

# **Birmingham City Council**

## **Perry Barr Ward Forum Meeting**

**Thursday 28 September 2017**

**7pm**

**Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Councillor Jon Hunt and Councillor Morriam Jan  
Sergeant Charlotte Hunt & Inspector Noeleen Murrin, West Midlands Police  
Mark Croxford, Head of Environmental Services  
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were approximately 45 residents present.

1. **Election of a Chair for 2017/2018** – Councillor Hunt was elected as Chair
2. **Notice of Recording**  
Noted.
3. **Apologies** – Councillor Karen Trench, Mike Perks, Andy Poyner & Neil Payne
4. **Petitions**  
None received
5. **Police Update**  
Sergeant Hunt provided the following update;
  - Year on year crime numbers for burglaries had increased from 88 to 92 but the way in which burglaries were recorded had changed. Robbery numbers had remained the same and violent offences were down from 60 crimes to 36. Total crime had increased year on year by 3.3%.
  - Recent robberies had been park based, the issues identified and more patrols planned where possible.
  - The recent terrorist attacks across the country had impacted on the local team who had been called into the City Centre.
  - Investigations were ongoing into the double rape and 2 shootings in Witton
  - An injunction had been secured for Perry Park in relation to unlawful travellers so that action could be taken more quickly in future.
  - Reports received regarding an increase in begging at One Stop and action was being taken, along similar lines to the city centre, to reduce this.
  - Crime prevention advice providedInspector Murrin commented on the importance of receiving information from residents and also urged residents to sign up to WMNow to receive useful information.

Residents commented on televisions, lap tops etc being sold around the Beeches area and youths openly smoking cannabis on Tower Hill bridge which was intimidating for younger children. Sergeant Hunt undertook to take the details at the end of the meeting.

#### **6. Update on the Badshah Palace**

The Chair advised he had met with officers, police and the owner of the Badshah Palace over the summer to discuss ways of managing the issues arising. The owner had been invited to this meeting. The District Engineer was to arrange for bollards to be installed across the front of the premises to separate the pavement from the drive and prevent parking. The times that the venue had been operating had been raised with planning officers who would investigate if evidence was provided. Residents were thanked for monitoring and logging events.

Mark Croxford then made the following main points;

- The Badshah Palace did have a licence but it was only needed for a small part of the operation of the premises ie permission to play background music. No complaints had been received regarding background music.
- One of the conditions of the licence was the need to maintain CCTV for inside/outside the premises, therefore keeping the licence in place rather than seeking revocation would be more useful as the conditions could be monitored
- The noise monitoring equipment and CCTV had been monitored to ascertain the cause of the nuisance
- One of the most common complaints was in relation to drumming but the longest period recorded on the noise monitoring equipment was 7 minutes and the noise recorded was not loud enough to be a statutory nuisance. The recordings had not demonstrated any nuisance that met the statutory threshold.
- Car revving complaints – there had been instances but only 30/40 seconds captured on tape and officers had witnessed cars coming along Walsall Road but not going into the Badshah Palace. Any car engine noise on the car park had been for very short periods.
- The venue did have planning consent and was operating within it but were operating outside the hours of operation and this matter had been referred to the Head of Regulatory Enforcement.
- Parking issues had been referred to the enforcement section
- Litter – problems had been observed and therefore consideration was being given to serving a 'litter notice' to ensure the owners maintained/cleared a reasonable frontage in front of the premises. An Environmental Health Officer was working with the venue on this but it could not include the road or over the other side of the road.
- Fireworks – these were set off by individuals so difficult to hold The Badshah Palace responsible. Short periods had been captured on tape and it was acknowledged that it was a difficult thing to record. There was evidence that fireworks had been set off in the road but that was a matter for the police.
- Drones could be used to capture photographs of weddings but there was no evidence of them being used by the venue.

- After taking into consideration all of the aspects above, it could be said there was a general nuisance being created but the statutory threshold was not being met. Recording equipment had been used for 3/4 months to capture the information reported whereas such equipment would normally only be used for 2/3 days.

Sergeant Hunt made the following comments;

- She had met with the tenant and councillors. The owner had not felt he could attend the meeting as he was concerned about the reception he would receive. A further meeting had been arranged to try to work through concerns.
- Fireworks – the police have to see them being let off. The Badshah Palace attracted visitors from across the country but the owner had been asked to ensure that people hiring the venue were aware of the rules.
- Revving engines – the owner was very encouraging of police involvement and she was working with him on this and had spoken to him to ensure his security staff approached drivers and dealt with this issue.
- The drones had been reported but action would not be taken unless drivers were affected
- Police now had a calendar of events so were aware of large events taking place but there was still more work to be done on this. Where possible an officer would visit.
- Police did not enforce parking issues. Parking on the ambulance station had alleviated the situation a little and BCC would be encouraged to issue tickets.
- The tenant had been asked to reinstate the terms & conditions of hire previously displayed at the front of the building and a noise reduction screen had been suggested to the owner and was under consideration.
- As each event involved a different group of people engagement with the tenant and working with the residents to find a long term solution was the way forward.

The Chair noted that the double yellow lines on Law Cliffe Road had not yet been put down but this would offer further enforcement opportunities when completed. Part of the frontage of the premises was included in the double red lines so any parking should receive a penalty. Timings needed to be added to the list of events so that police and enforcement officers knew when to visit.

Residents then made the following comments;

- The City Council appeared to be ‘washing its hands’ of the problems
- The listed ‘Clifton’ sign had been removed so the owner was not adhering to planning conditions
- Drones were being flown over a main road
- Residents were being let down. Photographic evidence was available of fireworks being let off at the Badshah Palace
- The security guards were ineffective as they were located at the rear of the premises when the majority of issues were at the front. They needed to be better briefed and enforce the conditions of hire
- The drumming had been heard for up to half an hour at a time
- Guests were parking on Beeches Road creating difficulties for buses to manoeuvre

- Wedding processions were assembling at Tower Hill and revving engines before moving on towards the Badshah Palace. Cars were parking at the canal on Tower Hill to wait for the bride for some 30/40 minutes causing an obstruction
- The rubbish behind the premises was appalling
- Residents should not have to be disturbed by this business
- The tenant and owner needed to attend this meeting to hear first-hand the problems the venue was causing to residents.

In response to further comments Sergeant Hunt undertook to speak to the tenant in connection with the security staff being made aware of the problems and enforcing the conditions of hire. Any video footage or independent eye witnesses would assist. She would request more detailed event information from the tenant. Sergeant Hunt said she had not been made aware of the wedding processions and would look into it as she was concerned that roads were being blocked.

Councillor Jan advised the owner had been contacted and had spoken to the tenant about his responsibilities. She said the owner would be invited to a meeting with the police and residents.

Mark Croxford assured the meeting that everything possible had been done to monitor the Badshah Palace and officers had made rapid responses to issues that had been reported but unfortunately a statutory nuisance could not be proved. Any prosecution went to criminal court and breach of legislation had to be proved. If the licence was reviewed the only licensable activity to consider was background music.

The Chair summed up by saying that residents needed to continue to monitor and log evidence, including residents in Tower Hill. The Clifton building needed to be used but the owners must have respect for the community and powers available would be used to ensure this occurred.

#### **Actions:-**

- a) Parking Enforcement to be contacted to request more patrols on roads around the Badshah Palace – Mark Croxford**
- b) Enforcement of planning conditions to be raised with planning officers – Mark Croxford**
- c) Consideration of a Public Space Protection Order re assembly and wedding processions – Mark Croxford & Sergeant Hunt**
- d) Rubbish rear of premises – Mark Croxford**
- e) Meeting with tenant/owner to be arranged to take matters forward, small group of residents to be invited – Sergeant Hunt/Councillors – ultimate aim to discuss with tenant/owner at a ward meeting**

#### **7. Ward Action Plan**

The Chair circulated a ward plan document that captured priorities discussed at previous meetings and from local surveys for preparation of the local plan. Those issues that had been raised as ward priorities were;

- Anti social behaviour/crime
- Street Cleaning

- Future of Libraries
- Parks
- Road safety

Residents were requested to forward any comments to the councillors for inclusion in the plan.

## 8. Items of Concern

- a) Lavendon Road – Heavy goods lorries travelling along the road over-night.
- b) Polish Shop, industrial estate – food being sold – details to be provided to Mark Croxford for investigation.
- c) Speeding, Walsall Road – in response to concerns raised the Chair said that a request had been made for enforcement cameras especially in view of the high performance cars at the Badshah Palace and the use of the Walsall Road as a corridor for fast cars. Residents referred to drivers jumping red lights, doing u-turns and ignoring the 30mph speed limit. The recent accident had been a result of dangerous driving on Walsall Road. Request made for a filter lane sign at the Walsall Road/Rockey Lane junction by the crematorium and a no u-turn sign. Speed checks were also needed. **Councillor Jan undertook to pursue this.**
- d) Former Police Station – in response to questions the Chair advised that he had discussed with planning officers the possibility of the use of the premises as a place of worship and was aware that there were guidelines regarding where places of worship could be located and he did not believe the former police station complied. A planning application would have to be submitted and as yet nothing had come to light however the councillors would be notified and the 3B's Neighbourhood Forum Plan would also add weight to any planning application. Councillor Jan said she was aware that a group was fund raising for the money to purchase the building and she would advise residents of the outcome.
- e) Petition – Rocky Lane/Dorrington Road Speed Measures – **Councillor Jan to contact first named petitioners when information was received.**

## 9. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 9pm