There was drug dealing taking place in St Lukes park</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Ali reported drug dealing/taking in the Victoria Street/ N.Warwick Street area. Parking causing obstruction between Whitmore Road &amp; Cyril Road required action as it was becoming difficult to pass. Illegal trading along Coventry Road required action and fights between youths along Coventry Road/Bordesley Green needed to be brought under control as they were involving vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Sergeant Loy responded –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Whitmore Road was a particular problem and the police had undertaken joint operations with Council Enforcement Officers</li> <li>– There had been a pilot project to give citizens training on taking evidence and the results were awaited.</li> <li>– The team would be going out with enforcement officers to deal with illegal trading</li> <li>– Drugs warrants were being issued and violence on the Coventry Road dealt with.</li> <li>– Officers were ready to start tackling issues around Horton Square and an update would be presented to the next meeting.</li> </ul> |  |
| 5. | <p><b><u>Rupert Street Parking Issues</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Ali referred to issues raised by residents in respect of parking issues in Rupert Street and reported on a proposed scheme to introduce double yellow lines along the majority of Rupert Street, subject to the finances being available. Residents and schools were working with the District Engineer but care needed to be taken that the problems were not displaced.</p> <p>Residents advised that buses were unable to navigate the roads due to the way cars were parked and the pavements were obstructed. The University and Council needed to provide car park spaces. The redevelopment of Eastside was also adding to parking issues and this would worsen as the development continued. Residents parking as part of the development would assist but in the interim there needed to be a plan of action before a serious accident occurred.</p> <p>Residents requested the use of cones be authorized and Councillor Ali undertook to take the request forward. He added that there would be full consultation before any scheme was implemented.</p>  | <p>Councillor Ali to take forward request to authorize use of cones.</p> |

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| 6. | <p><b><u>Neighbourhood Issues/Concerns</u></b></p> <p><b>a) <u>Planning Application for Extension Arabian Nites Shisha Lounge</u></b></p> <p>Several residents expressed concern regarding reports that Arabian Nites was applying for a 24 hour drinks licence and referred to the nuisance and anti-social behaviour already caused by patrons of the shisha lounge.</p> <p>The applicant explained that his company was looking to rent the space next to Arabian Nites but was not opening a shisha lounge and was not connected to that establishment. The application being submitted was for an arts house/night club and there was support from highways &amp; environmental health. Residents stated that it was a residential area and working people were being constantly disturbed by the nuisance caused by the shisha lounge. Car racing in Gooch Street was another issue. Another nightclub would only add to this. It was planned to build a number of new properties in the area and many of the building uses were not compatible with residential. Highgate needed to be treated as a residential area and not an extension of the City Centre or industrial area. Nechells had the highest number of shisha lounges and Councillors were asked to take action. It was suggested that Gooch Street be blocked off at night.</p> <p>The Chair said that there needed to be a 'corridor' between the City and Highgate to take account of the new development, HS2 etc and that she would investigate this further.</p> <p>Sergeant Loy undertook to investigate reports of an abandoned car in Hope Street being used as a drugs den.</p> <p><b>b) <u>Rubbish left by Travellers, Hope Street</u></b></p> <p><b>c) <u>Nechells Green Community Centre</u></b></p> <p>Residents advised that the community was campaigning to keep Nechells Green Community Centre open. The community did not want to lose the Centre in favour of a library which was being retained. It was hoped to form a structured management committee to take the Centre forward and improve it. There was concern that the Council was closing a centre due to insufficient income when the reason was poor management but if properly managed the Centre could be maintained. Councillor Ali undertook to submit the finished petition to City Council.</p> <p>In view of the strength of feeling the Chair proposed and it was agreed that the next meeting be held on 1 December at 6pm at Nechells Green Community Centre to specifically address its closure. She suggested that the management committee come forward at that meeting with a constitution etc.</p> | <p>Sergeant Loy</p> <p>Alex Warsama to take up with Bill Pegg</p> <p>Next Meeting 1 December at 6pm at Nechells Green Community Centre to discuss the future of the Centre.</p> |

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|    | <p>d) <b><u>Land of former Barford &amp; Dunchurch Houses &amp; Lawford Road &amp; Spooner Croft</u></b> – rubbish dumped and grass cutting required</p> <p>e) <b><u>Thanks</u></b><br/>The Chair asked that the meetings thanks be recorded to Monica, Maggie &amp; Nicci for the collection organized for the families of the men who had lost their lives following the accident at the recycling centre</p> | Alex Warsama to take up         |
| 7. | <p><b><u>Local Innovation Fund</u></b></p> <p>Chair explained about the Local Innovation Fund and Ken Brown explained the process. Councillor Ali suggested that consideration be given to how LIF could be used in respect of Nechells Green Community Centre with the possibility of the building also housing a library. It was agreed that this be discussed further at the next meeting.</p>               | Further discussion next meeting |
| 8. | <b><u>Authority to Act</u></b>  | <b>Agreed</b>                   |

Meeting ended 8.40pm