

**NOTES OF THE ASTON WARD MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2017 AT
4.30pm AT THE LIGHTHOUSE YOUNG PEOPLES CENTRE, ALMA WAY**

Present: Councillor Muhammad Afzal (Chair) Councillor Ziaul Islam & Councillor Nagina Kauser

Ken Brown, Neighbourhood Development & Support Officer
Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Development & Support Officer
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 5 residents also in attendance

1. **Notice of recordings** – Noted

2. **Apologies** – none

3. **Local Innovation Fund**

a) **Well Being of Newtown Community Hub**

Dahir Ali presented the proposal, explaining that the Huda Centre would act as a centre for the Newtown community as a whole offering support and advice to people in the neighbourhood and educational support/activities for children. Monthly street cleaning and environmental awareness campaigns would also be organised. Working with St Georges the project would run after school clubs and would also work with the city council's housing officers to help liaise with tenants. The project had already organised community meetings in response to recent shootings in the area and these meetings would continue to help provide links between partners and residents.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that the project recognised all communities in the area and worked for the community and not specific groups, faiths or cultures.

b) **Safe and Protected**

Steve Clark explained the work BURN undertook around music at The Lighthouse and that with LIF funding it was hoped to develop more youth work and deliver the Safe & Protected project. Jadieal Millwood explained that the ideas behind SAP had come from the young people who attended The Lighthouse and had 3 strands – 1) establishment of a shadow cabinet of young people to be ambassadors for others and provide a voice 2) Fishbowl effect of the building – the ground floor walls were glass and this made some young people feel unsafe so they wanted to design out the fishbowl effect 3) Open day – to promote The Lighthouse and let young people and parents etc know

what was going on, facilities, activities etc. The young people would constitute themselves into a formal group to attract additional funding.

In response to questions from residents;

- Jadieal advised that The Lighthouse used social media, flyers, outreach work and school visits to promote what was on offer at the centre and that the coverings used on the windows would also be used to advertise and promote activities. The young people who already attended The Lighthouse promoted and championed the services on offer to others. The Open Day event was aimed at reaching more families.
- The Youth Service worked with the Young People's Parliament already
- The Lighthouse had a footfall of 1,000 people each week and from January a new 6 day a week programme was being launched to include Saturday.
- No one group had a claim to the building- it attracted young people from Aston, Newtown & Lozells, from different backgrounds, no one ethnic group dominated and gangs were not tolerated.

Action:- That Well Being Newtown Hub and Safe & Protected proposal be supported in the sum of £8,500 each and that the Aston Community Heritage & Library project (presented to the previous meeting) be supported in the sum of £12,500 (the remaining ward allocation)

In response to a query regarding support for Soho Market Place the Chair advised that as agreed at the previous meeting the project could not be supported as it did not meet the criteria or the ward priorities.

Residents Issues

- a) The Drum – in response to a query Councillor Islam said he had no new information but would pursue further.
- b) Ward Meetings – in response to a query the Chair undertook to arrange dates for meetings in the New Year and advertise in advance. He added that it was the councillors intention to work together after the elections in May 2018. The Huda Centre was offered as a venue for a meeting in 2018.
- c) Barry Jackson Tower – the Chair advised that the councillors were meeting with the Leader, Director of Housing and Cabinet Member next week.

Meeting ended at 5.15pm