

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

SHARD END WARD MEETING
MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2017

7PM
AYLESFORD HALL
116 BRADLEY ROAD
B34 6HE

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Marje Bridle and Ian Ward

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Sgt Dan Turnbull – West Midlands Police
Pat Whyte – Community Development & Support Unit

There were approx. 70 residents present.

Cllr M Bridle in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Following introductions, Cllr Bridle, Ward Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chair advised that members of the press/public may record and/or take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Cotton who was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

4. LOCAL NEWS/INFORMATION UPDATES

(i) West Midlands Police

Sgt Dan Turnbull advised of the following:-

- Off Road Bikes/Pedal Bikes Nuisance

30 warrants were executed at the pre-planned Halloween Ride Out event; 53 arrests were made, 7 of which were charged with serious offences. In addition, 14 bikes were seized, with several of these being from the Shard End ward. The intelligence gathered from local residents had been crucial in the success of the operation.

Several young people, all of whom lived locally had been identified as the main perpetrators of pedal bikes nuisance as well as some from neighbouring Chelmsley Wood and Yorkswood. A number of partner agencies were involved with the families of the young people, and a number of conditions had been put in place to manage/change their behaviour. However, two young people were

still persistent in their offending and resistant to changing their behaviour. As a result, charges had been brought against them.

Residents advised of their anger and concerns at the behaviour of a small group of young people, who blatantly flouted all efforts to address their behaviour, and their parents who had very little or no control in managing their child's behaviour.

Reference was made to a recent violent physical attack on an elderly resident in one of the roads nearby; a child attacked outside the KFC and had his bike stolen; several cars and buses had also been badly damaged by the same group of young people, who seemed to be able to scare and terrorise local people without fear of impunity. A local shopkeeper also advised of the verbal abuse he received on a regular basis from the same group of young people.

Several of the young people involved were on a 6pm curfew as part of their agreement however this appeared to be completely disregarded as the nuisance behaviour continued beyond this time.

Responding to residents' comments, Sgt Turnbull advised of civil injunction action to be taken against some of the young people involved, which could lead to being taken to court if the injunction was breached. Evidence gathering was essential if a prosecution was to be successful; however the process was quite lengthy. In the meantime, work would continue with partner agencies, the perpetrators and their families to address and reduce the nuisance behaviour /acts of criminality.

Several residents advised of their anger and frustrations following weeks of compiling evidence and submitting it to the police, only to find that alleged perpetrators had been released, and free to carry on with their behaviour, including terrorising and threatening local residents.

Residents called for robust and urgent action against the perpetrators, all of whom were all known to the police, partner agencies and warned that some residents may be tempted to take matters into their own hands in order to protect their own families and possessions.

Several residents further advised of the very poor service received from the Contact Centre when trying to report incidents; the call handlers appeared disinterested and lacked knowledge of the area. Residents added they were also advised by the call handlers that unless there was criminal damage, their call would not be accepted or logged.

Acknowledging residents' concerns, and in response to questions from Members, Sgt Turnbull advised that:-

- Whilst Police Officers had powers to carry out 'stop and search', they could only do so if there was reason to do so/alleged perpetrator was acting suspiciously.

- Officers were not allowed to pursue/give chase to off road bikers – especially if there was no cycle helmet worn.
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team currently consisted of 5 officers; resources tended to be deployed to the hotspot/priority areas. It was essential that residents continued to report incidents to the police as this would enable resources to be deployed more effectively.
- Offender management remained one of the key priorities for the Neighbourhood Policing Unit. Police Officers worked alongside partner agencies (Youth Offending Service; Probation Services, Social Services, Housing etc.) to provide a holistic approach to the offender/family where appropriate.
- Where possible, officers would always continue to interact with residents, particularly young people whilst out and about on patrols

Several residents suggested that given the seriousness of the issues raised and the lack of available policing resources to respond, a Community Action Plan should be put together, with residents, Cllrs, Senior Police Officers and Partner Agencies including schools working together to tackle the nuisance /acts of criminality before the problems escalated even further.

An urgent special community meeting was requested as soon as possible.

Several residents offered their help and support with setting up the meeting and delivering the leaflets/notices.

Action: Community Meeting to be arranged as soon as possible as requested above.

Residents to discuss specific issues and concerns with Sgt Turnbull following the meeting.

Other Issues

- Residents advised of drug dealing in Bradley Road and agreed to give further details to Sgt Turnbull at the end of the meeting.
- Timberley Primary School – obstructive/dangerous parking remained a cause for concern. Sgt Turnbull agreed to raise the matter at the Schools Panel Meeting to be held later in the week. All local schools had been invited to attend.

Action: All to Note

(ii) Councillors Updates

Local Innovation Fund Update

Community Caretaking – the project was up and running. Residents/volunteers with gardening/DIY skills were actively being sought to work alongside/train young people, sharing experiences as well as skills and knowledge.

Glebe Farm Library – a number of residents and volunteers were involved with helping to develop and shape several ideas regarding making the best use of the building/facilities. The proposal for the LIF funding for the use of the facility as a

Community Hub had been approved by Cabinet Committee Local Leadership (CCLL) and was a joint project with neighbouring Stechford and Yardley North Ward. Residents were actively encouraged to get involved.

Action: All to Note

5. RESIDENTS NEWS UPDATES/CONCERNS AND ISSUES

Residents advised of the following matters of concern:-

- Road surfaces across the ward in very poor condition and were in need of urgent repairs/attention.
- Packington Avenue – street lighting also in need of repairs.
Cllr Bridle (Chair) advised that discussions were still ongoing with Amey regarding the yearly Ward Highways Programme and when the repairs/resurfacing would be carried out. Repairs to the street lighting in Packington Avenue were due to be carried out shortly.

- Shard End Lake/Bowling Green – the gates had been locked for some time, thus denying access to local residents and dog walkers who wanted to use the site.

Action: Cllr Bridle (Chair) agreed to investigate

- General concerns regarding the lack of cleanliness, rubbish dumping and wanton damage/vandalism across parts of the ward. Residents and Cllrs were particularly concerned and disappointed at the deliberate acts of vandalism at the Shard Library. Cllr Ward had discussed the matter with the repairs team.
- The Shard Way – vehicles still continuing to speed along The Shard Way by the parade of shops despite the narrowing of the junction which to deter this type of behaviour.
Cllr Ward advised that once the bungalows had been demolished, the redevelopment of the site should provide an opportunity to look at and possibly develop an effective traffic management scheme. The District Engineer/Highways Officers would be asked to look at this in more detail.

Rubbish dumping/littering across the ward had increased as there were too many food takeaway outlets. Residents felt these outlets should be made more accountable for picking up rubbish outside their premises and called for more robust action against them.

Action: All to Note

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 29th January 2018, 7pm, Glebe Farm Library, Glebe Farm Road.

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS

Noted and agreed that:-

“In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer had authority to act on behalf of the Committee”.

The Chair thanked residents for their attendance and active participation in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm