

Summary Notes

Ward: Lozells and East Handsworth

Date of meeting: 30th January 2018, 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Quinnen, Hussain and Zaffar

Officers : Ken Brown – Community Support and Development officer Perry Barr

Lesley Bannister – Community Governance Manager

Attendance by members of the public - 30

Apologies – Neil De- Costa

Notice of Recording – Read out by Cllr Quinnen

1. Councillor's updates-

Cllr Zaffar - Updated the Ward on two items:

Community Safety – Councillor Zaffar firstly gave an update on:

- Policing resourcing and the budget cuts.
- On three burglaries that had taken place the previous night
- The granting of a licence to sell alcohol 24 hours a day at a business on Heathfield road despite a residents petition and objections from the Ward Councillors and the Police due to A.S.B and drink and drugs issues in the area .

Action: Ward Councillors to write to Licence Committee and express their concerns at the issuing of the licence

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Nursery Consultation – Councillor Zaffar explained the current position, he said that the Council are currently consulting on the future of 14 nurseries which are currently overspending by an estimated £750k per year, three of which (Cherry Tree, Birchfield and Lime Tree) are in Lozells and East Handsworth ward. The options put forward in the Consultation are:

- A. Keep the non- loss making nurseries open and close the loss makers.
- B. Close all 14 Nurseries and offer them to an alternative provider.
- C. Keep the nurseries open where there is a need and no alternative provider can be found.

A number of residents and parents of children at the three nurseries were present at the meeting as well as teaching staff. The Forum debated this issue, all three Ward Councilors stated they were opposed to the closures and would support the residents.

The parents felt that closure of any nursery was short sighted and did not take into account the long term effects that this would have on children in the Ward .Councillor Zaffar asked the parents to complete the consultation documents.

Action: The Ward Councillors agreed to attend future meeting on the Ward Nursery closures.

Councillors Hussain – updated the Ward on the A.S.B in the Ward and Police tasking.

Councillor Quinnen – Agreed with both Councillors updates

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2. The Local Environmental – Presentation by Birchfield Residents Association

Key points made:-

- To work with local residents to encourage a sense of pride in their local area
- To help tackle fly tipping and littering through a litter charter and education, working with local schools on raising awareness of recycling issues
- Arrange litter picks
- Encourage more residents to become involved in Birchfield in Bloom, which had started on a small scale at first and by 2014 had started winning Royal Horticulture awards for planting schemes, front garden and local enhancements gaining a level two Britain in Bloom Award.
- Future ambitions and plans are to enhance the local area by taking over the B.C.C planters and aim for a level 5 Britain in Bloom award and to be involved in improving the local area in time for the Commonwealth games.

3. **Independent living** – Information update provided unfortunately it was felt that the options for independent living for people with disabilities living in Handsworth are both minimal and unsuitable. This item to remains on the agenda for further discussion at the next meeting and a request made for an officer update.

4. Residents questions, issues and concerns –

- Residents asked what kind of impact would the Commonwealth games have on the local area. – Councillor Zaffar said the games will have substantial impact which would include a housing development project .Ken Brown said that there was a meeting on the 15th February 7.00pm at

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Alexandra Stadium if people were interested. The Ward Councillors said that they would try and get an officer to the next meeting on the 27th March.

- Selective licencing scheme update - Councillor Zaffar said that the Ward is not one of the pilot areas for the Selective Licensing Scheme and went on to say that he hoped the pilots would lead to the scheme being introduced in all wards across the City.
- How does the existing Neighbourhood Forum structure fit in with the new ward boundaries? Councillor Zaffar stated that they will continue as they are even if they cross the new boundaries.
- Crick Lane Land – Residents asked for an update on the 106's monies allocated to the area? Action: Ken Brown to speak to Neil De Costa re an update for the next meeting.

Future Meeting topics:

- Commonwealth games
- Independent Living
- HMO'S

Date of next meeting

27th March 7.00pm, location TBC

Authority to Chair –Agreed

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm



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