

OSCOTT WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Oscott	DATE: 8 March 2023
VENUE: St Matthews Church, Birdbrook Road B44 8RA	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.40pm
COUNCILLORS Barbara Dring & Darius Sandhu	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 7
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tom Kavanagh, Private Development Service Carla Belle, Community Support & Development Officer Juanita Bradshaw, Community Support & Development Officer, NNS Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Dring advised that press/public may record and take photographs except where there were private or exempt items.

2. Neighbourhood Network Scheme

Juanita Bradshaw, Perry Barr NNS, outlined the role of the Neighbourhood Network Scheme and that she was the

link officer for the Perry Barr constituency helping residents 50+ and vulnerable adults 18-45, connecting groups/assets and assisting with funding, marketing & training.

It was queried whether assistance could be given for training needed for the Bleed Kits. Councillor Dring advised Second City had offered to fund that training. St Marks Community Hub - information on clubs, meals etc for the elderly was circulated.

3. Booths Lane

Tom Kavanagh explained his role was to review new developments on existing highways and all new roads on new developments. Roads on the Booths Lane development had not yet been adopted but the legal agreement necessary for this to happen had now been signed by all developers and the next step was for Cameron Homes & Taylor Wimpey to arrange an independent safety auditor to assess if there are any safety hazards. Once this had been done the council could formally adopt the roads.

Councillor Dring, on behalf of residents of Booths Farm, reported frustrations in respect of the in-action in relation to this issue and that confidence had been lost following commitments made but not kept that any improvements would be made. Road safety was a major concern due to the layout and the number of parked vehicles, and young families who had bought houses in the belief it was a child friendly estate were particularly concerned regarding child safety.

Residents queried whether the management fee for grass cutting/lighting would still be payable by residents once the road was adopted. The number of new homes still being built in the area had increased the number of cars on

the narrow roads through the estate forcing vehicles to park on the pavement to enable vehicles to pass along the road. Further homes were planned for the land adjacent to the motorway and this would only exacerbate the situation. All of the land around Booths Farm had been designated for conservation but this had been ignored by developers and the planning department. Residents who had bought the first new homes in the Beacon Avenue area had been told there would be no further new homes and were now understandably angry that the council was allowing further development despite all of the existing issues that had been repeatedly raised.

Tom Kavanagh advised that the highway assets would be the highways and footpaths and any dedicated green spaces. Councillor Sandhu commented that as part of the planning permission it was imperative that the carriageway was suitable to cope with the numbers of cars that would be using it to access existing and new homes. Tom undertook to take that back.

In response to further comments, Councillor Dring said that there had been a discussion around the children's playground that had been decimated by the by the building works and reinstatement had been requested to be paid for by the developer. Tom undertook to check on the status of the environmental report which should have been a public document as it was material to the planning application. Councillor Dring added that a number of the assessments eg noise pollution, emergency vehicle access had been undertaken during lockdown when the situation had been much quieter. There was extreme concern amongst residents that emergency vehicle access would now be compromised.

Action: Tom undertook to continue chasing the developer to undertake the audit required before adoption could go ahead and to report back to a future meeting on progress.

4. Update on the progress of the Village Green

Carla Belle reported that the application for the Glenmead Village Green had been submitted to the solicitor and the paperwork was being reviewed with the evidence and matters were progressing positively. Further updates would be reported to future meetings. Councillor Dring added that the details would be submitted to a future meeting of the Licensing & Public Protection Committee and once declared, Village Green Status would give protection to the green space.

5. Ward Planning

Carla Belle explained the ward planning process and that in considering priorities for the ward, the previous ward plan was being reviewed to see what had been achieved and any new priorities that should be added. It was suggested that a meeting be arranged for residents to give their views, ideas and solutions.

Councillor Dring said that the work on priorities from the previous plan needed to be continued and in particular the Nature Reserve and Library were key areas of concern. The aim to secure Bleed Kits at strategic points in the ward as discussed at the previous meeting would be a new priority as would working to involve local stakeholders – Servite House, St Marks Community Hub, Oscott Residents Association, Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve and local schools, in local planning.

Councillor Sandhu asked residents to discuss the ward plan with their groups and come forward with any suggestions.

6. Local Updates/ Issues/ Councillor Updates

- a) Food Bank, Cooksey Lane – meeting advised the facility was available on Monday & Wednesday and also provided advice on a range of issues including mental health, apprenticeships, council advice services
- b) Anti-Social Behaviour – reports of ongoing ASB around Kingstanding Circle involving drugs, motorbikes, violence towards shop keepers and reports of knives. Concern regarding the young age of some of those involved and the lack of response from the police. Councillor Dring said she would invite the police to the next meeting and residents were advised to contact the local team by email for non-emergency issues at perrybarr@westmidlands.police.uk