

	KINGS NORTON WARD FORUM MEETING	
	TUESDAY 20 MARCH 2018 AT 7PM AT HAWKESLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE, EDGEWOOD ROAD B38 9RN	
	ACTION NOTES	
In Attendance	<p>Councillor Peter Griffiths (Chair) and Councillor Simon Jevon</p> <p>Glenn Smith, District Engineer Chris Richards, Highway Steward, Amey Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</p> <p>There were 12 residents in attendance</p>	
Apologies	Richard Burden M.P. Sgt Tandy & several residents submitted apologies	
Agenda Item		Action
1.	<u>Notice of Recording</u>	Noted
2.	<u>Petitions</u>	None submitted
3.	<p><u>Police & Fire Update</u></p> <p>The Chair gave the following update provided by Sergeant Tandy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Youth intervention programmes with primary school children years 4-6 identified as needing support to prevent them entering criminal justice system as an offender or victim. – Also developing a similar programme for key stage 1 children with Kings Norton Primary School. – Planning active streets events across the ward with BCC – Multi agency work to tackle small group of youths causing problems on The Three Estates – Following significant work undertaken by officers leading to arrests the spike in burglaries has dramatically reduced. <p>Residents queried when police tasking meetings were being held and the Chair undertook to find out if any dates had been set.</p> <p>The Chair advised that several orders had been served last week as warnings to parents and children of a group that had been causing problems around Hawkesley shops.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Fire Service be invited to the next meeting.</p>	
		WMFS invite to next meeting.

4.	<p><u>Local Innovation Fund Updates</u></p> <p>a) <u>The Stories of Us</u> Alex Aitken said that Northfield Arts Forum had linked with the Heritage Project to host a NAFCAF at Hawkesley Community Centre with a pay as you feel café and artists helping to create the heritage trail around Kings Norton. Personal stories would be collected and turned into art work and a number of events had been hosted, working with the local history group and local people. Anyone interested in being involved was urged to contact Alex. Other work included clean ups with Friends of Kings Norton Park and children's holiday clubs.</p> <p>b) <u>Kings Norton Together</u> Alicia Wilkes explained that the LIF funding had recently been received and that the project could now begin to gather pace. Kings Norton School working in conjunction with St Nicholas Place, Kings Norton Library and Councillor Jevon had been working together to set up a Facebook page – Kings Norton Together – and to organize an event at Kings Norton Library to display all of the school registers from 1912 onwards. There had been a lot of interest and another event would be held in the summer during the evening so that visitors could also look around the school. Children and an elder group from St Nicholas would be planting bulbs on The Green and regenerate the piece of land next to St Nicholas Place. A notice board for The Green had also been ordered so that events etc could be advertised. Computers/laptops would be purchased so that the children could help show older people how to use them. The group was organizing the Kings Norton Festival for 9 June and volunteers were required. Councillor Jevon said there was also a possibility of an open day at the fire station. Alicia said that the group was also involved with Kings Norton Library and the Library Manager was part of the group. Volunteers were also required to decorate the meeting room. A local resident said that the piece of land that the children were hoping to regenerate had originally been planted with Elizabethan plants. Councillor Jevon undertook to pass that onto the gardening group which had been set up to combat loneliness and isolation.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Amey Update</u></p> <p>The Chair said that issues relating to roads, potholes, street lights and pavements were repeatedly brought up at meetings.</p>	

Chris Richards said that the 5 year programme had been on hold due to legal proceedings. Amey was now waiting for the city council to sign off the programme so that resurfacing could commence. Residents complained at the number and depth of pot holes on local roads that were causing damage to vehicles. Chris advised that there was a budget for pot holes but additional funding was being awarded in view of the bad weather which had made the situation worse. Inspectors were undertaking walkabouts and any dangerous pothole would be made safe with a temporary repair, followed by final repair.

Vardon Way was noted as having particular problems but the number of parked cars and buses made it difficult for repairs to be undertaken. Chris advised that a mail drop and notice in local papers was undertaken when a road was to be resurfaced. Residents referred to roads with numerous potholes and suggested that all potholes in one road be repaired at one time and that sunken manhole covers also be repaired.

Councillor Jevon referred to problems around the train station during the bad weather as lorries were becoming stuck as there had been no gritting and this had a knock-on effect across neighbouring roads and asked that gritting be undertaken on a more strategic basis. Glenn Smith said that main routes were gritted and grit bins were not located on main routes. He undertook to look at additional grit bins for that area. Residents said that there needed to be a review in light of the recent weather as many residents had been unable to leave their homes due to the condition of the roads and pavements. While it was acknowledged that gritting was currently limited to main roads some consideration needed to be given to residential roads, especially those with bus routes. The meeting was advised that grit bin locations were determined by the winter service plan but this had not been reviewed since 2010. Staff continually monitored the roads and actioned gritters from the information collected.

The Chair said that the issue of the banks along Masshouse Lane, Redditch Road & Rednal Road collapsing reducing the width of the pavement had been raised by residents as it caused difficulties for pedestrians, especially those in motorised wheelchairs. Chris undertook to take the details.

In response to questions regarding the road system for the new Aldi store that had been raised at the last meeting Glenn advised that Redditch Road would be widened to accommodate a signalised junction to feed the road into Aldi and continue round to Shannon Road. Kier Homes would pay for the road works. A temporary bus stop would be sited on Redditch Road during the works. Planning permission for 60 new properties was also being sought. Residents stated that there had been no consultation on the road junction and there was concern that the new road layout

	would cause congestion on Redditch Road. Glenn said that the road layout had been agreed by Planning Committee when the original application was made 5 years ago.	
6.	<p><u>Residents Issues</u></p> <p>a) <u>Campion & Saffron Houses</u> – it was reported that the water supply to the tower blocks had been off for a day during recent bad weather. As the blocks were sheltered accommodation water should have been made available to the residents, many of whom could not leave their homes. Sainsbury, Northfield was the only place with water available and due to traffic congestion it took volunteers several hours to make cars journeys to collect the water. Severn Trent needed to be aware of where vulnerable people were housed and adopt a plan off assistance in such circumstances. The councillors indicated that they had been unaware that the blocks had been without water and expressed concern that they had not been advised. A resilience plan should have been in place.</p> <p>b) <u>Empty Properties</u> – concern was expressed that when void properties were left empty and the shutters put in the water should be turned off as flats were flooding.</p> <p>c) <u>The Fairway Day Centre</u> – supporters of the day centre attended the meeting and were very concerned at the way the situation was being handled and sought some assurances from the Cabinet Member and Graham Betts. Service users and carers were being encouraged to visit other day centres and they were engaging in this but service users preference was still to stay at Fairway. There was concern that if they did not indicate an alternative day centre as a preference and Fairway closed they would be told that there were no places elsewhere for them. The service users and carers have asked for an assurance that if they do put Fairway as their first preference and it closes they will be offered a place at their second preferred day centre. The meeting was advised that service users were being told that if they did not accept a place at an alternative day centre then there would be nowhere for them to go, however, if they did not chose Fairway as their preferred centre it would appear that no-one wanted to stay as Fairway and this would go further towards its closure. Obviously this was creating a great deal of stress for the service users and therefore a response was requested and the service users treated in a fair and open way. The Chair & Councillor Jevon undertook to pass those comments on.</p>	Chair & Cllr Jevon

	<p>d) <u>Thanks</u> The Chair thanked residents for attending meetings and taking part and to Councillor Jevon for his support. Councillor Jevon thanked Councillor Griffiths for the way in which he had chaired the meetings.</p>	
7.	<p><u>Authority to Chairman and Officers</u></p>	<p>Agreed The Chair agreed to consult Cllr Jevon in the event of a decision needing to be taken</p>

Meeting ended 8.15pm