

# **Birmingham City Council**

## **Perry Barr Ward Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 30 June 2016**

**7pm**

**Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillor Karen Trench and Councillor Jon Hunt

Clive Wright, Resilience, Drainage & Flood Risk Manager

Martin Smith, Waste Enforcement

Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were approximately 55 residents present.

Apologies for absence – Councillor Ray Hassall and Sergeant Tomlinson.

**1. Election of Chair for 2016/2017**

Councillor Karen Trench elected.

**2. Notice of Recording**

Noted.

**3. Petitions**

None received

**4. Update on Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillor Hunt updated that the AGM had met to elect a Committee and 5 working groups – Housing & jobs, flooding, green/open spaces, local centres & local design. Work would progress over the summer to gather ideas – anyone wishing to join was welcome by contacting the Committee Chair, Cllr Hunt.

The Neighbourhood Plan was a long term initiative to tackle improvement and planning issues. The Council would consult formally on the constitution of the Neighbourhood Plan, followed by a local referendum to vote on acceptance or not of the Plan.

**5. Flooding**

Clive Wright outlined recent events across the Ward and measures taken to deal with the flooding at the time and longer term strategies. 1800 surveys were being sent to householders to gather information to give a greater understanding, therefore information from residents was essential to ensure correct mitigation was taken in the future. Bids to fund work were being made. Flooding had been caused

by rivers but due the intensity and localisation of the rain storms very rare flooding had occurred. Some flooding had been due to culverts & grilles being blocked by rubbish. Queries could be addressed to [llfa@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:llfa@birmingham.gov.uk).

Councillor Hunt highlighted the following;

- Had the quality of drain cleaning and clearance been checked?
- The new development at Booths Lane had been built just prior to the introduction of rules on sustainable drainage – had this been looked into?
- Had the Motorway & Highway Agency been approached in view of the amount of water coming from the motorway where slats had been open on the culvert to allow water to escape
- Had the reasons behind the flooding of Turnberry Road been ascertained.

Clive Wright responded;

- Amey were required to clean all gulleys in the City on an annual basis and this was undertaken on a risk basis. Only a small percentage had not been cleaned.
- He undertook to follow up the issue relating to Booths Farm
- He undertook to contact the Highways Agency
- Turnberry Road was on a water course but whether that or a blocked grille up stream was responsible for the flooding would be investigated.
- The Government was reviewing flood risk management
- Residents in flood risk areas were being encouraged to invest in water tight front doors or gates.

Residents then made the following comments;

- Flooding had occurred at properties below the motorway due to gullies being opened during heavy rain which resulted in water pouring off the motorway rather than flowing along the gullies. This information had been provided by the Highways Agency. Haddon Road had flooded due to this.
- People who had been flooded out of their homes had been decanted to alternative properties – how were these people to be contacted with the survey?
- Would assistance be available to residents from the Government to install resilience measures
- Were sand bags available from The Council? Clive advised that they were not but that a Flood Action Group worked with the Council and could assist with sand bags but residents could buy flood sacks which were longer lasting. The Environment Agency web page had information for residents.
- The junction of Curbar Road/Haddon Road was the lowest point on the estate and due to the way the motorway was built and the Motorway Maintenance Unit had been built on a field water had poured into 68 Haddon Road as this was the lowest point of the estate.
- When heavy rain was experienced water ran from the embankment directly into the gardens. This had been captured on video – Clive requested a copy.
- Gardens at the junction of Thornbridge Avenue and Grindleford Road had been flooded and this had to be due to water off the motorway as properties

on the other side of the road had not been flooded. Clive advised that the Highway Agency had put in new drains and were investigating the flooding.

- Homes in Bradfield Road had been flooded by water coming from the College car park. Clive advised he had been in touch with the College.
- Brooklyn College had been built on farm land and maps show that there was a pool on the land and the water was now finding its path and this needed to be managed by the authorities.
- Photographic evidence in relation to flooding at 30 & 50 Haddon Road was shown.

The Chair advised that as part of the Neighbourhood Plan the flow of water in the Ward was being investigated with a view to capturing the water and creating pools.

#### **Actions:-**

- 1. Investment needed for the drains in Haddon Road to ensure that they took the water from the culvert.**
- 2. In the long term measure to prevent rain/water coming off the motorway - (number of paved drives/extensions had taken away land that previously helped soak up water). Clive Wright to discuss with Highway Agency**
- 3. Drains to be cleaned more regularly (this request had been made at the March meeting prior to the flooding). Schedule of drain clearance/ street cleaning to be provided to Councillors**
- 4. List of addresses where flooding had occurred that had been provided at the meeting to be passed to Clive, also photographic/video evidence.**
- 5. Clive Wright offered to work on the Community Plan with Councillors and to share certain details from the survey. It was noted that all those who returned a completed survey would receive an outcome.**
- 6. Information packs to be sent to homes that had not yet received one.**

#### **The Environment**

Martyn Smith gave a brief overview of the issues around fly tipping and rubbish dumping and the enforcement action that was taken by the Council. Fly tipping was a criminal offence and therefore there had to be proof beyond reasonable doubt that an individual was responsible before a prosecution could be entered into. Persistent offenders were being targeted and more cases were being taken to Court. Lists of prosecutions were reported to the Licensing & Public Protection Committee. Evidence and statements from residents willing to go to court were essential in securing a prosecution.

In response to questions the meeting was advised;

- The HM Land Registry was used to determine ownership of land although if in doubt a notice could be served on the owner/occupier if the rubbish was causing a problem such as rats.

- There were strict rules governing reports of prosecutions but the Licensing & Public Protection Committee received regular details but requests for information on local prosecutions would be taken back
- Councillors had been sent a questionnaire regarding street cleaning priorities and schedules around flood risk area was a priority therefore responses were important.
- Dumping of fridges was hazardous
- Martyn Smith undertook to take details relating to a complaint regarding waste/skip from a business at the conclusion of the meeting
- Removal of building waste was the responsibility of the contractor and a prosecution could be pursued but there was the burden of proof to satisfy.
- Fly tipped material would be investigated but would be reported to F&WM for removal. Timescale was dependant on amount of rubbish that had been dumped.
- Information about fly tipping could be sent to [flytipping@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:flytipping@birmingham.gov.uk) or contact 0121 303 1112
- Martyn to speak to resident re rubbish dumping between Fowlmere and Foden Road at conclusion of meeting.
- In relation to private land planning guidance could assist in certain cases – under the Town & Country Planning Act s125 a notice could be served on the owner or occupier of land that was an 'eyesore' to bring land back into use so that it was detrimental to the amenity of the environment.

## 6. **Items of Concern**

- Reference was made to cars parking on the footpath in Rocky Lane/Dyas Avenue by Co-Op customers. **The Chair undertook to report the matter to parking enforcement.**
- The Chair reported with sadness the recent death of Elsie Juchnowicz

## 7. **Authority to Chairman and Officers**

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm