

## ASTON WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Aston	<b>DATE:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>VENUE:</b> Aston Parish Church, Witton Lane B6 6QA	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm – 7.20pm
<b>COUNCILLOR</b> Ayoub Khan	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 5
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Lucy O’Grady & Mark Stewart, Kier Highways Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	<b>Apology – Councillor Mumtaz Hussain</b>

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

#### 1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Khan welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press/public could record/take photographs at the meeting except where there were confidential or exempt items.

#### 2. Highways

Lucy O’Grady explained Kier’s role and responsibilities as the contractor for maintenance of Birmingham’s highways, pavements and trees, adding that the councillors had been provided with a maintenance schedule for the ward.

Councillor Khan said that he had put in a request for gulley cleaning, especially around Hampton Road area where there was frequent flooding along with requests for other maintenance issues that required addressing. A 12-16 week timescale had been provided for current requests.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that there were many factors considered by the inspector when assessing defects, based mainly on injury risk on the day of the inspection. The inspectors were familiar with their areas and would also pick up unreported defects while travelling.

Councillor Khan reported that Trinity Road had recently been resurfaced but the area at the junction of Witton/Trinity Roads & Beacon Hill had not been repaired and the road surface there was in a very poor condition. Mark Stewart undertook to request an inspection.

Residents referenced the repeated and frequent flooding at the junction of Hampton/Trinity Roads where the drain sat higher than the road surface therefore surface water did not drain away. The meeting was advised that Severn Trent Water Authority did have a programme of drain replacement but

there was slow progress and in addition extensive building development made water slower to soak away. Mark undertook to visit the junction in question during heavy rainfall.

Residents requested that Mark join them on a site visit to Arden Green (off Arden Road) to look at the extent of flooding. After some discussion regarding the ownership of the land, Lucy agreed that a visit could be made.

Councillor Khan referred to streetlights on the pathway between Witton Road & Fentham Roads that required repair. He confirmed that the lights fell within Kier's programme as they had been upgraded and stressed that the passageway was regularly used. Lucy undertook to add the location to the list for inspection.

Mr Brady, Head Teacher King Edward Aston School, extended his thanks for the re-paving of the zigzag and road markings on the turning circle at the school which had successfully reduced obstructive parking. He added that Upper Thomas Street required re-surfacing as the road surface was in poor condition and eroding quickly due to heavy traffic to and from school. The meeting was advised that councillors would be asked for local priorities when the new maintenance programme was agreed.

In response to a request for gully cleaning on Aston Lane (by Tesco) at corners of Wenlock Road, Nelson Road and other side roads, Councillor Khan asked that he be sent the gully cleaning rota for the ward.

### **3. Waste Management & Street Cleaning –**

Apologies received from officers.

Mr Brady, Head Teacher King Edward Aston School, advised the meeting of community litter picks in Aston Park arranged with pupils and local residents that was helping to keep the park clean but had uncovered considerable drug paraphernalia around the area. The local police team had been responsive to concerns raised and reference was made to the impact of new legislation on gas cannisters etc.

### **4. Councillor Updates/Residents Updates/AOB**

a) Councillor Khan provided updates on the following –

- Financial situation facing BCC, including spending freeze, spending board, council tax, service redesign.
- Concerns about how the situation impacted Aston and undertaking, while being realistic, to continue to raise residents concerns and work on behalf community groups.
- In response to questions regarding the definition of statutory services and timescales for information, meeting advised all services were being reviewed and while essential services would be delivered, they might be delivered differently.

b) Mr Brady, Head Teacher King Edwards School Aston –

- Offered input into future meetings.
- Advised the school offered a warm space.
- Provided a free youth club on Friday evenings.
- Offered use of the school for a future ward meeting

c) AOB

- Discussion around street cleaning at Six Ways Aston and litter picking groups for the area. Pat Whyte offered support to residents wishing to set up a litter picking group around that area and advised small grants were available from Veolia. Councillor Khan said that residents had arranged clean-ups in Grange Road and other areas and the meeting was advised that Aston Triangle Group was also regularly litter picking.
- Pavement parking Aston Triangle. Councillor Khan to raise again.
- Aston Villa European Match – recent violence was condemned, and actions of the police recognised as necessary, but concerns had been raised that residents had been unable to access their homes due to road closures and this had caused some distress. Access points for residents were required with adequate notice of road closures. Mr Brady, Head Teacher, King Edward Aston School, said he was meeting Head of Operations at AVFC in January and would raise the matters of concern on behalf of the meeting.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Kier to arrange to inspect <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jct Witton/Trinity Rds/Beacon Hill road surface</li> <li>- Trinity/Hampton Rds corner drain</li> <li>- Arden Green (rear Arden Rd) flooding issue</li> <li>- Streetlight – passageway between Witton/Fentham Rd</li> <li>- Send gulley cleansing rota to Cllr Khan</li> </ul>	1. Lucy O’Grady & Mark Stewart	1. asap
2. Pavement parking – Aston Triangle	2. Cllr Khan to raise re enforcement	2. asap