

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Weoley Ward Forum
Saturday 3 September 2016 at 10.30am at Weoley Castle Library, Beckbury Road

Present: Councillor Steve Booton, Councillor Julie Johnson, Councillor Peter Douglas
Osborn & Richard Burden M.P.

Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 7 residents also in attendance

1. **Election of a Chair for 2016/17** – Councillor Booton elected
2. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
3. **Apologies** – Sgt Tandy, Ministers
4. **Main Item for Discussion**
 - Idea Gathering
 - Planning for Future Meetings
 - Ideas for Contact List/meeting publicity/attracting new residents
 - Local Innovation Fund

The Chair asked residents to identify their main areas of concern and the following were raised;

- a) Condition of the roads, pavements and general dissatisfaction with Amey
- b) Manor Farm Park – rumours regarding future development
- c) Refuse Collections, specifically bins not being returned to point of collection
- d) Future of community libraries – outcome of Cabinet report including moving libraries, co-location & closures.
- e) Concern for people whose voices were not heard in the Ward & how to get those people involved
- f) Anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- g) Bus Services – specifically the No 48 – where the buses had been changed from double to single decker vehicles, the route had been changed without consultation and now was not well used now whereas prior to the changes it had been a well-used route. The service needed to revert back to its existing route and travel into the City Centre rather than West Bromwich.
- h) Road safety – reductions in speed limits around the Ward but especially around The Square where motorists were continually speeding. Parking on the pavement was also an issue.
- i) Concern had been raised by parents regarding the high level of open drug dealing occurring in the Ward and apparent lack of interest by the Police.
- j) Christian Ministers had been discussing ways of re-developing/re-building The Square – how to add to the community
- k) Policing of the area (Trescott Road side) – off road bikes and other anti-social behaviour but no police action taken

- l) Signs were still around the area directing to Selly Oak Hospital – needed removing.

Councillor Peter Douglas Osborn said that Manor Park would not be developed but that the rumour had grown from re-development work being undertaken in connection with the Cadbury Barn. Councillors confirmed that they would not agree to any development of the park. Councillor Douglas Osborn suggested the re-establishment of the Traders Association to assist in the redevelopment of The Square.

Richard Burden M.P. suggested that the ward look at a strategy to tackle speeding and traffic issues and this need not necessarily be 20mph speed limits.

There was some discussion regarding special needs transport (Councillor Douglas Osborn declared an interest as a Director of Shencare Community Transport) and concern raised regarding the current situation which had resulted in a considerable number of parents appealing decisions. There was some work to be done to ensure the situation did not arise next year. Councillor Douglas Osborn undertook to share information with the M.P.

Councillor Johnson concurred with the comments made regarding the bus service, adding that there was a great deal of dis-satisfaction with the bus services in the ward relating to routes but also behaviour, drugs, dogs and the general use of buses.

Councillor Johnson added rubbish dumping, especially accumulations of black bags on street corners, to the list of concerns.

The Chair referenced the Square Club and its future. Negotiations were ongoing regarding its sale and if sold on the open market Councillors were pressing for 100% of the sale price to be used within the ward for youth provision. Services were currently being run by local churches. He undertook to discuss with residents ideas for how the money should be spent as community involvement was vital.

Actions:-

1. Issues for Future Meetings

- **Meetings to be subject based around the following themes;**
- Buses – routes, consultation, timetables
- Transport
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Police Issues
- Young People
- Regeneration of The Square
- Quad Bikes/off road bikes
- Local Innovation Fund – special meeting to be arranged to discuss how to spend the fund in Weoley

2. Next Meeting

- Involvement of the traders required to be able to fully explore the re-development of The Square, although it was acknowledged that more retail/investment was required and a community hub would increase the vibrancy of the Square.
Councillors to encourage a traders representative to attend ward meetings.
- Items for next meeting – **Buses, Policing Issues and Chair to report back from District Committee on anti-social behaviour.**
- Next meeting Saturday 12 November at 10.30, venue to be confirmed but Allens Cross Community Centre preferred.

3. Further Actions

- When ring fenced funding became available from The Square Club Chair to involve local young people, youth groups etc in discussion regarding how best to spend the money.
- Further meeting in January 2017 to be arranged
- Housing Liaison Board Members contact details to be included in distribution list for invites to future meetings

Meeting ended at 11.30 am