

**SPARKBROOK & BALSALL HEATH EAST & BALSALL HEATH WEST JOINT WARD MEETING  
NOTES**

<b>WARDS:</b> Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East & Balsall Heath West (Joint Meeting)	<b>DATE:</b> 29 May 2019
<b>VENUE:</b> Balsall Heath Church Centre, Mary Street B12 9JU	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.45pm
<b>COUNCILLORS</b> Shabrana Hussain & Zhor Malik	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 11
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Sgt Chris Rigby, West Midlands Police PCSO Lorraine Whelan, West Midlands Police Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	<b>Apologies – Councillor Azim Mohammed Ashraf &amp; Mr Hussain</b>

**MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:**

**1. Police Update**

Sergeant Chris Rigby provided the following update;

- During April a number of arrests had been made in relation to drug, domestic violence, motor offences and injunction breaches in respect of begging. 51 notices in respect of parking/motoring offences had been issued by police and a further 60 by city council enforcement officers. 12 vehicles had been seized.
- During May arrests had been made in connection with violent crime/firearms offences and failure to appear at court. There had been weapon recoveries from parks and further parking enforcement exercises, especially around zig zag markings and on Ladypool Road. An interim order had been issued in respect of individuals involved with drug dealing around Ladypool Road.
- Visits had been made to shops with Trading Standards officers re sale of knives
- Additional patrols in relation to violent crime across the ward.
- Total crime across the wards had increased in line with the trend across the Midlands

Residents made the following points;

- What was the current situation in respect of the protests at Anderton Park School?
- There was a perception that knife crime was increasing across the wards and that this was not being addressed despite the PCC having resources. Organisations/stakeholders were being given funding but the ward was not seeing any interventions.
- Concern expressed over response times & effect on public confidence in the police. As a result of long waiting times residents were reluctant to report crimes
- Concern expressed regarding police station closures
- Reference made to a stabbing & shooting on Edgbaston Road and an update requested
- Reports of open drug dealing around Balsall Heath
- Driving along Ladypool Road was becoming increasingly difficult due to the number of cars parked inconsiderately

In response, Sergeant Rigby said he was aware of the protests at Anderton Park School and had communications with both the school and protesters. It had been a challenge for the police to ensure peace was maintained and no offences committed but it was not a police role to close down a protest. No charges or arrests had been made to date. Residents said that the community had lived peacefully and that the press coverage was harmful to the area. Concern was expressed for the effect on staff and pupils and the nuisance caused to local residents.

With regard knife crime a holistic approach was required as the budget cuts across public services had an effect but all services needed to work together. There was a particular problem with hostels and a lack of premises management and this contributed to anti-social behaviour.

Sergeant Rigby explained the grading time for response to calls and that the local Neighbourhood Team undertook reassurance visits to victims of crime and also visited mosques, churches, schools etc. With regard to the stabbing/shooting incident, arrests had been made but no press statement released yet and Sergeant Rigby undertook to chase this up & communicate information through councillors. Ladypool Road was regularly patrolled and tickets issued & businesses had been provided with posters to display regarding obstructive parking. Details of parking operations were posted on the neighbourhood team Twitter page.

Councillor Malik said that he had spoken to parking enforcement regarding more patrols and they were coming out but met with so much abuse that they would only patrol with police.

In respect of a concern raised regarding a serious crime involving an elderly person Sergeant Rigby undertook to speak at the conclusion of the meeting.

## **2. Ward Plan**

Councillor Malik advised that the councillors had met to discuss the plan and priorities. From feedback priorities were;

- Parking congestion
- Litter/environment
- Road safety
- Drug issues
- Health
- Financial inclusion

These could be covered by looking at the following categories;

- Care strategy
- Prosperous community
- Healthy community

It was agreed by the meeting and as discussed at the previous meeting, to establish 2 working groups (one for each ward) to take the ward plans forward. It was noted that Balsall Heath already had a Neighbourhood Plan and councillors were requested to bring some influence to bear to get elements of that plan implemented. It was agreed that the Balsall Heath Plan be considered as part of the exercise and that the link to the plan shared – link to plan -

[https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/.../balsall\\_heath\\_neighbourhood\\_development\\_plan...](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/.../balsall_heath_neighbourhood_development_plan...)

Concern was expressed by residents regarding the outcome of the Plan and whether it would assist the residents or bring any new resources into the ward. Councillor Hussain said that a number of officers responsible for services in the ward had been contacted and asked what they could bring to the plan but no responses had been received. She undertook to follow this up.

Residents were asked to leave their contact details if interested in joining the working groups and to pass the information onto anyone not at the meeting who might like to take part.

### **3. Any Other Business**

- a) **ASB – Camrose Croft** – in response to concerns raised, Sgt Rigby undertook to take the details at the conclusion of the meeting.
- b) **Public Health Consultation** – in response to an enquiry regarding follow up dialogue with councillors after the presentation at the previous meeting, extreme dissatisfaction was expressed that there had been no proactive engagement
- c) **Request for parking enforcement officer to attend next meeting** – Councillor Malik to chase
- d) **Planning application for 12 bed HMO Stratford Road** – Councillor Hussain to make enquiries
- e) **Missed collections Canon Hill Road/Jakeman Road** – Councillor Malik advised that a special Saturday collection was to be made and a walkabout arranged with officers to ascertain the problems.
- f) **Fly tipping Edwards Road/ weeds/ Calthorpe Park playground vandalised/Veolia contract** – Councillor Malik advised that prosecutions were being made for fly tipping and while Amey were responsible for spraying weeds investigations were being made into parks taking control. Cllr Malik undertook to get an update regarding the current position regards the Amey contract and post on Facebook and similarly details of the Veolia contract.
- g) **Balsall Heath Forum** – in response to queries regarding the future of the Forum, Cllr Malik said that there had been an extension to the closure of the building to 11 June but councillors had received little information about the situation. He undertook to find out

more.

- h) Ladypool Road Eid Celebrations** – Councillors confirmed that they had not been approached regarding a road closure but that due to the numbers of people using the restaurants to celebrate the road closed by default.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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