

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**PERRY BARR DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY,
24 NOVEMBER, 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PERRY BARR
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY,
24 NOVEMBER, 2016 AT 1500 HOURS, IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Hussain in the Chair

Councillors Gurdial Singh Atwal, Tristan Chatfield,
Ray Hassall, Jon Hunt, Keith Linnecor, Hendrina Quinnen, Karen
Trench and Waseem Zaffar.

ALSO PRESENT

Neil De-Costa – Perry Barr District Head
Eddie Fellows - Amey
Louisa Nisbett - Area Democratic Services Officer
Lucy O’Grady - Amey
Nic Reid – Depot Manager, Fleet and Waste
Mark Rodgers – Housing Manager
Councillor Lisa Trickett – Cabinet Member, Clean Streets, Recycling and
Environment

NOTICE OF RECORDING

1034 The Chairman advised that this meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council’s Internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

1035 Apologies for their inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Barbara Dring, Paulette Hamilton and Narinder Kooner.

MINUTES

- 1036 The Minutes of the last meeting on 29 September, 2016, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.
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COMMITTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

- 1037 The Code of Conduct related to District Committees was received and noted.
(See document no. 1)
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FLEET AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

- 1038 Councillor Lisa Trickett, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling and Environment and Nic Reid, Depot Manager, Fleet and Waste Management were in attendance for this item. During the discussion the following points were made:-
- The Cabinet Member gave an overview of progress made during the last 2 ½ years. The Service had improved and they were aware where further improvement was needed.
 - Customers had not been prepared for the introduction of a charge for the Green Waste Service however there was now over 62,000 customers.
 - It was acknowledged that the introduction of the Wheelie Bin service had highlighted a lack of understanding about the service, engagement with customers and refuse depots. The Cabinet Member wished to place on record that the crews and managers had worked hard to deliver the service despite the challenging times and rolled out wheelie bins to all areas. Black bags were used where appropriate and the Fleet and Waste Service had now stabilised.
 - The figure for missed collections was 52 per 100,000. There had been 3 changes to the Senior Management Team, there was a new Acting Strategic Director and new Director since September. The focus was on productivity. An overspend of £7m was predicted this year. The use of agency staff ceased in October 2016.
 - Significant work had started on the Enforcement Service and their work on penalty notices. There had been 1,600 incidents per month compared to 1,900.
 - The streets were now cleaner. It was not the responsibility of the Local Authority to repeatedly clear up flytipping. Residents needed to take responsibility and not do flytipping. A Cleaner Streets project took place in 12 Wards on 9 November in consultation with local Members.

- Councillor Chatfield asked to place on record thanks to staff for their hard work. Whilst understanding the comments made for responsibility of flytipping, Councillor Chatfield felt that it was also incumbent on BCC to ensure the streets were clean. He questioned whether the budget for Fleet and Waste had been reduced.
- Councillor Linnecor commented that local Councillors had good relationships with the officers. He added that the service could do better at some things such as flytipping and needed to carry out searches on dumped rubbish to get evidence of the identity of the culprits in order to name and shame them. Councillor Linnecor informed that leaf clearance was always a problem. He encouraged the community to arrange for leaves to be collected and taken away.
- The Cabinet Member agreed that there should be zero tolerance to flytipping. They want to look at waste bins in front of commercial businesses and the growth of private rented sector above shops in conjunction with Licensing Section. Two trials had been carried out in Hall Green and Washwood Heath.
- The introduction of the charge for bulky waste collection had led to a rise in flytipping and people who took payment to remove commercial waste were then dumping it. They were working with police on this issue however evidence must be obtained.
- They were wary of introducing the collection of food waste as it would involve the roll out of another bin however they could pilot a series of food waste options.
- Reference was made to the requirement for budget cuts and staff being asked to take on more and more work.
- Councillor Hunt thanked the Cabinet Member for the presentation and commented that the waste service had improved a lot. He did not think that the message had been made clear about zero tolerance to flytipping. He felt that staff were more positive and happy to deal with problems however there was more work to be done. Councillor Hunt queried how the budget would be cut over the next 12 months.
- Councillor Atwal agreed that there had been an improvement to the service. Most main roads Citywide were affected by flytipping and there were hotspots in areas leading to a problem with rats.
- The Cabinet Member thanked Members for their feedback. She spoke about the use of legislation for enforcement and referred to areas such as London. They were looking at ways to engage with Housing Associations etc to reform and clean the streets. The Waste Strategy consultation would take place during the next few weeks.
- Councillor Zaffar congratulated those involved in the Action Day and congratulated the police for their involvement. Councillor Zaffar referred to

the Lozells and East Handsworth Ward Forum. He suggested approaching schools etc to ask for them to commit to working with BCC and help to achieve the targets.

- Councillor Karen Trench agreed that work with schools had been good. She felt that more support was needed with regard to residents reporting items dumped on private land and more information communicated about the services that were available.
- The Cabinet Member said that major budget cuts will be made therefore a total place approach was needed. She agreed that schools engagement was critical and an educational campaign must start in schools.
- Councillor Linnecor said that the use of CCTV cameras should be actively pursued as it was an inexpensive way to deal with hotspots. Councillor Linnecor referred to the lack of pruning of trees and the litter from the debris from trees.
- The Cabinet Member said active inspections were carried out on drains over the last few months to ensure gullies were free of leaves. Flooding was the impact of climate change and not owing to the introduction of charges for green waste. There were strict legal frameworks regarding erecting CCTV cameras. Short term deployment of cameras could be a better solution.
- Councillor Trench stated that Councillors were happy with the relationship between themselves and depots. Councillor Hussain thanked Nic Reid and the team at Perry Barr who were very helpful in difficult circumstances and did their best to help with enquiries. Most people had praised the Action Day that had taken place. He thanked the Cabinet Member and Nic Reid for attending the meeting.

AMEY

1039

Lucy O'Grady and Eddie Fellows attended for this item. During the discussion the following points were made:-

- Eddie Fellows apologised for not attending the previous meeting. A programme of works for the District for the remainder of the year was given.
- Councillor Linnecor spoke about discussions at meetings in Oscott Ward about problems with large trees and their roots on pavements. He was still not happy and said that there was a lot of elderly residents in the Ward some of which did not report falls. He continued that the Ward needed to be given preferable treatment. There were also issues with trees affecting the street lights and interfering with telephone wires owing to lack of pruning. Councillor Linnecor said that some of the large trees needed to be removed and replaced. He did not think that the work that had already been inspected and signed off was up to standard. There were problems

with potholes on Dyas Road hill section. The grass verges needed to be protected from people driving over them.

- Councillor Jon Hunt said that the repairs carried out in Perry Barr Ward were okay. He questioned why the resurfacing programme included some roads that had been done before whilst patching up others. He had not received a response to enquiries that he had made.
- Councillor Quinnen said that she had raised some issues about the state of the road at Hamstead Road/Villa Road and when it had been inspected.
- Councillor Atwal said that roads were patched up and the material came off after a couple of weeks, also that they were not inspected properly. He said that he had not received a response to emails. Councillor Atwal informed that footpaths were dangerous owing to tree roots and the drains were blocked. He suggested that residents be notified when work had been completed.
- Councillor Karen Trench would welcome the chance to build up a better relationship with AMEY also that a timeframe be given on work to be carried out and better responses given. She continued that requests for Thornbridge Avenue to be resurfaced had been ignored and that Councillors were not listened to.
- Councillor Chatfield said that tree roots were a persistent problem in Oscott Ward. He noted that work on Thornbridge Avenue had been scheduled for the last 4 years.
- Councillor Hassall understood that checks on the Highway were done every 6 months and 12 months for side roads. He questioned why Thornbridge Avenue had not been done. He had not received responses to emails and felt that roads were not being inspected properly.
- Councillor Zaffar asked that ongoing issues for the last 5/6 years with flooding at Malthouse Gardens, Lozells Road be resolved.
- Eddie Fellows undertook to take away the issues raised by Members. Thornbridge Avenue was included in the resurfacing programme for January 2017. The Ward Councillors would be contacted before work was due to start.
- Lucy O'Grady said that some targeted work had been carried out in Oscott related to trees. They were mindful about the level of pruning and worked to the standards for tree management. Pollarding was no longer the recommended way to look after the tree stock. They would continue to work with all the Wards on the issues. A tree survey had been done in Oscott every 5 years and the 6th year was the pruning year. They proposed to do sensitive tree replacement for forest trees. It was in the interests of AMEY to get repairs right the first time and they were happy to pick up specific issues.

- Grass verges were a major problem and it was a requirement on AMEY to keep the surface and verges safe. Members were asked to help with local enforcement to keep vehicles off the grass verges. Double kerbing was sometimes appropriate. Bollards and no parking on the grass signs were no longer recommended. Different approaches were being looked at such as using different material, however they were mindful of the impact on the grass cutting service.
- They were happy to look at the individual locations raised. Three repairs were planned for Villa/Hamstead Road but it was required to close the road to do these.
- In reply to complaints about lack of response to emails and telephone calls, Lucy O'Grady undertook to leave her direct contact details with Members. AMEY wanted to build better relationships with the council and work together at a strategic and local level.
- There was a service improvement initiative for the Gully Cleansing Service to change the way the service was run. An inspection service had been implemented to look closely at blocked gullies and the risks. A commitment was given to improve the service.
- There were some issues with regard to tree roots cracking tarmac etc site visits were carried out and necessary action taken.
- Councillor Hunt was pleased Thornbridge Avenue was included in the resurfacing programme. He queried why other roads had work done more than once and agreed about the lack of response and engagement with Councillors.
- Eddie Fellows spoke about specified levels in the contract. There had been 300 enquiries about drainage the previous week. They would work with Councillors with regard to logging the enquiries. Councillor Hunt felt that the method for measuring the condition of a carriageway was complex and would like to work with Highways on a way forward.
- Response times to Member's enquiries were linked to the assessment on the level of risk. Those with significant safety risks were a priority.
- Councillor Hussain thanked Eddie Fellows and Lucy O'Grady for attending the meeting.

**HOUSING CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAME ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS
BUDGET**

The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See document no. 2):-

- .Mark Rodgers gave a summary of the report informing that £28,800 had been allocated for capital environmental improvement works during 2016/17.
- The projects from the previous year were now complete as set out in Appendix 2.
- Proposed schemes were set out in Appendix 2. The figures in the report had been readjusted following the report being circulated the previous week.
- Schemes 1-3 May Tree Grove and 5 -7 May Tree Grove would be carried out in 2 phases. Cost for Handsworth Wood schemes now totalled £4863.
- Some costs were still being awaited.

1040

RESOLVED:-

- i) That the District Committee note progress in connection with the projects initiated in 2015/16;
- ii) Approve the projects that had been re-adjusted at Appendix 2; and
- iii) Note the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3.

DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

1041

RESOLVED:-

The schedule of meetings was noted for future District Committee meetings in the Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BB on the following Thursdays at 1500 hours:-

Committee Room

19 January, 2017	2
23 March, 2017	2

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1042

Items to be considered for future agendas were suggested as follows:-

- Housing Issues would be the main item for the next meeting.
 - Councillor Zaffar suggested inviting Midland Heart to a future meeting.
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OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

1043 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1044 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 1659 hours.

CHAIRMAN