

## NEWTOWN WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Newtown	<b>DATE:</b> 16 October 2018
<b>VENUE:</b> St Georges Church Centre, Bridge Street West	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm to 7.55pm
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b> Ziaul Islam	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 17
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Sergeant Scott Edwards, West Midlands Police</b> <b>Keith Smith, Amey Highway Steward</b> <b>Michael McMillan, Housing Manager</b> <b>Pat Whyte, Community Development &amp; Support Officer</b> <b>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>	

<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Police &amp; Fire Update</li> <li>2. Clean Air Zone</li> <li>3. Update on Newtown Community Centre &amp; Pool</li> <li>4. Update on The Drum</li> <li>5. Local Issues</li> </ol>

<b>ACTION</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Police &amp; Fire Update</u>  Sgt Edwards – Newtown area priorities - burglary &amp; car key burglary &amp; robbery. Burglaries mostly related to student accommodation and a patrol plan was in operation. Arrests made re car jackings so issue largely resolved. Violent crime (public place) was less of an issue in Newtown. The neighbourhood team consisted of 2 PC's &amp; 4 PCSO's based at </li> </ol>	

<p>Broadway School. Cllr Islam asked for an overview of the crime statistics for the ward to the next meeting.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised regarding drug dealing, Sgt Edwards said there was little information coming from residents and feedback from the community was important so he urged residents to communicate with the team. Pat Whyte suggested using the Neighbourhood Forum as a point of contact to cascade information and urged residents, groups, businesses, schools to get involved with the Neighbourhood Forum.</p> <p>Cllr Islam raised parking issues in Unett Street/Great King Street where people parking to go into the city centre were blocking residents in. Sgt Edwards undertook to patrol where possible and to bring details of <b>Operation Park Safe to the next meeting</b>.</p>	<p>Sgt Edwards</p> <p>All</p> <p>Sgt Edwards</p>
<p>2. <u>Clean Air Zone</u></p> <p>Cllr Islam said that Newtown would be affected by the CAZ and that he had received objections from local businesses. Residents felt that the introduction of the CAZ would threaten the Jewellery Quarter and reduce the number of visitors to the city centre &amp; its attractions. The charges were too high and those affected in the inner city area would not be able to afford to pay. There were queries over the assistance offered to key workers, hospital patients and residents. Cllr Islam undertook to ask the Cabinet Member to the next meeting or arrange a separate meeting should residents wish for more information.</p>	<p>Cllr Islam – Next Meeting</p>
<p>3. <u>Update on Newtown Community Centre &amp; Pool</u></p>	<p>Information paper circulated</p>
<p>4. <u>Update on The Drum</u></p> <p>Concern expressed by residents regarding the sale and the loss of a community facility in the area, given the lack of facilities and the lack of private investment. Details of the proposed use of The Drum by 7E Academy was queried and it was agreed to invite a</p>	<p>Information paper circulated.</p> <p>Councillor Islam</p>

<p>representative to a future meeting. Residents also felt that the proceeds from the sale of The Drum should be re-invested in the area and Councillor Islam said a question in this regard would be asked of Leader of the Council at the City Council meeting in November.</p>	Councillor Islam
<p>5. <u>Local Issues</u></p>	
<p>a) Cleaning – Maisonettes/Tower Blocks – it was reported that there was no proper cleaning or maintenance undertaken and that it took numerous complaints to generate a ‘blitz’ but then no further cleaning was undertaken for months until more complaints were made.</p>	Michael McMillan to take details at conclusion of meeting and action.
<p>b) Newtown Pool – concern expressed by the Church on behalf of the local community regarding the pool closure. The closure of community facilities in the light of the forthcoming Commonwealth Games was not a good advert for Birmingham and it was needed for local people. The meeting was advised that a petition was underway and the Neighbourhood Forum called for more local residents to become involved to help disseminate information.</p>	All
<p>c) Planning Application, Student Accommodation, Bridge Street West – Councillor Islam confirmed an application had been submitted and undertook to provide more information to the next meeting.</p>	Councillor Islam
<p>d) Hospital Street, NACRO building – in response to queries about the empty building Councillor Islam undertook to make enquiries and update to the next meeting.</p>	Councillor Islam
<p>e) Matineu Tower, parking – difficulty for residents to park around the block and in Hospital Street. Two abandoned cars in the car park had been reported in June but cars had not been removed and were taking up parking spaces.</p>	Michael McMillan to investigate and discuss with residents
<p>f) Rubbish, Litter, Fly Tipping – was building up around Newtown, in the roads and alleyways. Walkabouts with residents and council officers had been organised in the</p>	

<p>past to identify problem areas but nothing was now done. The rubbish etc had been reported but no action taken. Ventnor Avenue had particular issues. Councillor Islam said he would arrange for an officer from waste management to attend a future meeting. Michael McMillan said that if council tenants were responsible he could take action but needed information.</p> <p>g) Tenants - the Neighbourhood Forum raised the issue of tenants with mental health issues housed in the area and difficulties this was creating for others living nearby. There seemed to be a disproportionate number of such tenants being housed in the area and the amount of support provided was questioned. Councillor Islam undertook to take specific details at the conclusion of the meeting.</p>	<p>Waste Management officer to be invited to a future meeting</p> <p>Michael McMillan</p> <p>Councillor Islam</p>
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Councillors (s) Signed: .....

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print): .....