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| | NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM | |
| | 2017 AT WEST HEATH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, HAMPSTEAD HOUSE, CONDOVER ROAD B31 3QY | |
| | ACTION NOTES | |
| In Attendance | <p>Councillors Randal Brew and Brett O'Reilly</p> <p>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>Approximately 28 residents were in attendance</p> | |
| Apologies | Councillor Clancy, Sergeant Lamerton, Ravinder Sahota | |
| Agenda Item | | Action |
| 1. | <p>In the absence of Councillor Clancy, Councillor Brew acted as Chair for the meeting</p> <p><u>Notice of Recordings</u></p> | <p>Cllr Brew in the Chair</p> <p>Noted</p> |
| 2. | <p><u>Notes of previous meeting</u></p> <p>Notes agreed and following updates provided:-</p> <p><u>Victoria Common</u> – Councillor O'Reilly stated the works were due to be undertaken.</p> <p><u>Multi Agency Crime Convention</u> – Cllr O'Reilly advised the date was to be confirmed and hoped to announce at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Longbridge Connectivity</u> – update circulated. Resident advised that the site office was only open on Tuesday despite initial promises it would be open daily. Gas works on Cofton Road had caused use of the service road as a rat run and issues with speeding vehicles. Cars were being parked on the service road and there was concern about access to emergency vehicles.</p> | <p>Agreed</p> <p>Cllr Brew to query with Fitzgerald's the opening times of the site office</p> <p>WMFS to check access and put leaflets on any offending vehicles</p> |
| 3. | <u>Petitions</u> | None submitted |
| 4. | <u>Fire Service Update</u> – although in attendance at the start of the meeting WMFS had to leave to attend an emergency therefore update deferred. | Deferred |
| 5. | <p><u>Policing Issues</u></p> <p>World Café Event flyer circulated.</p> <p>Councillor O'Reilly made reference to recent reports of grooming of young girls and CSE by gangs and advised that Cllr Brew had met with the Chief Executive and he had written to ascertain a timeline of actions since the reports came to light, actions being</p> | |

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| | <p>taken by the police and the multi-agency safeguarding team. In response to queries about reporting, residents were advised to report any concerns through the proper channels or to raise with the councillors.</p> | |
| 6. | <p><u>Local Innovation Fund</u></p> <p>Councillor Brew gave an update on the Local Innovation Fund and that the ward had £15k remaining to allocate and that 2 proposals had been received.</p> <p>The following presentations were then made;</p> <p><u>New Starts</u></p> <p>Marion Keynon explained the furniture project that provided furniture for people who had moved into a property but had no belongings. The project ran successfully in Bromsgrove but more referrals were coming from south Birmingham and this was putting a strain on resources. The project offered volunteering opportunities mainly to the long term unemployed or people with mental health issues leading to employment or training. The LIF funding would assist in securing a warehouse and providing more volunteer opportunities. It would also assist with fly tipping as there would be a place to bring unwanted furniture. The sale of furniture from the warehouse would generate 68% of the projects income.</p> <p>Councillor Brew said that the Northfield LIF was to assist the residents of the ward and queried if a contribution was being made by the other 3 wards. He also requested a break-down of running costs.</p> <p>Marion said there had been no response from Weoley or Kings Norton wards but that she was working with Longbridge and would be presenting the proposal at the next ward meeting. She undertook to provide the actual number of people who had received assistance from the Northfield ward. If the full amount requested could not be supported work would be prioritized.</p> <p><u>Northfield Arts Forum Maker Space</u></p> <p>Lauren Jansen-Parkes explained the work undertaken by Northfield Arts Forum and that office space had recently been taken at Our Place Our Space (Prices Square) but to expand to create a maker space additional funding was required.</p> <p>The Maker Space would be used as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An area for local people to work, make and sell their goods – Hot desking space for local businesses/entrepreneurs – Workshops run by local artists for the local community – Work with under 25's – Bring people together – Build a studio in a reused shipping container to provide accessible space as there was no stair lift in Prices Square building – a community garden | |

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| | <p>In response to questions Lauren advised that the main aim was to bring the community together. NAF had received support from the Heritage Lottery Fund but had not yet had a response from the other wards. Current income was from trusts and grants and the organization was reliant on volunteers but now that it had premises to operate from alternative funding was being explored. In respect of the shipping container NAF did have planning permission for the grass behind Prices Square. Residents made the point that it was difficult for people with a disability to use that part of the High Street due to parking difficulties. NAF worked with The Factory but tended to cater for a different age range so there was no real duplication of activities.</p> <p>Councillor Brew asked for a show of hands in support of the two proposals and the majority of the meeting showed support for New Starts and most of the meeting showed support for Maker Space.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>South Birmingham Bus Changes</u></p> <p>Councillor Brew briefly explained a consultation exercise currently underway in respect of changes to bus services in South Birmingham which was continuing to the New Year. Any decisions would not be implemented until February. Councillor O'Reilly said the extension had been as a result of responses received and urged residents to send in their comments.</p> <p>It was suggested that an item be included on the next agenda.</p> | Next Meeting |
| 8. | <p><u>Ward Plan</u></p> <p>Councillor Brew explained priorities from each ward were being sought in order to help shape the 2018/19 budget. Suggestion sheets had been circulated and residents were encouraged to complete and return to the Chair. Councillor O'Reilly suggested that feedback on the top priorities be circulated at the next meeting.</p> | <p>All</p> <p>Next meeting</p> |
| 9. | <p><u>Refuse Collection Update</u></p> <p>Councillor Brew advised that collections would be undertaken every 4 weeks and that there would be a collection in Northfield this Friday & Saturday. Crews were working between 6am and 10pm.</p> <p>Residents made the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the main issue was the lack of clear information which had led to collections being missed as they had not been expected. – Recycling was being collected with household rubbish and there was a concern the council would incur fines which it | |

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| | <p>was hoped would not be passed onto residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Refuse collection vehicles had trackers in the cabs so it was queried how there could be so many missed collections. – Garden waste missed collections should not have to be reported as the council should know where it was collecting from therefore refunds should be automatic – Residents were unaware they had to report garden waste missed collections – The number of rat sightings had increased – The council leaders should have had a more effective plan of action and should not have let the situation escalate. | |
| 10. | <p><u>Issues of Local Concern</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) <u>Planning Application – BP Garage Groveley Lane/ Longbridge Lane</u> - application to extend opening hours. Councillor Brew confirmed he had sent an objection. b) <u>Planning application for cinema and gym, Longbridge</u> – concern expressed that if approved it would render other local cinemas and gyms redundant and create numerous empty properties. Councillor O'Reilly undertook to feed those concerns to the Longbridge Consultative Group. c) <u>Memorial Bench</u> – thanks extended to Sue Amey for installing bench for the South Birmingham Model Flying Club d) <u>Great Stone Road</u> – traffic on the road was reported as being at saturation point and action desperately needed to be taken as the numbers of vehicles using the road far exceed that expected 10 years ago. Councillor Brew undertook to review with the District Engineer and request a traffic count. When the details were known the matter to be discussed further at a future meeting. e) <u>Bus stops Bristol Road</u> – buses pulling into the bus stop outside Clifton Textiles caused cars to be trapped in the yellow box and it was therefore requested that the stops be moved along the road and the sequencing of the light be examined. Councillor Brew undertook to take up. | <p>Cllr O'Reilly</p> <p>Future meeting</p> <p>Cllr Brew</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Items for Future Agendas</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Bus Changes b) Great Stone Road Traffic c) Behaviour of students from college – Councillor O'Reilly to invite Principal to future meeting | <p>Councillor O'Reilly</p> |

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| 12. | <p><u>Dates of Future Meetings</u></p> <p>All at 7pm at Hampstead House;</p> <p>20 November 2017 15 January 2018 19 March 2018</p> | Agreed |
| 11. | <p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p> | Agreed |

Meeting ended at 8.45 pm