

## LADYWOOD WARD FORUM NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Ladywood	<b>DATE:</b> Tuesday 30 October 2018
<b>VENUE:</b> Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent St West	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 9.10pm
<b>COUNCILLORS:</b> Kath Hartley & Sir Albert Bore	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 20
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Norman Bartlam, TNT News PCSO April Lacey, West Midlands Police Matthew Smith, Private Rented Services Craig Rowbottom, Development Planning Manager Stephen Grassby & Patrick Parry-Evans, Serco Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p>1. <u>Ladywood News Report</u>  Norman Bartlam gave a news report in connection with the Birmingham at War exhibition taking place at St Georges School at the weekend and the involvement of Ladywood people in WWI. A photographic exhibition was also being held at the Oratory Church, 3-10 November.</p> <p>2. <u>HMO's Information &amp; Update</u>  Matthew Smith provided a definition of HMO's and explained the licensing scheme. Landlords required a licence for a property where 5 or more unrelated people resided. In the case of planning law it was 6 or more. A selective licensing consultation had been undertaken in Stockland Green &amp; Soho but there were some legalities to be finalised before the schemes were rolled out. Article 4 was explained as it related to Selly Oak.</p>	

<p>Residents asked the following questions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– In many streets in Ladywood, HMO's out-numbered private homes, therefore, when approving a planning application for a new HMO was the number of similar properties in the area taken into account?</li> <li>– An HMO had recently been opened by a landlord who had previously been prosecuted. He had changed the name of his company and opened another HMO</li> <li>– Request made for an Article 4 Directive for Ladywood as the same problems were being experienced as in those areas that already had one. Residents were suffering considerable nuisance from the number of HMO's that did not meet requirements but were rented out to students or vulnerable people.</li> <li>– Residents had researched the requirements for an Article 4 and had evidence that would meet those requirements</li> <li>– It was not only rogue landlords that created problems, but the number of HMO's in the area.</li> <li>– Contact with the appropriate officer to discuss options was requested with the support of the councillors.</li> <li>– Parking, cars causing obstruction, drugs, prostitution and community safety issues were all linked to the numbers of HMO's in the area.</li> </ul> <p>Responses and way forward –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Smaller HMO's of 3 or 4 did not require planning permission</li> <li>– Article 4 Directives were difficult to achieve but further discussions would be needed to pursue as a way forward</li> <li>– Private rented housing was the largest housing sector in the City</li> <li>– As a community object to planning applications for HMO's. Planning application details could be obtained via the councillors</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS</b></p> <p><b>a) Councillor Hartley undertook to arrange for a group of residents to meet with the appropriate planning</b></p>	
---	--

**officer to discuss the matters further and seek a course of action. Councillor Hartley or Councillor Bore undertook to also attend the meeting.**

- b) Any crime issues to be reported to the police and could also be raised at the police tasking meetings.**
- c) 0121 303 5070 – number to call if problems being experienced with a private rented property.**
- d) Residents to circulate information throughout the neighbourhood**
- e) Residents to advise Matt Smith of any empty properties**
- f) Housing/private rented housing to be included as a ward priority in the Ward Plan.**

3. Icknield Port Loop – Update on the swimming pool and new homes

Craig Rowbottom outlined the details of the new Icknield Port Loop development. Remedial works had begun earlier in the year and the new park was targeted for completion by April 2019. Phases I & II of the new homes build would begin in January 2019, initially of 40 town houses and 37 terraced houses. The developers would welcome attendance at a future meeting to provide more detail and a site visit would be arranged for the councillors. The developers would be able to advise on the details of price/affordable housing etc.

With regard to the swimming pool it was due to open in Autumn 2019 and would provide 40/50 new jobs. The 2 storey building would provide an 8 lane 25mtr pool, café, seating for 250 spectators, dance studio and fitness studio.

Residents made reference to the historic site that had been home to the original baths and requested that some reference be made to that at the new pool. Patrick Parry-Evans suggested a plaque or photographs and welcomed input from residents. In response to further questions it was confirmed that there was a full range of disabled facilities and a newsletter had been posted to households but more copies would be made available to the councillors.

Councillor Hartley expressed concern that there had been little communication with the local community and that a time capsule was being buried but did not have the involvement of local schools. Stephen Grassby undertook to find out where the newsletters had been sent and rectify. Site visits could be arranged for residents in the near future. A local focus group was encouraged to provide views and the local history group could provide photographs for the new building.

Concern was expressed regarding the issue of coaches when galas were held and the meeting was advised that there would be a traffic management plan in place for events and coaches would be kept on site.

Councillor Hartley requested that the drawings be made available for the community to view on site or at the fire station and that councillors be kept informed of progress.

4. Public Space Protection Order – Enhancement of the city centre order

Councillor Bore outlined the current Order and explained that the new Order was an extension to cover the BID areas. There was some concern that the anti-social behaviour could be displaced and therefore the situation needed to be monitored to ensure there was no knock-on effect to residential areas of Ladywood. The Order was out for consultation and residents were urged to express their views.

5. Ward Plan

Councillor Bore explained the idea of a Ward Plan and circulated a ward priority suggested list inviting residents to complete the form and return it expressing their views on priorities for their neighbourhood & the wider Ladywood area. Residents were also encouraged to discuss with their group/association and assist in circulating more widely. The information collected would be used to form a ward plan.

It would take several months to gather the information but a draft plan could be considered at the next meeting.

6. Residents Issues

a) Reservoir Residents Association

In view of the introduction of the CAZ residents requested consideration be given to a residents parking scheme for the Reservoir Road area. Cllr Bore commented on displacement parking and the impact on the central Ladywood area. He added that Reservoir Retreat had been included in the current parking zone approval and that Reservoir Road could be considered in the future. Residents noted if a consultation was undertaken the majority of houses were HMO's and therefore the response rate was likely to be low and this should be taken into account.

b) Reservoir Car Park

In response to concerns raised Councillor Bore said he hoped a consultation on the master plan would be forthcoming. With regard to the car park there were a number of opinions and as the police did not have the resources to deal with it the car park had been temporarily closed. The council did not want it closed so were looking into alternatives, including gates. Residents said that the main issues occurred during the day and that resident's lives were being badly affected. Councillor Bore said a meeting was being arranged with the police.

c) Ladywood Road

A local resident expressed considerable concern regarding a number of issues affecting Ladywood Road including nuisance caused by private hire vehicles using the road as a taxi rank creating parking and noise issues, drivers were aggressive if approached. Also issues with speeding.

Councillor Hartley undertook to discuss outside the meeting.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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