

NEWTOWN WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Newtown	DATE: 18 June 2019
VENUE: Wallace Lawler Centre, Wheeler Street B19 2EL	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.05pm
COUNCILLOR Ziaul Islam	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 14
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Scott Edwards, West Midlands Police Joy Anibaba, Principal Housing Development Officer Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<p>1. <u>Police Update</u></p> <p>Sergeant Edwards provided the following update;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Resources had been re-focused to deal with knife and violent crime and additional police had been drafted into the area. The team was working with partners on diversionary projects with young people, focusing on schools. – Work also being undertaken with parking enforcement officers but local information was required to ensure the focus was in the most appropriate places – Other target issues – ASB/loitering – Dispersal Notices issued around Burbury Park, Inkerman House, & St Georges – Burglaries and robberies had reduced in comparison to same time last year. – PSPO at St Georges expired but application made for new order. PCSO's were to be given additional powers to enable proper enforcement. – 7 bids from the area made to the Active Citizens Fund, including The Lighthouse & Newbury School – Information from the community was vital and residents were encouraged to report via Crimestoppers, the Police website or the team email address. 	

Residents expressed concern regarding groups drinking alcohol in Wheeler Street shopping precinct and Sergeant Edwards advised officers were aware and had warned the group. Patrols would focus on the shops and would share information with the businesses that were in the process of establishing a Business Watch.

Residents reported a list of criminal activity occurring at Martineau Tower, Uxbridge Street and that families living in the block were suffering due to the actions of one resident. Sergeant Edwards undertook to take further details at the conclusion of the meeting and Councillor Islam undertook to pursue the matter with the police and housing officers.

2. New Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust Properties, Ventnor Road

Joy Anibaba outlined the details of the housing development of 8 houses on Ventnor Road which were due for completion in September. A local resident expressed considerable concern regarding the lack of information provided to residents regarding the development and said that the builders were leaving mud & gravel on surrounding roads and did not appear to appreciate they were working in a residential area. Joy undertook to raise the issue with the contractor. In response to questions she said that all of the properties were social housing and would be allocated from the waiting list. Land in Hospital Street had been cleared in readiness for 4 new properties to be built. The plans were in place but no start date had yet been approved. There was a programme for modular houses to be built on former garage sites across the city and further details could be provided.

3. Local Issues

a) Stainsby Avenue – residents reported that there had been no grass cutting for some time and the surrounding area was looking unkempt. There was rubbish that needed clearing and where some strimming had been undertaken the grass cuttings had been left. Children were unable to play on the grassed areas. Councillor Islam said that he had raised this matter previously and would continue to pursue. It was also reported that the drains at 19-49 Stainsby Avenue were blocked with mud from gas works and this caused flooding. Councillor Islam undertook to take this up. Residents called for more to be done by residents in the area to improve the appearance of local streets and that tenants should be encouraged to keep gardens tidy, remove rubbish and generally look after their street. The maisonettes also needed cleaning as it had been years since proper cleaning had been undertaken. Pat Whyte

suggested that residents arrange a meeting with their housing officer, organise a walkabout and make suggestions for improvements. They could then advise the outcomes at the next meeting.

b) Clean Air Zone – residents made reference to the delay in the introduction of the CAZ and there were still questions regarding the impact on residents living within the zone that had not been answered. Improvements to public transport needed to be made before the restrictions were put in place and it was still considered that the effect would be greatest on those who were already worse off. Councillor Islam undertook to invite an appropriate officer to the next meeting to answer questions.

c) Council Housing Maintenance – query regarding the lack of painting and general maintenance of properties in Newtown and whether there was a planned maintenance schedule. Joy Anibaba said that there had been a plan to demolish the properties but this had been put on hold due to lack of funding to purchase owned properties. Residents felt that the council needed to take visible action in the area to provide some faith to residents.

Councillor Islam advised he had met with the Leader of the Council regarding the proceeds from the sale of The Drum and had been told that a percentage had been earmarked for use in the community. He undertook to arrange a further meeting with the Leader and to invite residents. He asked anyone interested to leave their contact details at the conclusion of the meeting.

d) Ward Plan

There was some discussion regarding priorities and Pat Whyte advised that from the list it needed to be decided what should be tackled first, who would take responsibility, decide a timeline and possibly use a few streets as pilots in the first instance. It was agreed to discuss further at the next meeting

Councillors (s) Signed:

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