

## WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Bartley Green	<b>DATE:</b> Thursday 25 <sup>TH</sup> July 2019
<b>VENUE:</b> Bartley Green Library, Adams Hill, B32 3QG	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7.30pm – 8.20pm
<b>COUNCILLORS:</b> Bruce Lines and John Lines	<b>NO. OF ATTENDEES:</b> 10
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team Clive French – Housing Development & Regeneration Julie Windsor-Price – Housing Services Deanna Zannetake – BM3 Architects	
<b>WARD PRIORITIES:</b>	
Already identified	
<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING</b>	
<b>Cllr John Lines in the Chair</b>	
<b>1. Notice of Recording</b> Residents were advised that members of the press or public may record and take photographs of the meeting.	
<b>2. Apologies</b> – submitted on behalf of WMFS, Sgt David Cotter, Bartley Green Neighbourhood Police Team, WMP and Sue Amey, District Parks Manager, Edgbaston, Northfield and Selly Oak Districts.	
<b>3. Local News Update and Updates:-</b>	
i) <b>Local Councillors</b> <b>Bartley Green Library &amp; Community Hub Update</b>	

Renovation works were still ongoing, however the building was now opened 2 days per week and discussions were also ongoing with a number of local groups and services to encourage them to use the premises for their activities on a more regular basis. Future events planned included a Summer Reading Challenge and a Craft Day on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Residents were also actively encouraged to use the green space at the back of the building for community/social events.

A special Thank You to Kerry Brewer, who was actively project managing the process, including the repairs. Residents interested in learning more about the Hub were encouraged to speak to Kerry following the meeting.

**ii) West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS)**

Officers had been unable to attend. Residents were reminded to carry out regular checks on their smoke detectors at home to ensure they were in good working order and to contact WMFS if they had any concerns/in need of advice.

**iii) West Midlands Police (WMP)**

Officers had been unable to attend again and had submitted their apologies. Residents expressed disappointment at the lack of visible policing and support in the ward as well as the lack of attendance at the ward meetings to hear residents' concerns. Crime across the ward seemed to be out of control with drug dealing being done openly; car crimes/thefts a regular occurrence along with the increase in violent crime.

**4. Senneley's Park Information Update**

Sue Amey, District Parks Manager had been unable to attend the meeting; however she had been in regular contact with both Cllrs and a further meeting was due to be held to discuss and agree the way forward with the redevelopment of pavilion and improved sports facilities. Both Cllrs had expressed concerns regarding the length of time taken to move things forward, and the proposed costs of approx. £1M which included substantial administration costs were also a cause for concern.

Several residents felt that other sports- not just football should be actively encouraged to use the facilities which would be beneficial to the wider community given the amount of money required to improve the facilities and that relocating the pavilion to another part of the park would encourage greater usage and minimise any loss of parking spaces around the site.

Cllr B Lines explained that the pitches had always been used for football and needed to be brought up to the specific standards required by Sport England and the Little Leagues if the venue was to remain one of the sports facilities for football at grassroots level. The facilities were

used by a number of local teams – all would need to find other premises if the upgrading was not carried out. In addition, the funding was ring-fenced to the current pavilion area and any relocation of the pavilion would require additional funding as well as planning permission. Once the draft final proposal had been drawn up, it would be subject to consultation before a decision was made.

Residents were advised that a further update regarding progress would be given at the next Ward meeting.

#### **5. Petitions**

A petition was submitted on behalf of residents living in close proximity to the illegal traveller encampment in the ward outlining their concerns regarding the wilful damage, rubbish dumping and anti-social practices including dumping of human excrement, stealing of electricity from the street lighting columns and general nuisance behaviour.

The petition would be forwarded to the relevant Council Section/Officers for investigation and response.

#### **6. Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust (BMHT) - Housing Development**

Following introductions, Clive French, Principal Housing Development Officer briefly advised of the following:-

##### **Long Nuke Road**

A Planning Application had been submitted for the development of the former Leisure Services site. The development would consist of:

##### **Sale units – 42 in total**

20 x 2-bedroom houses

22 x 3-bedroom houses

##### **Rent units – 22 in total**

9 x 2-bedroom houses

9 x 3-bedroom houses

4 x 4-bedroom houses

The development would be built by Birmingham Municipal Housing (BMHT) and a development contractor was expected to be appointed later this year with a start on site planned for Spring 2020.

### **Monmouth Road**

Negotiations were ongoing with the one remaining owner left in the flats above garages but it was hopeful that an agreement would be reached shortly which would enable them to move out. Arrangements would be made for the demolition of the four blocks in due course.

While planning permission had previously been secured for the development of this site, it was thought by planners and the Highways Department that the proposed road layout would not have been acceptable. There were questions as to whether all the properties met the new space standards, parking areas were too small and some rear gardens were under minimum requirements. There were also concerns about the number of trees that would have needed to be removed. As a result, it had been agreed that a new scheme would have to be drawn up to address these issues and a further planning application had been submitted earlier in the week.

The revised proposed development would consist of:

#### **Sale units - 44**

26 x 2-bed houses

14 x 3-bed houses

4 x 4-bed houses

#### **Rent units - 24**

15 x 2-bed bungalows

6 x 2-bed houses

3 x 3-bed houses

The process for the appointment of a development contractor would commence later this year and it was hoped that work would start on site in Spring 2020.

Cllr B Lines expressed some concerns that Lofton Close would end up being used as a rat-run and that traffic would significantly increase once the homes were completed. Clive advised that all concerns and objections would be taken into account and addressed before the decisions on the respective Planning Applications were made.

## **7. Residents News/Issues and Concerns**

- The trip rail removed from around the perimeter of the sheltered scheme in Moors Lane whilst the shrubs were being planted had not been reinstated. In addition, the newly planted shrubs had not been maintained and the whole area was looking unkempt and neglected.

Julie Windsor Price, Place Manager agreed to carry out a site inspection with residents.

- Keeping Fit and Healthy In Bartley Green – the local running coordinator for Asda Superstore in Barnes Hill briefly advised of her role in trying to get local people involved in activities to include their general health and fitness. Residents interested in finding out more about the initiative and how to get involved were able to contact her at Holloway Hall.
- Bartley Green Reservoir – Fishing and How to Get Involved – two local residents, who were also very keen fishermen briefly advised of the lack of designated fishing spots in the ward and felt that if specific areas could be opened up/made available by Severn Trent, this would be an excellent way to engage the whole community, particularly young people in a rewarding activity that involved tolerance, patience and a good understanding of the water and nature.

Whilst welcoming the suggestion, Cllr J Lines advised that Severn Trent had been approached before and a meeting had been arranged for residents to discuss the matter further with Severn Trent; however the meeting was poorly attended and Severn Trent had not been convinced this was supported by residents.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that interested residents should leave their contact details with Kerry at Holloway Hall or the library so that the issue could be taken forward if there was enough support.

- Clapgate Lane/entrance to Visitor Centre – road surface in need of urgent resurfacing. Concerns had been raised on several occasions and Amey had agreed to investigate, however nothing had been done.
- Jiggins Lane/Coombe Croft – road surface particularly poor and causing significant damage to vehicles, particularly those drivers of classic cars.
- Bangham Pit area – increase in rubbish/fly-tipping which has been mainly due to residents putting their bins out on the wrong collection day. A more proactive and robust approach to dealing with the issue was needed.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

To be agreed.

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ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Senneley's Park Improvements Update – further update on the planned improvements to be provided for a future meeting	District Parks Manager/Parks Dept.	Ongoing
2. Policing Concerns in the ward to be raised at the Police & Crime Panel meeting. Local policing team to be invited to attend future ward meetings	Cllr J Lines  Governance Team	Ongoing  Ongoing
3. Highway issues/road surfaces – Clapgate Lane, Lye Close Lane were in urgent need of attention.	Amey to investigate and advise Cllrs accordingly	Next/future meeting