

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
HODGE HILL WARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2016
7.00PM
COLEBOURNE PRIMARY SCHOOL
STECHFORD ROAD
HODGE HILL
B34 6BJ

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Majid Mahmood and Fiona Williams

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
PC Daniel Turnbull – West Midlands Police (Hodge Hill Team)
Sgt Russell Webb – West Midlands Police (Hodge Hill Team)

Guest: Paul Averise, Head Teacher, Heathland Primary School

There were approx. 35 residents present.

Cllr Williams in the Chair

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

Noted by all.

Residents were reminded that permission must be sought from members of the public prior to taking their photograph or recording their comments.

2. APOLOGIES

Cllr Anita Ward and Lucy O’Grady, Customer Services Manager, Amey for absence.

3. HEATHLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL – PARENTS PARKING CONCERNS

Members and residents welcomed Mr Paul Averise, Head Teacher, Heathland Primary School.

Mr Averise advised of the following:-

- An open evening had been held with parents at the school to try and address the issue of parents parking when dropping off/picking up their child/ren.
- As part of the ongoing building improvement works to the school, the sole entrance to the school would be from the Heathway.

- From April, the Heathway entrance would be closed to enable the ground works/landscaping to be completed. Access to the school would be via Ashville Avenue with some car parking provision. Residents living nearby had already been notified of the forthcoming changes.
- Discussions were also ongoing with the on-site builders regarding creating pedestrian access from Buckland Road and the Heathway to the school.
- School staff was fully aware of the ongoing parking problems, and teachers were often at the school gate to speak to parents/advise accordingly about obstructive parking.
- The owner of the Hungry Horse Pub/restaurant had given permission for parents to use their car park free of charge for the school run.
- Parking concerns were always included in the regular school newsletter sent to parents/carers and in early May, the Road Safety Officer would be on site to advise/encourage parents and children to consider alternative modes of travel to and from school.

Responding to Mr Averise, residents expressed the following concerns:-

- Parents continued to ignore the repeated requests of those residents living close to the school whose driveways were blocked daily during the school run.
- Some parents were often rude and abusive when asked not to block driveways or to park elsewhere.
- School staff was also parking in Ashville Avenue and Buckland End as there was insufficient car parking space on the school site.
- Consideration should be given to creating a one way traffic flow system with a drop-off facility on the school site which would alleviate the parking problems experienced on the roads.
- Ashville Road was totally unsuitable for the main flow of traffic, and the plans for the Heathway should be reconsidered.
- Robust action should be taken against those parents who continued to ignore repeated requests not to block residents' driveways/park obstructively.
- It appeared that the school had not yet submitted their travel plan, which was one of the conditions of the Planning Consent.
- A petition submitted to the school containing approx. 70 signatures had not been responded to. Residents felt that their concerns were not being addressed by the school and that general communication was poor.

Following further discussion, the actions below were agreed:-

- Mr Averise to give consideration to the completion and adoption of the School Travel Action Plan.

- Mr Averise to advise staff not to park in the residential roads closest to the school.
- Members to contact the central Highways Team/local policing team regarding parking concerns, particularly on Ashville Road, and to request that consideration was given to closing the road during the school run.
- A more proactive approach to be taken to encourage parents to use the Hungry Horse car park during the school run.
- The local District Engineers to discuss the parking concerns with the school following the meeting.

4. WARD HIGHWAY ISSUES

Residents expressed the following concerns:-

- Ashville Road: drivers regularly exceeded the 20mph speed limit, and called for more robust enforcement action.
- An increase in the number of pot holes in the roads across the ward
- Parking on grassed verges was an ongoing cause for concern. Many had been left damaged, and that a more robust approach to tackling this issue should be considered.

Cllr Mahmood briefly advised that public protection orders were being considered by the City Council as this was an issue across the city, and gave details of a pilot initiative currently ongoing in Shard End Ward where drivers were fined £70.00 for parking on grassed verges.

5. RESIDENTS ISSUES AND CONCERN

- Fly-tipping and rubbish dumping in the ward continued to be a cause for concern. Recent hot spots included the former LDV site in Drews Lane/Washwood Heath Road and the Fox & Goose Shopping Centre.

Members advised that proactive enforcement action was being taken by Fleet and Waste Management Services; this had resulted in several successful prosecutions.

- Heathland Primary – the ongoing building works did not appear to conform to the planning application that had been approved. The playground was very close to existing residential houses, and the new building appeared to overlook the houses, leaving very little privacy for the occupants of the houses and school alike.

In addition, the school lighting was constantly left on during the late evening/night which affected those residents living in close proximity to the building.

Action:

Mr Averise to look into the building plans for the school and to advise residents and Members accordingly.

Cllr Williams to raise the concerns with Planning Enforcement and to advise the residents affected as appropriate.

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETING

The following were suggested:-

- Amey Ward Highway Issues
- Local Environmental Health Issues and Concerns
- Themed/single item agenda on a local issue of particular concern

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Noted that:-

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 20:05hrs