

**Birmingham City Council**  
**Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum**  
**1 December 2016 at 7pm**  
**at Reaside Community Centre, Ormond Road B45 0JD**

Present: Councillors Andy Cartwright, Carole Griffiths and Ian Cruise  
Councillor Marje Bridle, Assistant Leader  
Sergeant Khan, West Midlands Police  
Ruth Bowles, Place Manager  
Sarah Chinnock & Liz Parkes, Library Services  
John Burke, Waste Management  
Lucy O'Grady, Amey  
Austin Rodriguez, Neighbourhood Development & Community Support  
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 15 residents also in attendance

1. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
2. **Apologies** – Councillor Griffiths for lateness & Richard Burden M.P.
3. **Notes of Previous Meeting** - agreed
4. **Petition** – none submitted
5. **LIBRARY CONSULTATION**

Sarah Chinnock outlined the proposals for the future library service and advised residents of the consultation events taking place. Details of the consultation document available on the Council's website were provided and residents urged to send in their comments.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that the Deputy Leader had said there were no further budget cuts proposed for community libraries.

It was suggested that a group of volunteers might wish to work with the library to enable longer opening hours. Liz Parkes said this would be welcomed and said that Perry Common library had additional hours of opening due to volunteer assistance. Gemma Cartwright said she would organise a visit to Perry Common to see how the library operated.

There was some discussion regarding the use of Frankley Library by community groups and it was suggested that Frankley Parish Council be a key holder to the library so that community groups could use it out of normal opening times. Community groups using the library during these times would pay a hire charge to cover heating/lighting costs provided it was reasonable and the Parish Council would support. Liz Parkes welcomed a conversation with the Parish Council to explore how this suggestion could be taken forward.

Councillor Cruise queried the charging of community groups for use of the library during the times that it was already opened and it was also suggested that if volunteers were used to open the library for additional hours they were making payment in kind.

**Actions:-**

- **Gemma Cartwright to organise visit to Perry Common Library to see how volunteers were assisting in additional opening hours**

- Sarah Chinnock/Liz Parkes to organise a meeting with Frankley Parish Council with a view to Parish Council becoming key holders to allow use of the library by community groups outside allocated opening times.

## 6. FLEET & WASTE MANAGEMENT

John Burke advised that the recent problems in the ward had mostly been resolved and the number of complaints had reduced. He acknowledged that recycling for flats and HMO's still needed attention and recent missed collections had been due to staffing problems.

Residents then made the following points;

- Forelay Close – residents at the end of the Close where the houses were accessible via a path were not having their recycling collected, assisted collections were not being carried out and a refuse collector had been witnesses throwing a black bag of rubbish into the hedge rather than removing it. With the assisted collections, residents still had to take the bin to road. When a complaint had been made the situation resolved for a couple of weeks but then the assisted collection stopped again. These problems had been encountered since the introduction of the wheelie bins. When residents in the Close complained about missed collections that had affected the whole Close the rubbish from the resident who complained was collected rather than rubbish from all properties.
- Frankley Parish Council did a fly tipped rubbish collection on Thursday's which was refuse collection day and it had been noted that black bags of rubbish left at the side of the bins were left. The following week the bags were still there and therefore Frankley Parish Council was collecting them. There were hot spots where this was happening and a letter that could be given to the residents involved was requested
- Thanks were extended to Councillors Cartwright and Griffiths for their efforts in having the commercial bin removed from Bodenham Road and the rubbish from around it had been removed by a council crew. The black bags had however returned.
- There was an accumulation of black bags at the rear of the shops, Bristol Road to Bodenham Road.
- With regard to fly tipping residents said that the cause needed to be treated by prosecution and that residents were encouraged to report incidents of fly tipping. However when having provided a statement he had waited for 5 months to then be told no action was being taken.
- Holyhill Road – residents with assisted collections did not have bins so put out black bags but these were not being collected
- Concern that waste management would not be able to cope in view of the amount of new properties being built and especially with the proposal for the North Worcester Golf Course.

Councillor Cruise pointed out that there were issues due to the number of properties in estates around the ward where bins could not be put on the roadside due to design. Crews therefore needed to be better educated about the layout of certain parts of Longbridge.

John Burke apologised for problems experienced by residents of Forelay Close and said he was aware of the issues and they were being dealt with. The Waste Reduction Unit had letters that could

be issued to residents and he undertook to forward details. With regard to flats above shops there were several pilot schemes currently being undertaken to address the problems. It was suggested that the Head of Enforcement attend the next meeting.

**Actions:-**

- **John Burke to address problems in Forely Close**
- **John Burke to send details of Waste Reduction Unit to Frankley Parish Councillors for copies of letters that could be delivered to residents re black bags**
- **Tony Quigley, Head of Enforcement to be invited to next meeting**

**7. STREET LIGHTING**

Concern expressed that the new lights on the walkways were taller than the trees hence the trees were blocking out the light. There was an issue as the trees were on private land and although the owners had been sent advisory letters no further correspondence had been received.

Lucy O'Grady advised Amey had no powers of enforcement and could only issue advisory letters. If the problem persisted it was referred to the councils enforcement team but they were inundated with fly tipping & street parking problems.

It was suggested that a letter be sent to the owners with the offer that the Parish Council would trim the trees.

Ruth Bowles said that if the trees were in council owned gardens she would be able to refer to the tree officer. She suggested the Parish Council liaise with the Place Manager.

In response to questions Lucy O'Grady responded;

- Replacement lights were installed in order of priority
- She undertook to check ownership of the street light in the car park to Reaside Community Centre.
- Those lights that were replaced in 2010 would not be replaced again until around 2034
- She would ask an inspector to check the uprooted bollard in Bodenham Road (on pavement by One Stop). Resident added that the repair works to the pavement were shoddy and the slabs were already broken.
- The brightness of LED street lights could be altered therefore any areas with particular asb problems could be notified to Lucy
- Missing Neighbourhood Watch signs, Chelston Road to be replaced

**8. LOCAL INNOVATION FUND**

Councillor Marje Bridle explained her role as an Assistant Leader, briefly introduced the Local Innovation Fund and made the following main points;

- The 4 Assistant Leaders wanted to promote more power for local residents/councillors
- Council services to better suit the area and staff to serve the people and more working together..
- Officers to work for a neighbourhood/local area – a 'can do officer' and accountable officer team eg highways, waste management
- Flexible service deliver, more joined up services and more creative thinking.

- The Local Innovation Fund had come from above and was a challenge for councillors, residents and partner organisations to come forward with sustainable projects to improve the neighbourhood. Consider match funding from other sources.
- There was time to come up with some innovative and sustainable projects rather than rush into something which did not meet the criteria.

The Chair referred to the Frankley Parish Street Champions and hoped the LIF could be used to extend this to other areas of the ward. It was also hoped that Northfield Arts Forum could be involved. There were already groups, staff, councillors working together and the value of this funding was encouraging expertise to be pulled together.

**Action:-**

**Gemma Cartwright to arrange a meeting with groups/residents to begin discussions on ideas/proposals for spending the Local Innovation Fund.**

## **9. RESIDENTS ISSUES**

### **Sedgbourne Way Gating**

Concern expressed regarding scrambler bikes using the walk through and therefore queried the progress made to finding a solution. The Chair advised that ASB issues be reported to the police and reminded residents that Neighbourhood Watch meetings were held at the Holymoore Centre and urged that they attend. An update on the consultation undertaken was requested for the next meeting.

**Action:-**

**Update from the District Engineer on consultation around Sedgbourne Way requested for the next meeting.**

## **10. AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS**

Noted and agreed

Meeting ended at 8.35pm