

**SPARKHILL WARD MEETING
NOTES**

WARD: SPARKHILL	DATE: 22 OCTOBER
VENUE: ST JOHNS CHURCH, ST JOHNS ROAD	START/FINISH TIMES: 7.30pm – 9pm
COUNCILLOR NICKY BRENNAN	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 14
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: KAY THOMAS, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE MANAGER	APOLOGIES – COUNCILLOR FAZAL & ROGER GODSIFF M.P.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. WARD PRIORITIES & WARD PLAN

The meeting separated into 3 groups to consider, discuss and decide on priorities for the ward.

The topics of discussion were;

- Roads & highway
- Crime
- Housing
- Clean streets
- Young people
- Adults & social care
- Parks & the environment
- Flooding
- Mental health
- Other

Residents discussed each of the topics and the following issues were raised;

1. Roads & Highways

- Inconsiderate parking by residents
- Disabled bays being misused by relatives/owners – remove all illegal disabled bays
- Junction at Stratford Road/Baker Street – lights turn red yet Stratford Road traffic continues to turn right onto Baker Street
- Reintroduce road sweeper vehicles/road sweeper personnel on many of the side roads
- One way routes on congested roads
- Parking permits – 2 per family/frontage only for one
- Cycling needs & opportunities add blue route to red route
- Promote & fund local cycle project in partnership with Cycle UK – supports health & wellbeing
- Maintenance of road surfaces
- Shop frontages extend too far onto pavement – does not support pedestrians – impose a limit

2. Crime

- Ward has a bad press, how do we change it round to celebrate our diversity, investment & good advocates?
- Types of crime – our perception – a) drugs & related activities – knife crime & robberies, ASB, professional beggars or are they homeless, how do we sign post? b) parking – inconsiderate driving c) litter – shop owners – residents & visitors, protect our environment- do we love our area?
- Introduce zero tolerance policy in relation to ASB

3. Housing

- Un-occupied houses – what do we do?
- Quality of housing
- Regeneration opportunities eg windows, roofs, insulation, external
- Affordability
- First time buyers
- HMO's – rentals
- Exploitation of tenants

- Parking – parking permit schemes – use money to improve use of space
- Find new spaces
- Better public transport on red route – incentives to travel on buses – adventure game in holidays – bring it back (values heritage)

4. Clean Streets

- Rubbish bags are being dumped by bus stops and other random spots on Stratford Road/Springfield Road
- Fly tipping by alleyway opposite Craving
- Corner shop (Fernley Road) dumping rotten fruit etc on side of road
- Take-away customers dumping left over food bags on Fernley Road
- Tackle fly tipping by either installing CCTV in hot spot areas or through fines
- Extra charge for businesses for clearing up
- Regular clean ups involving the community
- Ward councillors (decision makers) engagement to litter pick

5. Young People

- Safe places to play or hang out or meet safely – see UK surveys
- Street wise project
- Link schools & university together
- Representation voice from education
- Role modelling
- Aspiration project – link to existing
- Successful member of community eg teachers, business, professional trade, doctors
- Young entrepreneurs
- Youth link – existing projects should work together
- Confident parenting workshops – share experience and skills
- Workshops eg drug advise

6. Adults & Social Care

- Create befriending projects
- How to support families caring for their elders
- Places to go – ring & ride info posted to homes
- Link hospital care – to inform families & equip with resources
- Educate families where to go for help
- Local projects – access
- Mosques & other places of worship to become more active – model good practice
- Education facilities
- Mobility support – equipment hire- obstructions that prevent freedom in disability
- Outdoor gym/fitness equipment

7. Park & the environment

- Better lighting in Sparkhill Park
- Tackle low level ASB in Sparkhill Park eg off road bikes, drugs, alcohol, dangerous dogs – introduce zero tolerance policy
- Bins – location – increase frequency of emptying & larger bins – fire retardant & vandal proof design
- Maintenance of barrier at Court Road leading to car park
- Improve grass cutting service, including removal of grass cuttings
- Request for lighting to be switched on at tennis courts
- Encroachment of local shops onto pavements – H&S issue – introduce zero tolerance
- Corner shop, Fernley Road displays across pavement, unsafe for pedestrians & rubbish dumping in back garden- bringing down the area.
- Pollution study needed to assess impact on health
- Natural opportunities to play – 10 design principles – ask play experts – needs to be inclusive for people with disabilities
- Pigeon excrement
- No more fast food restaurants – enough is enough!

8. Flooding

- More Action! Hill made bigger at back of Percy Road park
- River cleaned out more
- More trees planted in park, Percy Road
- Improve/regular checking of drainage in the entire ward
- Campaigns to educate residents about disposal of waste correctly eg oils, wipes etc
- Use various languages in campaigns

9. Mental Health

- Mental health in the Asian community – where to go, advertise support locally

10. Other

- Shared gully's – who is responsible for keeping them clean? Fire hazards?
- Cars parked on corner of Fernley Road/Stratford Road damaged pavement & made it unsafe
- More regular refuse collections
- Not enough bins

Top Priorities

There was then some discussion on what were the top priorities for the ward and the following were agreed with solutions;

1. Clean Streets

Overall the appearance of the Stratford Road had deteriorated considerably. Even when there were clean ups the black bags reappeared almost immediately. Pavements could not be properly cleaned due to the numbers of dumped black bags. Pavements were disgusting, similarly bus stops. Springfield Road was also poor.

Solutions – put up CCTV to catch fly tippers & prosecute – take a stand – police & enforcement officers to act

- Flats above shops created a nuisance as they had no bins and bags were put out daily so as not kept in homes – solution urgently needed to this – suggestion – communal bins
- Education was key – letter to all flats explaining about rubbish disposal, collection dates etc
- Street vendors do not remove their rubbish – add to problem

- Additional charge on shop keepers/businesses to go towards street cleaning - create a Business Improvement District, trade waste checks. **Invite Wayne Pell to a meeting with business representatives to discuss a BID**
- Litter picking barrow kept at Sparkhill Pool for residents to use for litter picks – publicise more widely -University of Wales was actively working in the area
- Council to fulfil obligation to clean up and collect after litter picks
- Additional cleaning needed for areas like Stratford Road – more businesses, more densely populated area needs more services, services proportionate to density.
- **Invite accountable people to ward meetings to discuss all priorities starting with Cabinet Member for Street Scene & Parks (Councillor Brennan)**
- **Councillor Brennan working with residents in Knowle Road to put in planters to improve the look of the road and stop parking. Residents in other roads to think about what they could do. (residents)**

2. Crime

- Introduce zero tolerance to ASB, drug dealing, littering, encroachment – Police to act
- Visible police presence needed in the ward to make zero tolerance effective. Local police officers needed on the streets
- Park Road – cars parking from out of the area, involved in drug dealing
- Drugs were a major issue in the area
- **Lighting major priority for Sparkhill Park – start a petition, find how to use POCA money, resurrect Friends of Sparkhill Park Group - University of Wales offered assistance (residents & councillors)**
- **Request Police to set up a dedicated Police Tasking Group for the ward (Councillor Brennan)**

3. Housing

- **Too many HMO's – area at saturation point, drain on local resources. Support for Article 4 Directive. Better consultation needed about new HMO's, better licensing.**
- Housing stock in area was old – improve appearance and energy efficiency by external cladding
- Empty homes – residents to report to councillors to bring to attention of Empty Homes Team that was working to bring houses

back into use **(residents)**

- Tenants unions – **Councillor Brennan organising meetings of tenants**

4. Roads & highways

- Parking, obstruction, disabled bay markings being used improperly main issues. Have a zero tolerance on inconsiderate parking.
Councillor Brennan to include reminder of use of disabled bays in forthcoming newsletter. More consultation with police about inconsiderate/illegal parking.
- Educate via letter to households regarding the do's & don'ts of parking, use of cones, legislation around parking.

5. Park & the Environment

- Improvements to Sparkhill Park including lighting etc
- **Invite Sparkhill Park manager to future meeting and re-establish the Friends of Group**

6. Flooding

- Gulley cleaning
- Educate residents about waste disposal down drains.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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