

LONGBRIDGE & WEST HEATH WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Longbridge & West Heath	DATE: 10 December 2018
VENUE: The Factory, Devon Way, Longbridge	START/FINISH TIMES: 7 – 8.30pm
COUNCILLOR: Debbie Clancy Apology from Councillor Brett O'Reilly	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 19
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Laurent Bousionade, Principal Infrastructure Delivery Officer Nigel Vincent, Transportation Glenn Smith, Senior Local Engineer Sergeant David Lamerton, West Midlands Police Chris Richards, Amey Highway Steward Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	APOLOGIES – Richard Burden M.P., Rev. Corke

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Longbridge Connectivity Project

Meeting advised work almost complete – final works to footway resurfacing Longbridge Lane/ Grovelly Lane & some signage.

Landscaping would be completed in Spring, 40 trees had been planted last year and a further 60 semi-mature trees to be planted in spring.

Junction of Longbridge Lane/Grovelly Lane/Cofton Road – traffic on service road was being monitored over the next 6 months following which a decision would be made on the bollards.

Residents made the following comments;

- Grass needed replacing

- Bollards removed during the works needed replacing
- Request for a yellow box on Cofton Road (bottom of hill for right turn into service road) to assist traffic flow
- Road markings required at traffic lights on Cofton Road
- There were no signs from Tessall Lane to Bristol Road to indicate that Tessall Lane was a dead end.
- Tessall Lane – large part of pavement on one side of road had been taken up and the paving slabs were now uneven and dangerous. The pavement on the other side of the road had been tarmacked.
- Parking by college staff and people using the town centre in Tessall Lane was causing obstruction for people living in the area.

Actions:- a) Nigel Vincent to investigate request for road markings and will monitor traffic queues on Cofton Road, usage of the service road and speed of traffic. Data would be analysed and if supportive traffic calming eg speed cushions could be considered

b) Re signage on Tessall Lane – investigations to be made and details passed to appropriate officer. Scheme would be audited so missing signs etc should be picked up

c) Planning application to be submitted for a park and ride car park at Longbridge Station.

2. Police Update

Sergeant Lamerton provided the following updates on points raised at the previous meeting;

- The first Street Watch group had been established
- Rea Valley Estate – the increase in burglaries & vehicle crime had reduced and very few crimes were now being reported.
- Residential roads next to retirement village – concerns raised with Sgt Thomas and additional patrols had been put in place
- Fountain Close – disturbance caused by a party. Many of those attending were from outside the city therefore unlikely to be repeated.

Sergeant Lamerton that gave the following update;

- Overall recorded crime in Northfield decreasing. Additional patrols and prevention work would be undertaken over Christmas.
- Local officers had been supporting city centre events eg German Market
- The team was being called out to domestic violence arrests in the area.

Residents raised the following issues;

- Buses parking on double yellow lines near to The Factory caused an obstruction and prevented traffic using both lanes. Sergeant Lamerton undertook to ask officers to speak to drivers when on patrol. Councillor Clancy said she had received numerous complaints and was visiting the area with Glenn Smith & Ravinder Sahota to look at options to move the buses elsewhere.
- Willetts Road, Harpers Road, Cypress Way/Hawkesley Drive – reports of drug dealing. Sgt Lamerton to take up
- Train Station Bridge – people openly smoking cannabis near to entrance of station. Issue raised with British Transport Police but Sgt Lamerton to send patrol & to speak to college.

3. Update on LIF Funded Project – New Starts

Marion Kenyon gave an update on the New Starts project which upcycled second hand furniture to people in need. A property had been secured in Frankley which opened to customers in April and since then 46 referrals had been made, 7 of which were in Northfield. Two volunteers had been employed to help at the shop, so far 20 tons of household goods had been diverted from landfill and 5,000 customers had visited the shop to purchase items. There was a full time member of staff employed at the shop and volunteers to drive the van to collect furniture items were being sought. The LIF funding had helped leaver in other money and currently the shop was taking £80/£100 in sales per week where the forecast had been £40 meaning that the project would be able to become self-financing more quickly.

In response to questions the meeting was advised the contact number for furniture donations was 0121 679 2072 which could be collected if necessary or brought to the shop.

4. Access Issues from Sunbury Road onto Longbridge Lane

Glenn Smith in response to issues raised at the previous meeting said he would look at traffic flow on Longbridge Lane and monitor to ascertain if it was possible to put in Keep Clear signs but as 30mph was the blanket speed limit there was no requirement for signage. A local resident referred to dangerous parking in Thurlstone Road which made it difficult to turn into/out of Sunbury Road and future plans were queried as it was felt that measures should have been put in place as part of the overall scheme. Glenn Smith said that there were no accident reports for those roads. Chris Richards undertook to look at the road markings in Thurlstone & Thelbridge Roads where the road had been re-tarmacked and look at re-lining.

The outcome of the petition for a pedestrian crossing on Cofton Road was queried and Cllr Clancy said that the road had not met priorities so the situation needed to be monitored. A local resident asked if there was a list of accident hotspots available and **Cllr Clancy undertook to request a list.**

A local resident said that the college had acquired additional parking at the front of the building but it was only half of the car park and if pressure could be brought to bear on the college to purchase the other half of the car park this might alleviate some of the pressure.

5. Residents Issues

- a) Lowhill Lane – JK Autos were parking vehicles on the footpath, cracking the slabs and obstructing access for wheelchairs etc. Glen Smith to speak to Sgt Lamerton
- b) Condoover Road – Footpath repairs – Chris Richards to investigate
- c) Potholes – Turves Green, Frankley Beeches Road (just past St Brigids School), Kingswood Road (towards Grovelly Lane) in the service road – all longstanding and in need of repair – Chris Richards to investigate
- d) Waste Management – Windsor Avenue – bins not collected for over a month, recycling for longer – had been reported. Cllr Clancy to report
- e) Park & Ride car park, Longbridge Station – Cllr Clancy to try to obtain more information for the next meeting.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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