

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE 23 MARCH 2017

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2017 AT 1330 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Sue Anderson, Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry, Basharat Dad, Neil Eustace, Roger Harmer, Zafar Iqbal, Carol Jones, John O'Shea, Stewart Stacey, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Richard Davies	- District Lead
Jasi Bridgman	- Learner Support Manager
Andrea Vaughan	- Service Improvement Lead
Rachel Grinnell	- Mace (Project Support)
Sergeant Tony Eustace	- West Midlands Police
Arthur Tsang	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

NOTICE OF RECORDING

428 The District Committee was 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.

MINUTES

429 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 26 January 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING

430 Councillor O'Shea referred to the previous meeting and following discussions relating to the disposal of the car park at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre, confirmed that the car park would now remain and the old fitness centre would be used as a store and an office for Sparkhill Harriers.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

431 No declarations were submitted

PETITION

Petition Opposing – Loss of Ridgemere Social Club - Planning Application 2017/01543/PA Residential Development Land off Fairlawns, Yardley

The following petition was submitted by Councillor Eustace on behalf of local residents opposing the above-mentioned development due to a variety of reasons:-

(See document No. 1)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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RESOLVED:-

That the petition be forwarded to the Planning Department for consideration.

At this juncture the Chairman agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

RELOCATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL'S BOTTOM ASH PLANT

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Andrea Vaughan, Service Improvement Lead and Rachell Grinnell, Mace (Project Support) circulated the following information detailing the IBA Plant Relocation Project:-

(See document No. 2)

Andrea Vaughan reported that the City Council's IBA plant was currently located off Tameside Drive, Castle Bromwich and was now on the critical path for HS2. She stated that the plant takes the residual ash from the City Council's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) in Tyseley. The process essentially separates metal from ash using magnets to extract ferrous metal and eddy current separators to extract non-ferrous metals. The remaining IBA was then graded by particle size by crushing and screening to produce a graded, quality material that was useable as substitute aggregate in such applications as road building. As a result of the overall process, very little of the ash produced by the Tyseley incinerator was used for landfill.

The identification and progression of a preferred location was identified as the former Atlas Works site on Redfern Road, Tyseley which was less than a mile from the incinerator. HS2 had agreed to negotiate and procure the new site directly with it being transferred to the Council's freehold ownership on completion. It was noted that the application was at the pre-planning stage at the moment and was due to be considered shortly with the expectation that the old site would be vacated by April 2018.

Following comments and questions from members the following points were made:-

Rachel Grinnell confirmed that the materials used at the plant were not classed as contaminated and there would be no aroma produced. She stated that the process would produce steam due to the material that was coming out of the incinerator and that the processed material was uncontaminated aggregate which was used in road material. She confirmed that the area would be bonded to prevent any water leakage from the site.

Andrea Vaughan confirmed that there would be consultation with residents through the normal planning process. She added that the two closest residents to the plant were council tenants located on Kings Road and that the proposal was to provide them with parking facilities.

Rachell Grinnell stated that due to the size of the development, there would be an environmental impact assessment which took into account air pollution and aromas and a non-technical summary. She added that if any residents within the local area wished to view these documents they would be made publically available.

Andrea Vaughan confirmed that although a conveyer system rather than using trucks had been discussed with the Director of Fleet and Waste Management, as HS2 were funding the project, they would only support funding for the equivalent reinstatement of the plant. She referred to the various issues that were being discussed relating to Tyseley and reconfiguration whilst highlighting, that the Waste Contract was due for renewal shortly and therefore was of the opinion that no further investment would be made there until the contract had been renewed.

The Chairman thanked Andrea Vaughan and Rachel Grinnell for attending the meeting and presenting.

BIRMINGHAM ADULT EDUCATION – UPDATE ON THE DISTRICT SERVICE OFFER

434

Jasi Bridgman, Learner Support Manager reported that the service operated from 14 main sites and that there were over 15,000 learners. It was primarily (SFA) grant funded for 19 plus provision with a small amount of money from (EFA) for 16-18 year olds. The service mainly dealt with unemployed or low skilled and the aim was to help learners reach their goals which included improving career aspirations and helping them to progress to higher or further education.

The service provided a wide range of courses which were offered during the day time, evenings and weekends. Besides the academic courses which included maths and English there was also the provision of family learning for learning difficulties and learning disabilities.

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Jasi Bridgman confirmed that in Yardley district, the Stone Hall Centre, Warwick Road provided adult learning courses and detailed the most popular courses which included Maths and level 1 GCSE English and subsequently provided a breakdown of the number of learners that studied at the Stone Hall Centre. It was noted that the breakdown of ethnicity in Yardley for 15/16 was white British and Pakistani.

Jasi Bridgman referred to the working partnerships they had with the schools and children's centres that provided a range of family learning courses. She further referred to the fact that they also worked with Job Centre Plus and DWP and that they offered pre-employment programme work with employers which included; John Lewis, Marks and Spencer and Grand Central through the national careers service and BCC employment action team.

Jasi Bridgman confirmed that they hosted the Birmingham Adult Learning and Skills Partnership Group which worked with other providers in the city that included Bournville College. The group was chaired by Joanne Keatley and that the aim of the group was to align provision not to compete, stop duplication of courses and to offer to the citizens of Birmingham the best community learning provision available.

She concluded by stating that they would like to engage more with learners from the local community. She confirmed that they had recently refurbished Stone Hall which now provided a better learning environment for learners due to the improved facilities and amenities.

In response to comments and questions from members the following points were made:-

Jasi Bridgman referred to the reduced take-up this year and highlighted the reason for this could be that the academic year had not yet completed and with the new course directory introduced in term 3, numbers could easily increase with the new courses beginning after the Easter break.

She added that part of their networking was to consult with learners by holding learner forums in order to find out any specific courses that they required. She referred to HS2 and the future programmes they were looking to offer and support people into job opportunities. She highlighted that with the analysis and learner engagement undertaken this year, this would be fed into the senior management team to look at designing the curriculum for the following year and hopefully meet more local needs and engage more learners.

Jasi Bridgman agreed to provide a breakdown of ethnicity of learners within Yardley district.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Jasi Bridgman for attending the meeting and presenting.

The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, gave an overview of the report and the narrative. He highlighted that training sessions for all staff dealing with mental health linked to anti-social behaviour issues were being held in March and April this year, adding that they would also receive a refresher on the anti-social behaviour tools and powers that were available in order to assist in this area of work.

In response to comments and questions from members the following points were made:-

Arthur Tsang referred to the 'Think Family' and the increased number of referrals across East. He confirmed that up until recently there had been only one officer covering the service, and as a result of this, there were fewer referrals. He highlighted that there were now two officers in place to cover any additional allocations. He added that staff through the anti-social behaviour training had been reminded that it was important for them to continue making referrals.

Arthur Tsang referred to the concerns relating to the emergency repairs and suggested that John Jamieson be invited to district committee, in order to provide more detail on the review currently taking place relating to the performance measures for repairs, and the key performance indicators.

In response to Councillor Harmer's request, Arthur agreed to provide prior to the next meeting, a more detailed breakdown of figures to see where the issues lay.

Arthur confirmed that the blocks of flats on the Manor Estate would be included within the gas servicing and confirmed that it was on a rolling period of 12 months.

In response to a question relating to the customer satisfaction figures not reflecting correctly the repairs figures, Arthur confirmed that once the repair contractor had carried out the work, the customer was then asked to give feedback on the contractor's tablet device. Whilst acknowledging that it may not be the most appropriate time for customers to provide feedback confirmed that they were looking to introduce alternative opportunities for customer feedback.

Arthur referred to the 20 seconds for answering calls and stated that he was leading on the redesign of the landlord services and had requested for this time limit to be removed, as he believed, it was not a realistic target. He stated that as part of the service improvements and in trying to make the actual customer journey better, staff had been stopped in answering calls within 20 seconds and instead were asked to focus more on providing a better quality service.

Arthur agreed to speak to Jim Crawshaw with regard to targets not being met for the temporary accommodation and why there had been no target set for 2016/17.

Arthur referred to when operatives were out on site and confirmed that if they were overrunning with an appointment they would inform the corporate centre in order that the relevant adjustments were made and the next tenant advised accordingly. He agreed to feedback members' comments to Brian Hogg, Corporate Contact Centre and Gary Nicholls, Repairs.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Arthur Tsang for presenting the report.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE - UPDATE

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Sergeant Tony Eustace introduced himself and confirmed that he had recently taken up the co-ordinators role and was working alongside Sharon Revitt.

He referred to the events of yesterday highlighting that thoughts were with those families that had been tragically affected. He confirmed that the threat level remained severe for the UK and that there was the request for vigilance amongst communities and people.

He referred to the 7 arrests that had taken place since yesterday's incident and that there had been a number of addresses that had been searched on the west side of the city. He confirmed that there would be more police visibility on the streets for the foreseeable future which would certainly include key sites and areas of high footfall.

Sergeant Eustace referred to the increase in residential burglary around Christmas which had been a citywide issue. He highlighted however that with the tight force response and local response on eastside this had resulted in burglary dwellings reducing since January 2017. He confirmed that a number of key arrests had been made on a number of offenders being released from prison who had quickly started to re-offend, adding that the police were undertaking a great deal of offender management work to ascertain why they were re-offending. He stated that although there were career offenders there were also some new names as well.

He highlighted that they were doing quite a great deal of work around proactive traffic operations in Yardley, and also a lot of covert work around some sites where there was a second hand market, with close links to second hand dealers which was having a really good impact.

Sergeant Eustace referred to the issue of ride outs and joy riders and the remembrance event that had occurred last Monday which was the anniversary of the death of a biker who had killed himself on the Collector Road. He confirmed that the event had passed peacefully. He referred to the recent issuing of 23 warrants that had been conducted the weekend before the event on Monday, and confirmed that this had taken out a great many key nominal organisers which had resulted in a number of bikes being recovered and a great

number of people held in police custody which had contributed to the event on Monday passing without incident.

He referred to the issue regarding the ride outs on pedal cycles and stated how this issue had to be tackled differently by the police due to the group being younger and explained how the police were trying to monitor social media better and getting the school message across. He referred to the post incident investigations they were holding in tackling this issue and that they would be using CCTV cameras to identify individuals. He stated that they would be looking at what youth provision was available locally and working with schools to see if they could stop the trend at the moment.

In response to Councillor Anderson's comments and concerns relating to the incident that had taken place on Saturday with the young cyclists, Sergeant Eustace thanked Councillor Anderson for her efforts in putting out the message through the schools to the young people of the dangers as a result of their actions.

He stated that the police in tackling this issue was trying to find out where the peddle cyclists first meet up in order that a dispersal order could be put in place, and to get as many officers as possible, in order to try and take the bikes, and detain the youngsters for public nuisance. He referred to the organised ride out that they had attended, whereupon, they had managed to detain six youngsters and their respective bikes, and with the support and authorisation from the parents, the bikes had been disposed of by the police. He highlighted the importance of educating youngsters and the need for the police to get it right and for the responses to be dependent upon the behaviour.

Sergeant Eustace referred to a motorist issue where there had been a recent ride out in the Kingstanding area where there had been a low level collision involving a young man on a bike, and it was believed by the police that the restorative justice approach was a good way of educating the young person rather than criminalising them.

Sergeant Eustace referred to the incidents relating to car-jacking, and confirmed that it had increased more so in the areas of Hodge Hill and Solihull. He referred to the two arrests that had taken place and believed that they were organised groups that had caused these offences to take place.

Councillor Choudhry submitted his condolences to the family of the officer who had died yesterday.

In response to concern relating to theft from motor vehicles, Sergeant Eustace confirmed that these offences would be passed to the hub based in Erdington for progression, adding that a way of addressing this particular area was educating the local communities with the police undertaking a leaflet drop.

He confirmed that he was not aware of the prostitution issue in Small Heath Park and agreed to feedback and respond accordingly.

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Sergeant Eustace referred to the closure of Sheldon Police Station and that the two police teams currently based there would be relocating to Stechford Police Station within the next four weeks. He was of the opinion that there would be no change to the service delivery and believed that in fact it would be a more enhanced service.

In response to a question relating to whether the force were satisfied that they were now getting the support necessary from magistrates with regard to appropriate sentencing, Sergeant Eustace agreed to feedback at the next meeting when future prosecutions had taken place.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Sergeant Eustace for attending the meeting and providing an update.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

437 Due to lack of officer representation the above update was not presented.

DATE OF NEXT YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING

438 The next Yardley District Committee Meeting was scheduled for Thursday, 27 July 2017 at 13:30 hours in Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB.

Councillor Tilsley on behalf of Yardley District Committee thanked Councillor Mike Ward for chairing the district committee meetings for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

439 **RESOLVED:-**

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 14:35 hours.

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CHAIRMAN