

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**EDGBASTON DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 22 JUNE 2016**

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE EDGBASTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016 AT 1000 HOURS, IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM

PRESENT: - Councillors Deirdre Alden, John Alden, Matt Bennett, Kate Booth, Des Flood, Jayne Francis, Matthew Gregson, Bruce Lines and Fergus Robinson.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Sue Amy – Constituency Parks Manager, Edgbaston and Northfield Districts
Karen Bailey – Place Manager, Place
Marie Brown - Edgbaston District Engineer
John Burke – Operations Manager, Waste Management
Keith Dugmore – Interim Lead, Edgbaston District
Eddie Fellows - Highways Network Director, Amey
Donna McMullen – Place Manager, Place
David Miller - Service Manager, Waste Management
Lucy O’Grady - Customer Service Manager, Birmingham Highways, Amey
Errol Wilson - Committee Manager

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

RESOLVED: -

- a) That Councillor John Alden be elected Executive Member for Edgbaston District for 2016/2017, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Bruce Lines be appointed Committee Vice-Chairman for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2017/18 Municipal Year.

(Councillor John Alden in the Chair)

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 286 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

- 287 Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillors John Clancy, John Lines and James McKay. Apologies for lateness were submitted on behalf of Councillor Fergus Robinson. An apology was also submitted by Councillor Matthew Gregson as he would be leaving the meeting early.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

- 288 The membership of the Committee was noted as follows: -
- Councillors Des Flood, Bruce Lines and John Lines (Bartley Green Ward).
- Councillors Deirdre Alden, Matt Bennett and Fergus Robinson (Edgbaston Ward).
- Councillors John Alden, Jayne Francis and James McKay (Harborne Ward).
- Councillors Kate Booth, John Clancy and Matthew Gregson (Quinton Ward).
- The Chairman welcomed Councillors Kate Booth, Desmond Flood and Jayne Francis to the District Committee on behalf of the Committee.

MINUTES

- 289 **RESOLVED: -**
- That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2016 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

- 290 No declarations of interest were submitted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEES FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following schedule of District Committee Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

Councillor Bruce Lines raised the issue of the timings of the Committee meeting and stated that there had been discussions concerning the issue at previous Committee meetings and the reasoning behind it.

With regard to the governance, and the constitutional arrangements for District Committees, it stated in various parts about community engagements, democratic accountability. He added that holding meetings on an evening would tick those boxes and enforced the constitutional arrangements.

291 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Functions and Guidelines be noted.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for District Committees was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

292 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct for meetings of the District Committee be noted.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2016/2017

The Chairman referred to Councillor B Lines' comments earlier concerning the timings of meetings and stated that a number of persons advised that they would like to have the Committee meetings on an evening.

Keith Dugmore, Edgbaston District Interim Lead advised that it was a cost issue and the concern was that there should be some form of funding available for the Committee meetings to be held on an evening. It was noted that all the Committee Members wanted the meetings to be held on an evening. He stated that following discussions with senior officers and the Committees, there were still no funding available to support the District Committee meetings on an evening. He suggested that a note from the Chairman to the senior officers regarding the issue of having meetings on an evening would support.

Councillor Bennett enquired what the cost was for having meetings during the day time compared to having the meetings on an evening. Mr Dugmore advised that there was no cost for holding the meetings during the day time except for the refreshments. On the evenings, the cost was approximately £300.00 which was mainly for the security of the building and the facilities on an evening from 5:30pm onwards. These were additional costs that came about.

A brief discussion concerning the cost of holding the meetings on an evening then ensued. Mr Dugmore reiterated that he would request that the Chairman write to the senior officers concerning the issue following the meeting.

Councillor Booth stated that if the District Committee meets in the Constituency, they would not be bringing the cost that was here. She suggested that they could find a

venue within the Constituency where they could have the meetings which would suit the constituents.

The Chairman advised that the Committee had previously held the then Constituency Committee meetings in the Constituency by going around the four Wards, but that people found it difficult to travel from the different areas to the meeting. The Committee then decided to meet in the Council House as this was convenient for everyone. The then Leader of the City Council, Sir Albert Bore advised that the District Committees had to meet in the Council House during the day time and not in the evenings.

The Chairman proposed that if the Committee were happy for the next District Committee meeting to be held on the 7 September 2016, that this meeting be held at 1900 hours and then he along with Mr Dugmore would discuss the issue of funding with the senior officers and then the future District Committees could be held at 1900 hours also.

Following consideration, the Committee

293

RESOLVED: -

That the next Edgbaston District Committee meeting be held on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 1900 hours and that future Edgbaston District Committee meetings be held on varying evenings.

CHANGE TO ORDER OF BUSINESS

294

The Chairman advised that he would take agenda item 16 ahead of the remaining reports.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Exclusions at Nonsuch Primary School

The Chairman advised that they were trying to get various people to attend this Committee meeting concerning the number of exclusions by Nonsuch School. He stated that the Committee Manager had contacted the officers concerned and the school inviting their attendance at the meeting, but that this had proved futile.

Councillor Flood stated that the issue had been on-going for some time and that there were a number of issues that were outstanding. He added that it was the parents/carers and children of Nonsuch Primary School who were entitled to an appropriate response. He further stated that Councillor Lines had sent a written question to the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools, Councillor Brigid Jones concerning the issue for a response at the last City Council meeting with regards to some figures concerning pupils who were excluded before the 3 January 2016. The 3rd January 2016 was the date the school became an academy.

The concerns relates to the number of exclusions that had taken place prior to the 3rd January 2016. Both he and Councillors John Lines and Bruce Lines had attended all of the public meetings that were held with the concerned parents and carers of pupils

who had been excluded as well as other who were concerned. The issue was raised three times at Full City Council and twice at the Ward Committee, but there was still no appropriate response. There appeared to be a lack of accountability and a number of outstanding questions that had remained unanswered. People seemed to be distancing themselves about taking responsibility. He suggested that it was appropriate, to get a correct response and that the Cabinet Member, Councillor Brigid Jones be invited to the Committee meeting scheduled for the 7 September 2016, rather than having an officer, who may not be up to speed with the on-going and unsatisfactory situation at Nonsuch Primary School. A number of parents and carers in Bartley Green were contacting the Bartley Green Ward Members for an update on what had been happening prior to the school becoming an academy.

Councillor B Lines stated that the issue had been raised by Councillor J Lines at the Edgbaston District Committee meeting in January 2016. He added that the reason Councillor J Lines had raised the issue was that he was not receiving any response or answer to the questions that were required. It was unacceptable that no officers were available to attend the meeting and to take any comment. The answers from the City Council meeting were restricted. He echoed Councillor Flood's request that the Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools, Councillor Brigid Jones be invited to attend the next District Committee meeting scheduled for 7 September 2016 to respond to questions concerning the issue. There had also been a number of independent reports concerning the issue that had raised more questions.

Councillor Bennett stated that he was in agreement with the comments made by the Bartley Green Councillors. He added that the issues raised at Nonsuch Primary School were serious and that there were serious issues in relation to special education needs across the city which had been highlighted. A recent Ofsted monitoring visit had also picked up on some of these concerns. The Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee required District Committees to have a scrutiny monitoring role into local education issues.

The recommendations from the Local Government Association Pear Review earlier this year stated that there was to be a 'clear line of sight between Districts and the Council in terms of accountability'. The fact that Members had asked for this and had not received a response, the local accountability system and scrutiny system at District level was not working too well. This was something that the Committee had to improve on to get a grip on education and children's issues within this Committee.

295

RESOLVED: -

That Councillor Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools be invited to attend the next Edgbaston District Committee meeting scheduled for the 7 September 2016, to respond to the questions raised concerning Nonsuch Primary School.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

296

- (a) **West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service Co-opted Members**

RESOLVED:-

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

That the West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service not be co-opted to the District Committee as they attend the District Committee meetings when required;

(b) Councillor Champions

(i) Corporate Parenting Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor Matt Bennett be appointed as the Councillor Champion for Corporate Parenting for the Edgbaston District.

(ii) Edgbaston District Champions

RESOLVED: -

That the Committee appoints the following Members as “District Champions” to oversee issues across the Edgbaston District for the 2016/2017 Municipal Year:

Councillor Deirdre Alden - Environmental and Green Issues
Councillor Kate Booth - Health and Wellbeing Partnership
Councillor Jayne Francis - Children and Young People’s Issues
Councillor Bruce Lines - Transportation and Parking Issues
Councillor Des Flood – Crime and Community Safety

(iii) A Cultural Heritage Champion

RESOLVED:-

That Councillor John Lines be appointed the Cultural and Heritage Champion for Edgbaston District.

(iv) Jobs and Skills Champion

That Councillor Fergus Robinson be appointed the Jobs and Skills Champion for Edgbaston District.

AMEY

297 Eddie Fellows, Highways Network Director and Lucy O’Grady, Customer Service Manager, Birmingham Highways Maintenance and Management Service presented the item. Ms O’Grady advised that they had a new programme of work that was due for released at the beginning of July 2016. This would be emailed out to all Members for their views and consultation. She stated that they had two programmes of work – the reactive maintenance programme and the planned maintenance programme. The planned maintenance programme was the resurfacing of the carriageways, footways, street lighting upgrades and anything to do with plans for

the District for the next 12 months. The maintenance programme was comprised of a team of 21 highways inspectors that were walking the streets of Birmingham on a daily basis picking up any defects. The reactive maintenance programme is compiled by public and Elected Member feedback so that whenever any defects are reported the highways inspectors would investigate and these would go in their programme of repairs. The two programmes did not sit in isolation of each other, but they had two different ways of working.

In response to questions from Members, the officers made the following statements:-

- i. The programme circulated at the meeting was the programme that was sent out for consultation and they took feedback from all consultees to that. The process that they had was that they had the programme under review continually; they submit a quarterly update to that programme to the City Council for consent to deliver.
- ii. The next programme would be submitting at the end of June 2016 and they were happy to take feedback on any schemes that were included in the programme which Members would like more information about or if they were not in the right priority; or any issues Members had within the District that were not included in the programme that they may wish to have added. They were happy to take these on board and consider them in the quarterly update.
- iii. In terms of the list being circulated, there were always constraints that could lead to changes in the programme, but as far as they were aware with the current situation, this was what they were intending to deliver in the current year. The schemes would be done and were only subject to anything that might happen such as if a utility company might have a major issue with their service which would interrupt the programme. It was about the timing, as they intend to deliver the programme this year unless there were any exceptional programmes that would prevent them from delivering that.
- iv. As the service was operated under the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) there was no set budget for each District. They worked to a fixed specification that the City Council had provided and they work with all the individual assets - carriageways, footways, street lighting and they had to ensure that each District met the target condition each year.
- v. They had a number of condition surveys that ran annually which dictates what their programme of work needed to include and they would deliver that work to meet that target. This meant that there was not necessarily a consistency in the volume of work across Wards, but it did mean that each District would have the same average condition of carriageways, footways and street lighting through to 2035 which was the duration of the PFI service.
- vi. Mr Fellows noted Councillor D Alden's comments concerning Portland Road and Enfield Road and undertook to look at the issues relating to Portland Road in terms of the potholes etc. He stated that he was aware that Portland Road had been raised a number of times. Mr Fellows reiterated that they work to fixed specifications i.e. the conditions that they needed to maintain each road to. He stated that he believed that the current situation with Portland Road met that specification which was the reason it was not in the programme for resurfacing.

- vii. They had the routine and the reactive maintenance programme and where it was required they would carry out localised repairs in order to keep that road in a safe and serviceable condition until the specification required it to be in the programme. They looked every quarter when they reviewed the programme at the priorities that was expressed to them by District Committees and by the emergency services and other key stakeholders. They had some flexibility to add schemes into the programme where they could show that it would provide a more sensible asset management approach to the particular service. What they could not do was to add a large number of schemes that were not required under the specification into a programme in one year. They were happy to look at Portland.
- viii. Schemes that were in the programme that Members considered were not a priority, they were pleased to take that feedback as well and he would be more than happy to have that discussion with colleagues in Highways to see if there was a way they could deferred work which was seen to be a lower priority. Under the specification of the contract he could not make that decision to deferred work if it was a required target. He would be happy to have that discussion with colleagues in Highways.
- ix. They were not caught on the hop in terms of Westfield Road and Yateley Road carriageway and the recent flooding as they received from the Meteorological Office a weather warning when these events were expected and they had procedures to put in extra resources to cope with the emergency situation.
- x. The recent rains that they had were reported as the most intense period of rain fall for several years. They had up to eight crews operating an emergency service through that one evening during the intense rainfall and they were responding to several flooding incidents; pumping stations that were overwhelmed, damaged carriageways and lots of damage to manholes and ironworks.
- xi. With regard to the longer term response to that, they were working with the utility companies, particularly Severn Trent Water Limited who had also experienced a lot of damage. In terms of the cost of this, all of the cost and the risk of that cost sat with Amey. There was no further cost to the City Council in that response.
- xii. They had a number of areas where they had some substantial maintenance to carry out to roads, footways and to drainage systems, but this was what they got with a PFI fixed priced contract for 25 years. It was all Amey's risk and they would get around to all those repairs in a coordinated way and get them completed as quickly as they could.
- xiii. Mr Fellows noted the Chairman's comment concerning the flooding and the culvert at the bottom of Harborne Hill and advised that he was not familiar with the size of the culvert, but that there were three agencies that were involved – Severn Trent Water Limited, Amey and Highways that looked after the rivers and brooks. The three agencies would come together to determine what the best approach to this was i.e. was the incident so exceptional that they were

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

not expecting that to happen again within 100 years storms. They would meet with the other agencies and come up with a plan.

- xiv. In terms of any action Severn Trent Water Limited may have taken in relation to the reservoir in Bartley Green and the impact this may have had further down the line, Mr Fellows advised that he was not familiar with how the connection between the water levels in the reservoirs and the impact this had on highways. They worked closely with colleagues at Severn Trent Water Limited and were happy to take this away and have that discussion with them. Mr Fellows stated that he was aware that there was a flood risk management plan that the City Council had and he would discuss the issue with Clive Wright from Highways who had responsible for that for the City Council.
- xv. Mr Fellows noted Councillor B Lines' comments and the issues he had raised and stated that the size of the programme and the reasons for the large booklets previously and now a single sheet of paper, was that the first five years of the PFI Contract was the core investment period. They had spent £350m bringing the network up to the specified standard. They were now into what was called the *lifecycle* stage of the programme which runs from 2015 to 2035 and this was intentionally a lower level of programmed maintenance, so the programmes would be smaller, but they had to meet that target condition for each District every year through to 2035.
- xvi. With regard to the priorities, it could sometimes appeared not to be logically put together in terms of priorities and he took the point made by Councillor D Alden that roads that were repaired did not have any people living on them and the issues in relation to the number of cul-de-sacs they had resurfaced. He could not change the City Council's specification as this was the specification and they had to hit every target within that specification, otherwise there would be financial adjustments made against Amey for not delivering to that.
- xvii. What they could do was to continue to have the conversation with colleagues in Highways about that specification and where that was not meeting the District Committees aspirations. They were aware particularly of the expense of works in cul-de-sacs had not always been the highest priority.
- xviii. If Members would like to understand why they were in that situation, and why they had to deliver some of the work that appeared to be a lower priority they do run a programme in presentation and they would be delighted to invite any councillors to one of these. They could hold these at one of their offices or at the Council House.
- xix. In relation to the knowledge of construction works, they continually try to ensure that they know about all of the other works that was going on in Districts that may impact on their works programme and whenever they got any information they include that in their programming database so they could show where there were clashes or opportunities that came from that information that Members had and would continually feed that in.
- xx. With regard to street lighting priorities, the first five years was about getting the quality of the light improved so the core investment in lighting was targeted at those streets which had the lowest quality of lantern. This work

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

now being completed, the programme was primarily based on the condition of the lighting columns.

- xxi. An extensive survey had been undertaken for approximately, 100,000 lighting columns across the city to understand what the column condition was and this together with a number of other parameters that had been collected was aggregated and provides a priorities list of lighting improvements. It was fair to say that they had more flexibility in the priorities in the lighting programme than in the paving programme. They were happy to take any comments where there were particular needs and pressures within the District. Councillor Flood stated that he would like to place on record his thanks to Marie Brown, Edgbaston District Engineer who had been helpful in supporting some of the issues and residents in Bartley Green.
- xxii. Ms O'Grady stated that they were aware that there was a number of issues with Kitwell Lane and that she had walked it with Councillor B Lines and Ms Brown and that they had a number of outstanding repairs. They were waiting to go back on Kitwell Lane to carry out further maintenance work on the speed humps.
- xxiii. In terms of the conditions of the speed humps, they would get these up to the specification that they needed to be at. They were met on site by a number of residents that had concerns regarding the speed humps being there in the first place. Ms O'Grady advised that Amey was not authorised to remove the speed humps, but they would keep them maintained and in good working order.
- xxiv. In relation to the *no-man's land* at the bottom of Kitwell Lane, it was established that it was the responsibility of Amey to maintain it and a schedule was being prepared for that work. They were eminently due back on Kitwell Lane to undertake flood maintenance work. She undertook to email the timescale to the Bartley Green Ward Members.

The Chairman thanked Eddie Fellows and Lucy O'Grady for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

UPDATE ON REFUSE COLLECTION IN EDGBASTON DISTRICT

298

John Burke, Operations Manager, Waste Management and David Miller, Service Manager for Refuse Collection attended.

Mr Burke informed the Committee that "Fleet" had been removed from their title as the waste was now the prime part of their operation. He highlighted the following concerning changes to refuse collection: -

- In November 2015, wheelie bins were rolled out to Edgbaston District - Harborne Ward had had some wheelie bins as part of the pilot and they had been there for a couple of years. This was a challenge, but it was the same sort of challenge that was across the rest of the city.
- The number of missed collections increased 10 – 20 folds with the roll out of the wheelie bins, but this was consistent with everywhere else with the roll out

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

of the wheelie bins and the changes to the service. People were conservative as they did not like changes, particularly with their refuse service. People took time to adopt to change and so did the staff.

- Since January 2016, the number of missed collection had fallen by approximately 50%. This was the figure at the end of May 2016. They were still working to improve on this as there were some *pockets* in Harborne and Quinton Wards that was higher than should be and they were working with the crew service that was working in those areas.
- One of the things that had happened in the last couple of weeks was that they had introduced some technology i.e. tablets in the vehicles – *slab in the cab*. They would finally get away from the pieces of paper. Most waste management in Birmingham had been operated for years on pieces of paper that people coloured in and update as best they could.
- The new technology should mean that the service becomes more seamless. When there was a change, the change happened in the *slab*, it happened as the machine would do the changing. The work would get to the crew quicker. One of the functions that happened was that people would call in with a missed collection and it could take two or three days to get to the crew or it could go to the wrong crew.
- With the new technology it should enable those jobs to be pushed to the crew in real time and an answer coming back in real time. The idea was that when the crew did the collection, they would positively affirm that they had done the collection. Using Portland Road as an example, No 56 Portland Road – once they had completed Portland Road and they had done the row of houses in that section of Portland Road, they would affirm that they had done the collection giving the time and date of the collection.
- It would stop the issue that missed collections could not be raised until 1430 hours when the crew finished work. When the crew stated that they had done the work it meant that they had been to the road and had carried out the work.
- Assisted collections were high as they had 30-40 for each crew each day. There were 18 crews working across the Edgbaston District on a Monday which was quite a lot of assisted collections. The *slab technology* meant that when a crew gets into the road, for example, if numbers 56, 63 and 74 were assisted collections – when the crew gets onto the road, their tablet would indicate that these houses were assisted collections. The houses that had remained on sacks, that did not have wheelie bins, it would state that 27, 53, 82 was on sacks.
- It will be easier for the crew to identify where the sacks and assisted collections were, which tended to be the problem where there was the highest number of missed collections. One of the things they were trying to make clearer to residents was that the assisted collections needed to be at the front of the property. It may have been easier when they had sacks. The City Council's policy was that for assisted collections, the refuse should be placed at the front of the property where it was visible.

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

- They had some problems where the residents did not want to keep the wheelie bins at the front of the property and had kept them at the back. When the crew arrived at the property, as the refuse had not been presented they thought that it was not there as not everyone wanted to put their bins out each week.
- With regard to garden waste, the target was about 62,000 sales, but it was 61,500 sales at present. At the end of this month it was hoped that this would be at or around the target. This meant that they could start stabilising the rounds. As the sales come in, it meant that the rounds were constantly changing as guestimates were made as to how many properties would be in each round on a geographical area.
- Now that they had the sales it should mean that work would be done quickly to look at the rounds that had good sales. Some of the rounds were about 900 sales. Some evening out of the rounds needed to be done to ensure they were all of the same size. Following the recent floods they were doing some work in parts of the area particularly around the Woodgate area of Bartley Green. There were reports of some small pockets around Harborne that they had crews going out to.

In response to questions, Mr Burke made the following statements: -

- a. Mr Burke noted the Chairman's comments concerning assisted collection and stated that when the properties were assessed it was generally that there was room at the front of the property to store the bins. If the resident required assisted collection they were required to leave the bins there and the crew would take the bins from the front of the property and bring them back to the front of the property. It was a one-off movement of the bin to leave it at the front of the property.
- b. Properties to the front meant the point of storage. They were aware that there were some properties in Roman Way Estate and Vincent Drive that the point of storage would be at the back of the properties and that was where residents were deemed to leave the bins.
- c. There was no *noise* on the Tablet, but it list the list of roads and when the crew come to affirm that they had done that road, it would be affirmed that they had done the assisted collection as well. They had to click the box on each property to confirm that they had done that collection. The Tablet did not give any noises or bells. If the information comes back in to indicate that a property had not been done in terms of the assisted collection, this could lead to disciplinary action if they stated that they had done the work.
- d. With regard to the Contact Centre they were doing some work as there were always problems with the databases. There was some pilot work being done at present to get some of the Call Centre Champions out at the depots to get them closer to the service so that when there was these escalations or issues they were closer to the service rather than the crew was out at Lifford Depot and they were wherever they were based. The pilot was in its early stages as it started at Perry Barr Depot last week. It was hoped that this would address some of the problems of the messages getting through.

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

- e. In terms of vehicles breaking down and not being able to do the rounds, this was one of the things they were working on. With the Tablet this was something they could do much easier than they had done with pieces of paper or emails. The system would tell them that the crew had not gotten there yet. It would also be easier to interrogate where they were. It also gives a running progress of each crew and it was easier for everyone to have a look at how far the crew had gotten down the roads; what roads they had done and what was outstanding.
- f. If there was an issue they could access the information. If there was a problem mid-morning, they would move work from one crew to another or if they identified that the work was not going to get done, they could inform the residents not to expect them today, but they would come the next day. Residents needed assurance that the refuse would be collected not just to leave it.
- g. The technology was being rolled out, they started at the Montague Street Depot and Lifford Lane Depot would be the last to have the *slab* rolled out. On the 6 June 2016, it was installed and went live on refuse collection trucks and the 3 July 2016 it would commence on the recycling trucks. It had been used at other depots and Lifford Lane would be the last as they were the last to have the wheelie bins. It was a staged roll out and a staged programme.
- h. In relation to the garden waste deadline, it was understood that this was in the original Cabinet report for garden waste that there would be a cut-off on the 30 June 2016 and this was partly as a result of the realigning of rounds, stabilising the work. In the past they had offered half yearly discounts etc., but there was one set price of £35 for this year. The decision to have the cut-off was a Cabinet decision.
- i. They attempt to get to them as quickly as they could, if they missed work on Monday, they try to get a vehicle out as quickly as they could to do it. They would put a message up stating that your recycling had not been collected, but it would be collected on 'x' day. This was part of the work they were doing with the Contact Centre Champions at the Depots to try and smooth things out.
- j. With regard to the fly-tipping on the car park behind the Iceland store on St Johns' Road/High Street, Harborne. The Chairman advised that the plot of land referred to by Councillor Francis that the freehold was owned by Harborne Parish Lands Trust. Mr Burke advised that this was not a waste management operation. He advised that there was an issue with the residents occupying the flats above the Iceland store. They had placed some wheelie bins there that was servicing the residents of those properties as a result of the dumping of refuse and trade waste. He undertook to speak with his colleagues in Enforcement concerning the issue of rat infestation there.
- k. They had a good relations with colleagues where there was dumping and a joint approach was taken with Housing, Parks and Enforcement Teams to try and stop people dumping. In the past the City Council kept picking up rubbish, as people kept doing it. This car park was one to point out as they had gone out in the past to clear dumping. It should be about finding out who

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

was dumping the rubbish and writing to them and doing whatever enforcement was needed. He undertook to take the information back.

- I. In terms of street litter bins, the response was no and they would not put dog bins on the street as it leads to all sorts of problems, particularly with emptying them and people did not want to have them located outside their properties. They tended to get around the problem by putting a bigger litter bin out. It was uncertain of the size of the litter bin that was on Park Hill Road. He requested that Councillor Francis emailed him concerning the issue and that he would arrange for someone to look into the issue and the frequency of cleansing.

At this juncture Councillor D Alden expressed thanks to Mr David Miller for his help concerning the missed and assisted collections.

Mr Burke stated that one of the things that particularly corresponds was the Household Recycling Centre (HRC) site at Lifford Lane Depot. He advised that this was a busy site and that it was uncertain as to how much impact it had on the residents of Edgbaston. He added that a number of residents used to go to Mucklow Hill to tip their waste, but that they could no longer do so. He advised that last year they had extended the HRC site by taking over an extra piece of the depot to act as the HRC site and they basically took over the car park. There was an out building at the depot which they had knocked down and built a car park for staff.

There was a webcam for any residents that wanted to see if they go onto the City Council's web pages, they would see the webcams that showed what the queues looked like at the HRC site. They were constantly in discussion with Veolia who manages the HRC site to look at the best and the most efficient ways to move the amount of people that wanted to use the HRC site from the south of Birmingham through the site.

In response to a comment from the Chairman, Mr Burke advised that an officer was still looking at properties that were on sacks and properties that were on wheelie bins. It had moved from residents asking to go onto sacks to residents who were living beside those who had wheelie bins, wanting wheelie bins as a result of the problems that was previously raised at Wards and District Committees about the dogs and cats in the Wards getting into the sacks as they could not get into the wheelie bins.

They had been to most of the properties and there were new built properties in Bartley Green Ward and they were delivering bins as they came on board. They were working with the Planning office and as soon as a property become habited new bins were provided.

The Chairman thanked John Burke and David Miller for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4 2015-16

(See Document No. 3)

Donna McMullen, Place Manager, Edgbaston and Quinton Wards, Place and Karen Bailey, Place Manager, Bartley Green and Harborne Wards, Place made introductory comments relating to the report. It was noted that Mr Antill sends his apology as he was unable to attend for this item.

Councillor Bennett enquired about the Leasehold and Right to Buy information (page 7 of 77 of the report) as they were seriously adrift from the target and the statutory time scale had not been met. It did not appear that there had been a huge change in numbers whereas there had been a tremendous drop in performance. He stated that more details were needed in relation to what the changes had been given that they were statutory targets.

With regard to the homeless service allocations targets (page 8 of 77), they were again off the targets. He enquired how the targets were arrived at in the first place; the decrease in third sector providers – more information was needed concerning this point. In relation to (page 12 of 77) – capital works – the percentage of capital improvements completed within the timescale ... The question was whether the narrative was suggesting that the reason they were so far adrift on this target was due to residents not allowing access. This did not strike him as the full picture and that he felt that there was more to this issue.

Ms McMullen stated that in relation to the Leasehold and Right to Buy information (page 7 of 77 of the report); homeless service allocation targets (page 8 of 77); and the capital works (page 12 of 77) these were other service areas within the Landlord Services. They undertook to contact the Service Manager concerning the information on the Leasehold and Right to Buy to provide members with the information requested.

In terms of the capital works, from a local team perspective, they had reports on a regular basis from contract work officers that wanted to get into the properties. They work with the contract work officers in contacting the tenants to allow the inspectors to gain access to the properties. They were unable to comment on the percentages at this point.

At this juncture, the Chairman informed the Committee that Mr Dugmore had advised that the officers would not have the answers to some of the information in the report, but that they could continue to ask the questions and that he would ensure that they had the answers to the questions by email.

Councillor Bennett suggested that any questions that could not be answered today that the answers be appended to the minutes when they were circulated.

Councillor Gregson referred to the information on (page 9 of 77) of the report, where the targets for responding to Anti-social Behaviour (ASB) on the initial contact were not being met as the performance was lower than the target. Around voids and lettings, the number of days that it took to turn a property round was higher than the target. There was a whole series of statistics in the report where the trend was against what they would expect to see. A more detailed commentary about this would be helpful in the way that Councillor Bennett had described.

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

In relation to the *performance narrative*, the first paragraph on ASB the first bullet point. Given the conversations Members had with residents concerning ASB, he expressed surprised at the high percentage level in terms of the successful conclusion of ASB cases. He questioned how a successful conclusion was defined.

Ms Bailey advised that they had sent out a survey when they closedown an ASB case. The information was based on the response they had received when they asked *How satisfied you were with the way the City Council dealt with your case*. This was based on feedback.

Councillor Gregson commented that the figure was based on responses the officers had, presumably there would be a lot of people who did not respond at all. Ms Bailey advised that this was correct, but that everyone would have the chance to respond. She stated that the local teams were approachable and would ensure that they speak with everyone who had raised the case with them to ensure that they were happy. They had devised an action plan at the start and enquired whether the individuals concerned were happy with the action plan and how the officers followed it. As a result of the customer contact, they were able to see how well they were dealing with the cases.

Councillor Gregson commented that the narrative to the report – the first three pages- what they did was to draw out the more positive points of the statistics. From the Members view point in his opinion, they were more interested in the areas where the City Council was not performing and understanding what they were doing to turn these areas round as opposed to having a three page commentary on what they were doing well.

He suggested that for future reference the report highlights the problem areas and that they got a good understanding of what was being done to deal with those issues as opposed to painting a glossy picture which resulting in Members having to dig through the details to find where the problems were. Ms Bailey undertook to take the comments back.

Councillor Flood advised that he concurred with Councillor Gregson's statement. He added that to inform future plans and priorities it would be like a *swat* analysis to look at where the concerns were and be open and honest about it, so they could have some information and play a part directing officers as to what may be happening.

Mr Dugmore stated that what they needed to do was to get a verbal feedback at the next Committee meeting with regard to the questions raised by Members.

Councillor Flood stated that he would like to place on record that since becoming a City Councillor, Ms McMullen and Ms Bailey had been helpful and supportive in supporting him with regard to the myriad of complaints and concerns, particularly with regard to ASB. He added that he was in agreement with Ms Bailey's earlier comments that she and her team where approachable. He expressed thanks to Ms McMullen and Ms Bailey and their team for the support.

Good News Stories

Ms McMullen and Ms Bailey stated the following: -

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

- A Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in Bartley Green significantly to look at the mini motors, quad bikes. Three parks in Bartley Green were affected by the people driving out on these vehicles. They held their all-out day on the 6th May to show their partnership working with the Police, Youth Offending Team and the ASB Partnership and local residents to advertise the fact that they had the PSPO in place.
- They continue to support the cleaner greener agenda on Edgbaston District; this included helping the Scouts in South Woodgate to get their community badges by arranging the Saturday Litter Picks.
- They had organised a Housing Liaison Board (HLB) drive around of the area in Harborne on the 13 July 2016, to look at the hotspots in the area and to identify HLB or capital projects and problem areas.
- They had a successful drive around on Monday in Bartley Green in a focused approach looking at the problems and how they could be addressed. They had a burglary project in Bartley Green – joint working with West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service. They were fitting windows and doors alarms.
- They were targeting the over 60s at present and they had undertaken 154 visits to date. The Fire Service provides safe and well checks and they were working with them whilst they were doing those visits. They were listening to residents' concerns and helping them feel safer in their homes.
- They did a number of joint partnerships working with their partners. Wilmott Dixon repairs contract detecting the leak on one of their high rise blocks, which had raised suspicion of cannabis grow. This was brought to the attention of the local office who then alerted the Police to what was happening. Whilst there they had noticed some *doors on some doors* and two cannabis grows were found within a few hours.
- An ASB crackdown action plan for Edgbaston District was in place, there was a lot of vulnerable people who took cannabis and wanted to grow cannabis within their properties. There would get their officers out there with the Police to take action.
- They had a successful repossession that took place in Quinton. The ASB officers had worked for several months with particular tenants who were now being removed and the residents being made safer.
- They had successful drive-arounds and money to spend on the community on their assets to make a difference. They did a drive-around with residents and Councillors to see what the priorities were and how the money was best spent.
- The recent floods where Edgbaston District was the worst hit in south Birmingham, the officers had been working tirelessly. Since the 17 June 2016 until now, Edgbaston District dealt with 44 Council properties that were affected by the adverse weather conditions. This did not include the work that had been done to the communal blocks in Welsh House Farm where the caretakers were cleaning the communal areas that was affected by flooding.

- They had worked with their Customer Service Hub with Landlord Services and anyone who requested a visit they were happy to coordinate a visit with a contracts works officer - a technical advisor along with a housing officer would offer support in what was a stressful situation for residents.
- In Bartley Green they visited 31 Council tenants that were affected with flooding, 1 in Harborne, 11 in Quinton and 1 in Edgbaston. They made a coordinated approach in visiting 10 tenants affected by flooding and providing advice and assistance to any owner occupiers who needed help
- Three tenants were decanted as an emergency. The worst affected areas were in Bartley Green with Amersham Close in Quinton. Contract work officers visited a number of the affected properties with housing officers and where necessary deemed the properties inhabitable.

The Chairman thanked Donna McMullen and Karen Bailey for attending the meeting and presenting the information.

**EDGBASTON DISTRICT ANNUAL COMMUNITY PLAN – DRAFT AND
EDGBASTON DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE**

300 Keith Dugmore, Edgbaston District interim Lead introduced the item and advised that there was a duty on the District Committee to provide a Neighbourhood Challenge and also to provide a Community Plan. He circulated a draft overview of the Neighbourhood Challenge and the Community Plan to the Committee.

(See Document Nos. 4 and 5)

Mr Dugmore advised that the information was what had been proposed for the Community Plan as they did not have an actual statement of need or the detail of the actual Community Plan. The Committee was requested to look at the proposal and to feedback by email. This could then be looked at, at the next District Committee meeting in September 2016 in order that a full plan could be provided that could be taken forward.

Mr Dugmore stated that it would be appreciated if Members could feedback on the outline and brief of the proposals as the Community Plan needed to be implemented as quickly as possible. The aim was that in July 2016/August 2016, there would be the draft Plan with feedback from Members. The document would then go live in September 2016 for the District.

The Chairman advised that Members could send their response to him or Mr Dugmore. Mr Dugmore advised that if Members looked at the expected outcomes, they were hoping to use the District Councillor Champions as a support network and would have six key priorities linked to the District Champions. Smaller working groups would then be set up relating to the six theme groups. The aim was to get feedback from the Ward Priorities and then tied these in with the District Community Plan and then work in small groups to look at specifics for each Ward to come up with some positive action for the District Plan. The aim of the Plan was to have a working document. It was hoped to feedback what had been achieved by the end of March 2017 in all the theme groups.

Councillor D Alden enquired whether they were to have a subject for the Neighbourhood Challenge. Mr Dugmore advised that at the District Committee meeting on the 7 March 2016, the Neighbourhood Challenge discussed was *parking issues in the District*. He added that what they would be looking at was to have Councillor B Lines as the lead for this to ensure that the outcomes were achieved with regard to parking and setting up a partnership group in relation to that.

Parking Update

301

Marie Brown, Edgbaston District Engineer gave a brief overview of the parking issues in the District as follows: -

- ❖ The main parking scheme that was being done currently was the Harborne Parking Scheme which came about from a consultation that was held a few years ago that had resulted in some residents wanting a Residents Parking Scheme. The proposed Residents Parking Scheme was not supported, but parking restrictions were being implemented in a number of roads in Harborne and Edgbaston Wards.
- ❖ The main concern was the congestions on Lordwoods Road in Harborne and the problem of parking as a result of the Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre. This was a main arterial route and a bus route. A lot of the people who were using the Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre were parking on the footpath /road which had resulted in congestion in the area.
- ❖ A consultation was undertaken and two objections were received in relation to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that was proposed. This delayed the proposals and the painting of the double yellow lines proposed for Lordswood Road. An objection report was submitted to the then Cabinet Member for Development Transport and the Economy, Councillor Tahir Ali and it was the Cabinet Member overruled the objections and the proposal was finally approved.
- ❖ The Contractors had started the work and a number of post and plates were installed particularly in St Marys Road with limited waiting; double yellow lines in Abbey Road and changes to the parking restrictions in St Johns Road and double yellow lines in Lordswood Road.
- ❖ There was also a scheme going through in Quinton – Worlds End Lane with limited waiting outside the school. The work had been completed. All of this work had fallen into the last financial year 2015/2016. Emails were sent to Members for the current year seeking their views in relation to what they could spend the Wards' transport measures monies on.
- ❖ Ms Brown advised that the *Head Office* was looking into some form of proposal in relation to parking around the QE Hospital site, but that this was at an early stage of the discussion with the relevant parties.

Councillor Bennett referred to the draft document and stated that the key partnerships were involved and that there was a couple that was missing. Although schools were included, it needed to be clear that it was not just the state schools, but the independent schools as there were a number of them in Edgbaston and at least

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

one of them was helpful in coming forward with the solution. He added that Planning – as discussed before, the major issue with the City Council Planning Policy which had an impact on this issue. The education Department itself needed to be involved in this as well as the individual schools.

The Chairman commented that the QE proposed expansion – moving the Children's Hospital onto the QE site – building this on some of the playing fields in the area which was a challenge.

Councillor Bennett commented that this was a good point as there were things that appeared to be happening in parallel with regard to this. They were circulated a briefing note a couple of meetings ago about a meeting that had taken place with Councillor Sir Albert Bore and people from the hospital. It was unclear whether that meeting took place before or after he ceased to be Leader of the City Council. It was noted that a Master Planning Group had been sent up to look at the moving of the Children's Hospital over to the QE site. He stated that it was all well and good doing this, but they needed to be aware of what was happening and to have the ability to influence it at every stage.

Mr Dugmore stated that what they needed to do was once the sub-group was set up, the nominated Champion needed to attend the meetings and be appointed by the District Committee to state that they needed to be in attendance as far as possible.

The Chairman suggested that a substitute needed to be had if the Champion could not attend the meetings.

Councillor Booth stated that they were grateful in Quinton for the double yellow lines that were being placed outside the sports centre. A number of residents in Beech Lane and Worlds End were grateful for that, but the issue she had with that was that with the double yellow lines and the single yellow line, there were no enforcement and the Police would not enforced or ticket unless drivers were causing an obstruction. This meant that cars were parked on every pavement on Worlds End alongside double yellow lines, which was a real issue. If people had parked legally – not on the pavements – then there would be an issue with people being able to drive on the roads. This needed to be looked at as there was also the issue of people parking in Quinton and then using the buses to get to the hospital.

The Chairman advised that this issue was previously raised by Councillor John Clancy, Leader of the City Council as some of the roads in Quinton were being jammed with parking by hospital workers. He stated that as Ms Brown had stated that they had put in the parking restrictions in St Marys Road and Abbey Road, it was uncertain where these cars would park as this was spreading across the area.

Ms Brown advised that the Police could ticket people parking on the double yellow lines, but if there was parking on the double yellow lines it was the responsibility of the Enforcement Officers to ticket and they do ticket, although they could not be there at all times. They needed to be informed so that they could carry out the enforcement. They could also be ticketed if they were parking on the footpath.

Councillor D Alden stated that the nominated person was Councillor B Lines and that the suggestion was to have a substitute if the Champion could not attend the meetings. She suggested that as the Edgbaston Ward Members had the hospitals in their Ward, it would be better for one of them to be the substitute and that her

colleagues were happy for it to be herself. They wanted to ensure that there was someone at these meetings as they did not want to have the Children's Hospital just forced onto them.

The Committee agreed for Councillor D Alden to be the substitute Champion for the Transportation and Parking Issues in the District.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Booth, Ms Brown advised that if there was a TRO in place they could send the enforcement officer to ticket the offending vehicles. However, if there was no TRO this would be passed to the Police for action. Under the Highways Act only the Police had the power to enforce.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS CONTINUED

Bartley Green Leisure Centre

302 Councillor Flood stated that all councillors would have supported in the past, those who were Edgbaston District the continued opening of the Bartley Green Leisure Centre as probably the only City Council funded Community Leisure Centre in the District. He added that he was looking for a commitment and assurance that they would explore other funding opportunities to continue with this much needed community leisure facility and that those funding streams that may be explored may include the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) and maybe support from Strategic Sport. He further stated that it would be useful if they could have some commitment to this as it had been raised at the Bartley Green Ward meeting.

Councillor Flood stated that Keith Dugmore had done some sterling work in supporting the leisure centre and that he was concerned that the transition period with regard to Mr Dugmore's future role within the local authority, that life would still go on in Bartley Green whether Mr Dugmore was part of it or not, and a commitment for Mr Dugmore to be involved in that transition period.

The Chairman advised that he had discussed the issue with Mr Dugmore on a few occasions and that Mr Dugmore was trying to get sufficient funding to keep the leisure centre going as it was a valuable resource. One of the areas was to have some of the surplus from Harborne Pool and Fitness Centre to assist.

Mr Dugmore advised that a meeting with the Governors and Head teacher was scheduled for the 1st July 2016 to discuss the future of the Bartley Green Community Leisure Centre. The idea was to set up a project group to look at future options to keep the facility operating. They will be having discussions with Strategic Sports to look at To-slicing the LIF, depending on what the Councillors wanted. To keep the site operating, they were looking at about £42k for the facility to operate for another year. They were looking at figures and hope to feed the information back within the next few weeks regarding the site. An invite would be sent to Councillor Flood regarding the project group they were proposing to set up.

Councillor Flood stated that he trust that they still had a commitment within the District to continue with the valuable work being undertaken by the staff. The Chairman commented that they had.

District Parks Manager

Edgbaston District Committee – 22 June 2016

- 303 Sue Amy, District Parks Manager, Place gave a brief introduction of her role for the benefit of the new Members of the Edgbaston District Committee. She advised that she covers the Districts of Edgbaston, Selly Oak and Northfield and that she was responsible for the whole of the grounds maintenance that they carried out.
-

DATE OF NEXT EDGBASTON DISTRICT COMMITTEE

- 304 It was noted that the next Edgbaston District Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2016, at 1900 hours, in Committee Rooms 3&4, Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB.
-

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

- 305 **RESOLVED:** -

Chairman to move:-

"That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee."

The meeting ended at 1215 hours.

CHAIRMAN