

## HIGHTERS HEATH WARD MEETING

<b>WARD:</b> Highters Heath	<b>DATE:</b> 15 January 2020
<b>VENUE:</b> Warstock Community Centre, Daisy Farm Road B14 4QA	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.15pm
<b>COUNCILLOR</b> Adam Higgs	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 30
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> PC Nigel Crundwell & PC Dylan Darby, West Midlands Police Garry Peal, Events Manager, BCC Matt Hodgson, Velo Birmingham & West Midlands Team Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology from Sergeant Ogden

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Police Update

PC Crundwell reported that total reported crime had reduced, including robbery, burglary & vehicle crime.

Residents then raised the following points;

- Maypole Grove – policing was required to assist with the parking problems in the Grove that had worsened since the building of the new houses. This had been reported to the police on 3 occasions but no action had been taken. Cars were parked on corners, pavements and speeding was also a problem. PC Crundwell undertook to report this to Sgt Ogden
- Speeding A435 towards Becketts Farm – meeting advised this was covered by West Mercia Police but it would be reported to them
- Hollywood Primary School parking - Councillor Higgs reported that a petition had been submitted to City Council requesting the school be included in the Schools Parking Exclusion Zone and he explained that the area around the school would have residents only parking at drop off & pick up time with some exceptions. Councillor Higgs had met with the Head Teacher who was fully

supportive.

- Parking on the pavement outside Aldi, Maypole & similar problem outside the shops on Alcester Rd/Marsham Road – PC Crundwell to take on board

## **2. Velo Cycle Race**

Garry Peal – explained that Birmingham was hosting the Velo as cycling was a large part of the Transport Plan, was part of the CWG and was something to be promoted for work & pleasure. The route was explained and resident's questions welcomed.

Matt Hodgson provided details of the route which had been changed slightly from last year and could be found on the website at [velobirmingham.com](http://velobirmingham.com) along with details of road closures and other information. Comments from last year's event had been taken on board and more crossing points were being put along the route to allow access throughout the day, including Highters Heath Lane at Heath Rise.

Residents then made the following comments/raised the following concerns;

- At last year's Velo carers had been told that stewards would allow them access in their vehicles to the vulnerable people that they needed to attend to. However in reality the stewards on the day did not know about the arrangement and as they were not local people, had no knowledge of the roads and access by carers to their clients had been denied. Stewards who knew the area needed to be employed and sufficient crossing points needed to be in place. The problems experienced by carers last year could not be repeated this year.
- Ashdale Drive resident had been unable to access Maypole Lane and therefore was unable to return home following a night shift.
- Similar for a midwife living in Pickenham Road who had been unable to get home following a night shift
- It was queried why Father's Day had been chosen as the date to hold the Velo when more people would be moving in and out of the area
- Communication had been very poor
- It was queried why roads had to be closed from so early in the morning ie 7.30am
- The stewards had been ineffective, had not known the roads or the area and had not been able to deal with issues as they arose
- Heath Rise to Arundel Road crossing point had been particularly problematic last year as the stewards had not done their job

properly, had left the bollards in place and had allowed parking on Heath Rise/Arundel Road so that cars could not get across. This year 'no parking' enforcement was needed on the top part of both of those roads.

- Some stewards had been quite aggressive when challenged by residents trying to access their homes and no common sense had been applied to problems as they arose. This had led to altercations and it was suggested that stewards be better trained and briefed for the forthcoming event
- Residents should not be forced to stay in their homes on the day of the Velo for fear of not being able to return when they wanted to
- There were positive comments regarding the organisation – plenty of advance notice had been received enabling arrangements to be made for the day and it was a great event enjoyed by many local families.
- It was suggested that carers be provided a sticker for their cars to make them easily recognisable
- There were still signs around the area from last year's Velo.

In response to questions and comments made, Matt made the following points;

- The main issues raised appeared to be with the stewards and access for carers. Both of these issues were acknowledged as needing improvement and therefore the whole process was being reviewed and resident's comments taken on board.
- Stewards were currently being recruited and more local stewards were being sought to ease problems of last year.
- The roads were closed from 7.30am for safety reasons to allow stewards, signage and infrastructure for cyclists to be put in place. From that time to the race as much access as possible would be provided to residents using access points & common sense
- The original date for the Velo had been 28 June but had to be changed to the 21<sup>st</sup> to enable an elite cycling stage and to take account of the Olympic Games. In future years it would not take place on Father's Day
- The team was in contact with care providers and the process for those trying to do their job would be improved.
- With regard to access/parking in Shenstone Road/Pickenham Road etc a solution to that particular area could be looked into and Matt said he would take residents details at the conclusion of the meeting.

### **3. Warstock Community Centre**

Ken Axford, Chair of Warstock Community Centre outlined the history behind the community centre emphasising that it was not a city council facility but was a registered charity with the lease owned by the council. Funding had been received from the council up to 9/10 years ago but it now relied on income generation and fund raising.

A major concern was the need to attract more volunteers, especially young people to get involved in the running of the centre and especially to become trustees. Without some new people joining the centre might not continue into the future.

Ken gave a brief outline of the activities undertaken including lunch clubs, fitness classes & cookery classes. Every attempt was made to ensure that the activities provided what was needed in the area but any suggestions would be welcomed.

Volunteers were urged to come forward.

#### 4. **Residents Have Your Say**

##### **a) Update on Flooding**

Residents queried whether there was any information on the progress of the flood works as there had been 3 floods since June and action was required. A walkabout had been undertaken with officers and it had been determined that the water coming off the land needed addressing but that had been over a year ago and nothing had been heard since.

Councillor Higgs advised that the Flood Risk Management Team had been doing some modelling work and an email was supposed to have been sent to residents in November regarding setting up a FLAG. Residents confirmed nothing had been received.

**Action: Councillor Higgs undertook to pursue and get back to residents.**

Residents said one of the main issues was the drainage. Sparkhill had received a gulley cleanse and the same was needed in the area, especially Henlow Road as flooding was continuing whenever it rained. The drains were blocked and water was running over the drains outside no.3. Reference was made to the corner house on Henlow/Hawkhurst Roads where flooding was occurring and causing a danger when it froze. The road sweeper had been around the roads at 6.30am but due to parked cars this had been ineffective.

**Action: Councillor Higgs advised that Amey had been in contact with the house owner and he undertook to speak to the Amey Highway Steward regarding progress.**

**b) School Road, Manhole Cover**

In response to concerns raised regarding a temporary manhole cover that kept being removed by children, resident to forward details to Councillor Higgs to sort out.

**c) Blocked drain, Prince of Wales** – resident reported that he had reported a blocked drain and it had been cleared within an hour.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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