

**JOINT SPARKBROOK & BALSALL HEATH EAST & BALSALL HEATH WEST
WARD MEETING NOTES**

WARDS: Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East & Balsall Heath West	DATE: 6 February 2019
VENUE: Balsall Heath Church Centre, Mary Street B12 9JU	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.50pm
COUNCILLORS: Shabrana Hussain, Mohammed Azim & Zhor Malik	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 13
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Chris Rigby, West Midland Police PCSO Lorriane Wheelan, West Midlands Police Watch Commander Peter Simmonds, WMFS	APOLOGY: Roger Godsiff M.P.

Dawn McGhie, Local Resident took the Chair for this meeting

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:
<p>1. <u>Police Update</u></p> <p>Sergeant Rigby gave the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Priorities for the East sector were domestic violence, violent crime, car jacking/theft from vehicles. Arrests had been made– Traffic enforcement operations had been undertaken with DVLA and BCC and tickets issued for no tax and parking offences– Public Protection Orders issued in relation to aggressive begging on Stratford Road/Walford Road– WMNow & Twitter promoted as sources of information– Local team was keen to set up a Street Watch and volunteers were sought <p>In response to comments/questions from residents Sergeant Rigby made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Theft of catalytic converters from vehicles had not been a priority in the area. Prevention measures were needed from manufacturers & the Police & Crime Commissioner was supporting this. Any information should be forwarded to the team and contact details were provided.– Speeding – speed prevention vans were sent to areas according to data collected. However there were self-reporting forms available

and the use of go-pro cameras to collect video evidence could be sent to the police website. There were Go-Pro cameras that could be lent to residents and the evidence then assessed. **Councillor Malik offered to have a Go-Pro camera in his vehicle to try to track hot spot areas.**

- **Travellers, Calthorpe Park** – Councillor Malik advised that he had asked for barriers to be placed around the park and for it to be covered by an injunction. Sergeant Rigby said that work was ongoing with the City Council and any issues should be reported via the 101

West Midlands Fire Service Update

- Watch Commander Simmonds advised that the WMFS had speed indication signs that recorded data and could be used as a speed deterrent. He undertook to share data with the police with the view to a speed van being deployed in the area.
- Residents identified Walford Road as a hot spot area for speeding. **WMFS to look at deploying speed indication device on Walford Road & update at the next meeting.**
- Suggestions of sites to hold safety roadshows in the area were requested
- In response to an increase in accidental dwelling fires more Safe and Well visits were being arranged
- There had been a spike in car fires and the reasons were being investigated. Residents were urged to report abandoned vehicles.

2. Local Innovation Fund Updates

a) Balsall Heath & Sparkbrook Social Action Hub

Ian Edwards gave an overview of the progress of the project that had received LIF funding to work towards an elected neighbourhood council, production of a neighbourhood newsletter (copies were circulated), create a directory and a What's On Event calendar. The 'Arts on Prescription' project was being established whereby referrals could be made by GP's for people to join coffee mornings/events rather than receiving a prescription for medication. The Hub was working on the methodology and piloting with a GP practice. When a satisfactory model had been established it was hoped to roll out across the wards.

Residents were requested to send in ideas for the newsletter.

b) Get Balsall Heath Reading

Hafsha Shaikh gave an update on the progress of the project started to help parents help their children with reading to get families

learning together and using the library. Family learning projects had been set up with collaborative partners covering parenting, developing skills, volunteering, outings etc – the aim to develop aspirations for parents and in turn their children. Families that had never been outside the local area had been taken to the theatre and to parliament to develop awareness of democracy. A group of parents had met the local M.P. and this had opened a dialogue within families.

Get Balsall Heath Reading had won the 2018 Nursery World Award for working with parents and had an article published. In response to questions Hafsha said the project was open to all in Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath and invited councillors to visit to see the work that was being undertaken. PCSO Wheelan said she would speak at the conclusion of the meeting to see where help could be offered.

3. St Pauls Trust

Dave Cusack, Chief Executive gave an overview into the work of St Pauls Trust providing service and support for children and families from 5 sites across Balsall Heath & Sparkbrook, including an independent school for both secondary and primary aged children unable to cope in mainstream education, three nurseries, afterschool & holiday care/play schemes, family support service, the urban farm and a canal boat. Events for the wider community such as the Balsall Heath Carnival were also organised. St Pauls was now looking to new funding streams to work with older people, develop well-being services and prevention of social isolation.

4. Any other business

- a) Crime Prevention Tip** – residents advised to be mindful when withdrawing money from cash points in view of reported incidents of cash not being dispensed. Advice to use machines located in bank foyers.
- b) Police Twitter** – residents thanked the team for the information etc that was put on Twitter and asked that the police continue.
- c) Parking** – residents thanked the police for the ticketing operations that were being undertaken
- d) Stratford Road/Palmerston Road junction** – residents stated that this was becoming an increasingly dangerous junction due to cars parking on the double yellow lines and drivers not adhering to the bus lane. Enforcement was required and a pedestrian crossing near to Palmerston Road so that pedestrians could cross in safety. Cars also parked on the pavement leaving no room for pedestrians to walk.

Councillor Hussain undertook to take up the matter

- e) Balsall Heath Library – no recycling bin – Councillor Malik to pursue**
- f) Prostitution – Councillor Malik to raise at police tasking meeting**

Councillors (s) Signed:

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