

SHELDON WARD MEETING - NOTES AND ACTIONS

WARD: SHELDON	DATE:18th June 2019
VENUE: THE SCHOOL ROOM, ST GILES CHURCH, 149 CHURCH ROAD, B26 3TT	START/FINISH TIMES: 7PM – 9.00pm
COUNCILLORS: Paul Tilsley & Mike Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 30
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team PC Tabbish Hussain – WMP, Sheldon Team PCSO Katie Wynne – WMP Sheldon Team	
WARD PRIORITIES: Ongoing	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

Residents were advised that they were able to record and/or take photographs of the meeting.

Cllr Tilsley in the Chair

2. COUNCILLORS NEWS/UPDATES

Waste Collection Service

The collection crews had returned to work following an agreement reached with all parties to end the dispute. There were still a few problems with the collections even though the crews were back at work; a number of roads were continually missed for both household and mixed recycling collections. The crew had been instructed to clear the missed collections first however this has not worked out as

well as hoped. Additional resources had been identified and would be working alongside the existing crew to get the service back on track. In the meantime, residents should continue to report missed collections to the Ward Cllrs or the Contact Centre (303 1112) ongoing to resume the service and clear the backlog as soon as possible. In the meantime, residents should still continue to report missed collections to the Contact Centre or Cllrs Tilsley or Ward.

Cllr Tilsley further advised that concerns had been raised with the Chief Executive, however an acknowledgement or response to the concerns raised had not yet been received.

Residents advised that a general tidy up/street cleaning and litter-picking needed in several areas across the ward; hot spot areas included Manor House Road. Residents/Friends Of groups had organised voluntary litter picks in the Country Park and Barrows Lane, however more needed to be done with partner agencies to encourage everyone to get involved in helping to keep their streets clean and litter-free.

Lol Thurstan (B26 Community) briefly advised of the Barrows for Birmingham's Cleaner Greener Streets Initiative launched by Cllr John O'Shea, the newly appointed Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Parks. Community Groups/interested residents could obtain a street cleansing barrow for their ward. Each barrow contained a range of tools and equipment, including high-visibility clothing and first aid kits. Once issued, the equipment would be held by community groups in the ward, all of whom would be encouraged to work together with officers, including the Waste Collection Teams to help keep their streets clean. A full training programme was also offered to those taking part to ensure safety and maximise the effectiveness of the equipment being used.

Funding for the Initiative had been secured from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government.

Residents advised that improvements to the bin collection services were essential if local residents were to be encouraged to get involved and make the initiative a success.

Sheldon Town Centre Manager Update

John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager briefly advised that a survey had recently been carried out with the local businesses to set up a Business Improvement District (BID). Whilst there was some interest, not all businesses wanted to pay the additional costs (precept) involved which would be reinvested into the designated local BID area, which was disappointing.

Illegal Traveller Encampments

Cllr Tilsley advised that the entrances at Horseshoes Lane and Barrows Lane had been made more secure following the last illegal encampments.

3. WARD PLAN - IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS

Following a request from Cllrs Tilsley and Ward, Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Manager briefly advised of the priorities identified for the ward plan following the discussions at ward meetings for the last 12 months or so, and from the templates completed and returned by residents. These were:-

Traffic Related Issues

- Speeding/dangerous driving
- Obstructive Parking
- Traffic Congestion
- Damage to grass verges
- Road Safety

Environment/Litter/Rubbish

- Lack of street cleaning/litter-picking
- Irregular street and poor domestic bins collection service
- Business premises owners to take more responsibility for keeping their frontages and rear access ways clean and tidy. Proactive enforcement action to ensure the correct trade waste disposal arrangements were in place
- General tidy up of the ward/restoring a sense of civic pride in streets and neighbourhoods

Other

- Very poor roads and pavements surfaces
- Trees, bushes and shrubs in need of cutting back
- Better care /investment and maintenance of Sheldon Country Park
- Better maintenance and care of grass verges and green open spaces in the ward

- Addressing social isolation in all ages, particularly amongst some young people and senior residents
- Tackling the increase in graffiti tagging/graffiti related issues

Crime/Policing/Community Safety

- Reducing general anti-social/nuisance behaviour
- Tackling the increase in violent crime/drug taking/drug related offences/substance and alcohol abuse and prostitution in parts of the ward
- More visible patrols/policing in the ward

The first draft of the completed Ward Plan would be presented at the next Ward meeting for residents' consideration and amendment as necessary. Residents were also reminded to submit any further ideas and suggestions to the Community Governance Manager before the next Ward meeting.

4. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Consideration was given to the summary of ongoing residents' issues and concerns raised at previous meetings and the action(s) required.

(See Outstanding Actions List attached)

5. RESIDENTS NEWS/UPDATES/LOCAL CONCERNS

The following concerns were raised:-

- Graffiti tagging (B33) still appearing across the ward
- Grass cuttings not cleared away, had compacted and were now blocking several drains in the ward.
- Dog walkers not picking up after their dogs. Several areas were heavily blighted by dog mess – a more robust approach was needed to tackling the issue.
- Silvermere Development – overgrown bushes in need of cutting back and the fallen wet leaves had not been cleared away, thus leaving the path leading into the Country Park very slippery and dangerous to use; the grass was also very overgrown and not been mowed for some time despite several complaints. Local resident Mike Smith had sent photographic evidence to Garry Maddox, Housing Manager for investigation and action.

- Parkdale Road – blocked drains causing flooding/ponding on a regular basis, making access to the Country Park on the Public Right of Way very difficult. Grass and bushes also in need of cutting back. This has been reported to Mike Hinton, District Parks Manager on several occasions.
- Consideration should be given to installing safety guard railings by the pedestrian crossings following an increase in speeding and dangerous driving practices in the ward.

STAG Update (Sheldon Traffic Action Group)

- A meeting with officers from Transportation Services and West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) took place in January, however the issues raised still had not been responded to or addressed. A further meeting was planned and it was hoped that better progress would be made.
- Group members were very angry and felt let-down that most of their funding for the much needed and useful equipment obtained from the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) had been 'paid back' to the City Council in installation costs as a result of the Council's procurement policy and process. The money could have been better used for purchasing additional equipment.

Policing Concerns and Issues

- Another change in the Police Sergeant for the local team; Sgt Jennifer Edwards who had recently joined the team had moved on to another area, which was very disappointing. No details yet on the appointment of a replacement Sgt
- Several residents had been targeted by criminals for their vehicles; violent crime and the increase in drug use/acts of criminality had also significantly increased and seemed to be spiralling out of control. Drug dealing was also being carried out openly outside local schools, which had been reported to the police on numerous occasions along with descriptions/vehicle registration details etc. however, nothing appeared to have been done. More visible policing was needed and tougher action taken against the perpetrators.

Other Issues

- Aggressive and abusive begging outside the Co-op at the Radleys; the alleged perpetrator lives in supported housing accommodation on Sheldon Heath Road. Cllr Tilsley advised that help and support is provided by partner agencies for rough sleepers/street beggars, however this was often refused. Residents were reminded not to give money to rough sleepers/street beggars and to report all incidents to the policing teams who had the power to move them on.
- Obstructive parking outside Greggs. Resident agreed to send pictures taken to John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager.
- Shopkeepers/Business owners not keeping their frontages clean; three shops opposite Morrison's supermarket were in a particularly

poor state of disrepair. John Coyle advised that discussions were currently ongoing with the managing agency.

6. PETITIONS

None submitted.

7. DATE OF NEXT WARD FORUM MEETING

Tuesday 17th September 2019, 7pm, St Giles Church School Room - tbc

The meeting closed at 9.00pm