

Birmingham City Council

Oscott Ward Meeting
Thursday 17 March 2015
19:00hrs
610 Community Centre
Kingstanding Road
Kingstanding
Birmingham B44 9SH

Meeting Notes

Present: Councillors Barbara Dring (Chair), Tristan Chatfield and Keith Linnecor

Officers: Neil De-Costa, Lead Officer Perry Barr District
Ken Brown, District Support & Community Development Officer
Jayne Owen – Place Manager, Housing Department
Beth O’Neil, Goodway Nursery
Dawn Styche, Hawthorne Primary School
Kay Thomas – Community Governance Manager

There were 19 residents present.

1. Notice of Recording

Noted by all.

2. Apologies

Sergeant Tomlinson, Lucy O’Grady & Cardinal Wiseman School, Oscott Manor Primary, Kingsland Primary School & Perry Beeches Academy

3. Notes of Previous Meeting

Noted

4. Petitions

None submitted.

5. Police Issues – item deferred as Police unable to attend

6. School Parking Issues

Neil De-Costa circulated a briefing note outlining outcomes from a meeting with local school representatives and Councillors looking at parking issues around schools. Some of the suggested interventions were already being looked at but residents views were sought on any further suggestions/solutions. A follow up meeting would be arranged late summer/early autumn to update on progress.

Councillor Linnecor commented that there was no quick fix solution and there needed to be a strategic approach across the ward rather than school by school. A

partnership approach was required to include police, schools, school staff and parents and this could be used as a pilot project.

Residents were then asked for their comments/suggestions/solutions and the following points were made;

- The mind set of parents needed to be changed to promote walking to school or parking at a further distance from the school gates and unless this occurred double yellow lines etc would not help as they would be ignored without enforcement.
- Enforcement was the key to preventing inconsiderate parking and it was suggested that non-uniformed police patrol and take photographs of vehicles and issue fines.
- The junction of Anstey Road/Greenholme Road was particularly difficult to negotiate due to parked cars. Speeding cars were also an issue in side roads which motorists used to avoid main roads & congested junctions.
- CCTV outside schools was suggested as one enforcement officer would be unable to take action outside all schools in the Ward.
- Concern was expressed for the school crossing wardens as motorists did not stop for them and any protest was met with abuse.
- Parking on the corner of Greenholme Road was causing an obstruction and making it dangerous to cross the road for children walking to school on their own.
- Rumble strips, speed indicators and double kerbs were suggested.
- There was no 'school' sign for Greenholme School
- The grass verges were so churned up that they could be removed and turned into a drop off zone.
- The School Crossing Warden for Greenholme School stated that he put out no parking cones by the school but they were ignored by parents and when he pointed this out he was verbally abused.
- More police patrols were required in the area.
- Land behind the school could be used to create a dropping off point.
- Many older secondary school children were taken to school by car when they could walk. Have an official warden from each school eg wearing a high viz jacket/uniform to patrol outside their school and speak to parents.
- Use of dedicated buses to take children to school

In response to the above comments the following responses were made;

- Photographic evidence was a good idea in respect of illegal parking and enforcement was important therefore consideration was being given to a specific enforcement officer for Oscott at peak times funded by schools.
- Investigations were underway to see if evidence such as photos could be used retrospectively. Also looking at the use of camera cars, but regulations and legislation needed to be considered. The use of enforcement officers in plain clothes would be looked at.
- Councillor Linnecor advised that priority areas were being considered for enforcement and the introduction of double kerbing.
- CCTV was an excellent idea but there was considerable legislation surrounding its use and it was a costly option but this suggestion would be taken forward, although it might be that mobile camera would be the most suitable option to concentrate on specific areas. Councillor Chatfield

suggested the use of automatic number plate recognition similar to that used for bus lanes.

- Speed watch was a possibility
- Use of volunteers to marshal parking had been used previously so could be considered again
- Schools did send out letters and include messages in newsletters to parents regarding parking.
- Councillor Linnecor advised yellow box markings were to be installed outside Hawthorne Primary School.
- School buses were an idea that could be considered but would need schools to fund due to Centro budget cuts.

The Chair acknowledged the frustrations of residents living with the parking issues around schools and assured residents that the Councillors were working to find some solutions within the legislation etc that they had to work within.

The Chair suggested circulating a newsletter around schools.

7. Tree Issues

The following issues were raised by residents;

- Kilburn Road – complaint made to Amey but no response to emails, phone calls or letters received. Serious concern expressed regarding the monitoring of Amey's work, feedback on its relationship with residents and how complaints were dealt with. Councillors support was requested. Councillor Chatfield explained BCC's situation regarding dispute with Amey and the difficulties with control and communication. The Chair undertook to reinforce the complaint made to Amey.
- Anstey Road – work had been undertaken to the trees in the road but it was not up to standard as the height and width of the trees remained. Councillor Linnecor undertook to continue to pursue.

8. Residents Issues/Matters of Local Concern

a) Kingstanding Pub

Query over the future of the pub. Councillor Chatfield to investigate

b) Old Oscott Road

Complaint regarding large quantity of black bin bags being dumped on the pavement and collected by the refuse collectors. The Chair advised she had reported the bags.

c) Anstey Road – Street Cleaning

Resident complained that the street cleaners had only swept Anstey Road once since January. Chair advised streets would only be cleaned as and when required but asked that residents contact their Councillors should they have a particular problem.

9. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm