

Joint Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East & Balsall Heath West Ward Meeting – 28 November 2018

NOTES

VENUE: Sparkbrook Community & Health Centre, Grantham Road B11 1LU	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.35pm
COUNCILLORS: Shabrana Hussain, Mohammed Azim & Zhor Malik	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 32+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Pcso Lorriane Wheelan & Pcso Tom Dale, West Midlands Police Helen Jenkins, Principal Transport Policy Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Councillor Azim took the Chair for this meeting

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Police Update

Meeting advised that there was currently a vacancy for a sergeant on the Neighbourhood Team.

Main issues were domestic abuse, burglaries and car crime. Arrests had been made in connection with recent violent crimes and patrols were continuing of ASB hot spots. There had been recent parking enforcement exercises and vehicles seized for no tax.

The overall crime statistics were circulated which showed an increase in crime in line with figures across the U.K.

Residents made the following comments;

- Police tasking meetings were not being held
- There were not enough police officers for the area and people did not feel safe
- Sparkbrook felt like a forgotten area
- Parking and speeding vehicles were particular issues
- Incidents were reported but not followed up

Residents advised to inform their councillors of any particular issues or to raise a petition that could be presented to the City Council.

2. Clean Air Zone

Helen Jenkins gave a brief over view of the Clean Air Zone – reasons for its introduction, area covered and the mitigations proposed to assist residents, key workers, businesses etc.

Councillor Malik expressed concern regarding the consequences of the CAZ on the ward as he feared drivers would park in the area to avoid the CAZ.

Residents, while acknowledging the damage caused by polluting vehicles felt that the poorer members of the community who could not afford newer cars would be disadvantaged and the zone took in too many neighbourhoods outside the city centre. There was also concern expressed for the effect on the taxi trade & businesses & places such as the Central Mosque. Those travelling through the CAZ could afford compliant cars while those living within it were less likely to be able to. It was not felt that the council was adopting the correct strategy and Leeds and Nottingham strategies were highlighted as a better way forward. For these reasons residents did not support the introduction of the CAZ.

3. Residents & Councillors Updates

a) Montgomery Street – residents from Montgomery Street drew to the meetings attention the extreme difficulties they were having due to the lack of parking for residents, the noise and nuisance caused by lorries travelling along the road and the effect on local businesses and the safety of the community. A petition had been presented and objections made to planning applications for the gym and new houses. These problems had also been raised when the proposal to sell off the car park had first been proposed and the community had rightly predicted the effect the loss of the car park would have. The problems were not at any specific time but were consistent throughout the day and night. Residents did not want to leave the area as there was a good community spirit. Some residents suggested creating a one-way system but other did not believe it was a solution.

Action: Councillor Shabrana Hussain to arrange a meeting with residents, highway engineer and police and would advise residents via Ms Nisa. Residents of Montgomery Road were asked to send their suggestions for ways of resolving the parking problems in the street to Cllr Hussain in advance of the meeting.

b) Sparkbrook Neighbourhood Forum - Vehicle – In response to a query regarding the ownership of the vehicle Cllr Hussain undertook to speak at the conclusion of the meeting and raise with the Neighbourhood Forum.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):