

# **Birmingham City Council**

## **Handsworth Wood Ward Meeting**

**Wednesday 16 December 2015**

**7pm**

**Laurel Road Community Sports Centre, Laurel Road,**

**Handsworth B21 9PB**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present: Councillor Narinder Kooner**

Also present: Nick Reid, Operations Manager, Fleet & Waste Management  
Inspector Adam Henderson, West Midlands Police  
Ken Brown, Community Development & Support Officer

There were 14 residents present.

#### **1. Notice of Recording**

Noted by all.

#### **2. Apologies**

Councillor Atwal & Councillor Hamilton.

#### **3. Petitions**

None submitted.

#### **4. Police Issues**

##### **i) Scrap Metal Vans**

Concern regarding large vans full of scrap metal being parked on the street in Antrobus Road & Grove Lane.

**Action:-** Inspector Henderson to take details at conclusion of meeting, investigate and feed back via Cllr Kooner.

##### **ii) Anti Social Behaviour – Rookery Road**

Concern regarding anti-social behaviour around the Paddy Power betting shop, especially at night but also women attending the Womens Centre were having to walk through the groups of men and were being abused. Councillor Kooner asked if additional patrols could be put in force and queried the responsibility of the betting shop to ensure its customers were not creating a nuisance.

**Action:-** Out to consultation re Public Space Protection Order to be put in place to cover that area. Local team aware of the issues and the new Order would assist. Inspector Henderson said that as part of the Order the area would be patrolled so that enforcement action could be taken. In the interim he would try to increase patrols to the area although with decreasing resources he could not guarantee the frequency. He added that the Police could object to licenses for betting shops and Inspector Henderson undertook to speak to the licensing officers to see if there were any conditions attached to the licence.

##### **iii) Junction of Island Road/Holyhead Road**

The number of 'near miss' accidents being experienced at the junction were highlighted as motorists were not adhering to lanes and were turning right from the wrong lane.

**Action :- Councillor Kooner to take up but suggested use of the deployable 'slow down' sign. Inspector Henderson to speak to District Engineer.**

## **5. The Environment**

Nick Reid acknowledged that there had been some problems but that measures had been put in place and the number of complaints were falling. Additional drivers were being brought in to cover. With regard to leaf fall crews were working their way through to clear the leaves and patience was requested. Residents were asked to call 303 1112 to report any particularly slippery pavements.

Residents made the following points;

- Stockwell Road – bins pushed by crew against cars which had caused damage and had been reported.
- Wheelie bins once emptied were not returned to point of collection but were left on the pavement, in the road, across drives.
- Newcombe Road – spillages not cleared up by crews
- Large amounts of fly tipped rubbish on corner of Sandwell Road and around Oxhill Road, including furniture/mattresses dumped by landlords. Near to the shops on Rookery Road was another hot spot. This gave a poor image to the area and attracted crime. Residents undertook to raise at next police tasking meeting. Action needed to be taken against landlords
- Community groups organised clean ups but needed skips to provide a collection point for rubbish.
- Thanks were extended for the clearing of the alleyway from Headingley Road to Rookery Road and for putting the Laurel Road alleyways on the cleaning rota.
- Discussion regarding the importance of Neighbourhood Watch Groups. Cherry Orchard Neighbourhood Watch had been organising walkabouts and had been provided with high viz jackets.
- With Christmas coming up Councillor Kooner queried whether additional rubbish that could not be fitted in the wheelie bin would be collected from the side if left in black bags.
- Councillor Kooner highlighted a particular issue on Cherry Orchard Road where due to the early collection a resident had not put the bin out but had taken the bin to the crew further down the road and asked for it to be emptied. The crew had refused and the rubbish although left out had not been collected the following week.

## **Actions**

- Nick Reid undertook to take up the issue of damage to a vehicle in Stockwell Road and to remind crews about leaving bins where they had been collected from.
- The Council could not afford to keep removing fly tipped waste and were pursuing prosecution where possible. Nick Reid undertook to request the Waste Enforcement Team to go out to the areas mentioned and to see if some surveillance work could be undertaken.
- There was a considerable amount of work currently being undertaken with regard to landlords, including a register of landlords and funding to deal with rogue landlords. There was a list of landlords available and Inspector Henderson undertook to forward this to Cllr Kooner.
- With regard to skips Cllr Kooner said that this had been provided in the past and if groups contacted her she would see what could be arranged. Nick Reid advised that F&WM would support any group undertaking a community clean up and could provide gloves, bags and litter pickers and collect bags of rubbish from a specified point. It was suggested that any group organising a clean-up event work with Handsworth Helping Hands.

- Councillor Kooner referred to the Leader of the Council's commitment to provide each ward with a sum of money to undertake clean ups and undertook to discuss further with residents when the details were known
- Sergeant Williams was working on Neighbourhood Watch and Inspector Henderson undertook arrange a meeting to look at the District as a whole and see what funding could be available and report back. He advised that Neighbourhood Watch Groups could undertake walkabouts without a police accompaniment and could wear high viz jackets if they so wished. Councillor Kooner suggested that residents get together with established groups and those with an interest in starting a Watch group to see how they could help.

## **6. Residents Issues Open Forum**

### **a) Former Morrisons Supermarket Site**

Concern was expressed by residents regarding the security of the site since the supermarket closed and who would ensure that the land owners made the site secure. Councillor Kooner said that the gates had been secured but that as it was private land it was up to the landowner to make arrangements for security.

### **b) The Pavilion, Handsworth Park**

In response to a query meeting advised that the building would form part of a CAT as it was now surplus to the requirements of the City Council. Councillor Kooner agreed with comments made regarding the need for a resource in the Park and said she was campaigning for it to become a Health & Wellbeing Hub that could be used by the community.

**Residents supported the change of The Pavilion into a Health & Well Being Hub.**

### **c) Increase in Numbers of Rats**

Concern was expressed about the increasing numbers of rats visible in the area. The area outside the Co-op had not yet been concreted and was an area of concern. The Handsworth Wood Residents Association has hoped to site some flower pots there.

**Action:- Councillor Kooner agreed to raise this at the next Police Tasking meeting and Ken Brown undertook to speak to the District Engineer.**

### **c) Meeting Publicity**

**In response to comments about meeting notifications Councillor Kooner said that Councillors would be tapping into residents meetings and other groups as there would be fewer ward meetings due to reduced resources but that the community needed to work together. It was suggested that the Street Life website be used to publicise future meetings**

## **7. Authority to Chairman and Officers**

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm