

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
SHARD END WARD MEETING
MONDAY 26 MARCH 2018
7PM
MACKADOWN SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB
MACKADOWN LANE
B33 0JG

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Marje Bridle, John Cotton and Ian Ward

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Sgt Dan Turnbull – West Midlands Police

There were 17 residents present.

Cllr M Bridle in the Chair

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Following introductions, Cllr Bridle, Ward Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chair advised that members of the press/public may record and/or take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

3. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Pt Whyte, Neighbourhood Development and Support Officer.

4. LOCAL NEWS/INFORMATION UPDATES

(i) West Midlands Police

Sgt Dan Turnbull advised of the following:-

- Shard End Police Station was earmarked for closure in late 2020 as part of the premises review carried out by West Midlands Police. The building had a low occupancy rate and WMP was looking to secure a more cost friendly venue locally, including a possible building share with another appropriate organisation. The Neighbourhood Policing team would still continue to be locally based however there would be no public access or 'front desk' for residents to be able to report a crime/incident to. Residents should continue to use the 101 or 999 telephone numbers to report non-emergency or emergency calls. Stechford Police Station would be the main station with public access for the East of the city.

Residents expressed concerns regarding the future closure plans for the station and felt that the local base should be kept if the police were to remain a vital part of the community and a focal point for flag bearing civic events like the

Remembrance Day Parade. Greater efforts should be made to retain the building, and where possible, co-sharing the premises. Further concerns were also expressed regarding the call handling for the 101 non-emergency services and feeling let down by the service offered by the call handlers.

Responding to residents' comments and concerns, Sgt Turnbull explained that the retention of a public access building was quite expensive, especially as policing numbers had significantly reduced over the years along with the policing budget. The building was vastly under-occupied and along with a number of other police stations across the city had been deemed surplus to requirements as the methods of policing had changed.

Residents would still be able to contact their local Neighbourhood Policing Team by email or through the 101 telephone number service, which had improved significantly following a number of complaints. Residents were also able to sign up to the new West Midlands Now (WM Now) website to receive information, alerts and updates relating to incidents in their immediate area as well as report non urgent crime/track reported incidents.

Cllr Ward advised that he had discussed his concerns regarding the possible closure with Police and Crime Commissioner and the importance of retaining a local base. Cllr Ward added that Members would continue to support the retention of the station, and would work alongside local residents to make robust representations against the proposed closure.

- Parking around school still remained a problem across the ward, and following a recent Primary Schools and Police Panel meeting, the 9 Primary schools had agreed to sign up to the Modeshift Stars Initiative.

The local Policing Team would continue to work alongside and support the schools to implement the initiative including proactive enforcement action. Officers were also looking into how prosecutions for obstructive driveway could be made more efficient and less protracted - further details this would be made available in due course.

Several residents suggested that double yellow lines on at least one side of the roads closest to the schools should be considered. Reference was made to the car parking at Heathway Primary which was particularly problematic and stressful for those residents living in the immediate vicinity of the school – driveways were regularly blocked, residents left unable to access/leave their homes and verbally abused on a daily basis by the unreasonable actions and behaviour of some parents on the school run.

Sgt Turnbull advised that discussions regarding these issues were ongoing with the District Engineer to try and find a suitable solution. In the meantime, proactive enforcement action would continue to be carried out and Fixed Penalty Notices issued for dangerous or obstructive parking.

- Burglaries – a pattern of burglaries had been identified in the Tile Cross area and neighbouring Sheldon and Solihull area. Officers were currently looking at/

monitoring the movement and activities of known offenders and residents living in these areas had been given home security advice and advised to remain vigilant.

- Anti-social behaviour – following on from the last meeting where a number of concerns were raised around the Packington Avenue area, a meeting had been arranged for residents in the immediate area as requested. A further meeting with a number of partner agencies would be arranged and residents advised accordingly. Residents had also been advised to consider community watch schemes including Neighbourhood Watch Schemes which officers were willing to support.
- Pithall Road – increased use of the road by learner drivers to practice their manoeuvres. The road was part of a busy bus route and this contributed to a build-up of traffic. The resident agreed to provide Sgt Turnbull with further details following the meeting.

Action: All to Note

(ii) Councillors Updates

- Ward Boundary Change

The Chair reminded residents of the changes to the current 40 ward boundaries across the city which would see the number of wards increased to 69.

The new electoral arrangements would come into effect following the Local Elections on 3 May 2018, with future elections taking place every four years.

Locally, the Shard End area north of the River Cole would become a single Member ward, while the area south of the River Cole would become a 2 Member ward known as Glebe Farm and Tile Cross.

Details of the new polling stations and ward would be issued to all residents on the electoral register within the next few weeks. Residents could also use the postcode checker on the City Council website to find their ward and polling station.

Residents thanked Members for their hard work and support with many issues in the ward over a significant number of years, and wished them well for the future.

- Commonwealth Games 2018 & 2022

Cllr Ward gave details of a small team of delegates from the City Council, including the Lord Mayor who would be attending the closing ceremony in Sydney on 15 April in readiness for the official handover to Birmingham 2022.

Birmingham's contribution to the ceremony would be beamed live from the city and would focus on its youthfulness and diversity.

Residents welcomed the update and commended Cllr Ward for his hard work and achievement with helping to secure the Games for the city.

- Community Caretaking Service – Welcome Change CiC

The Chair reminded residents of the range of services offered by the project and leaflets with details were distributed at the meeting. Volunteers with DIY and Gardening skills were still needed to help with training and delivering the services.

- Great British Spring Clean Weekend

Members thanked the residents/residents groups who took part in last weekend's Great British Spring Clean event. Equipment had been provided by the Keep Britain Tidy Charity. Support was also provided by a several partner agencies including the City Council's Dog Warden who had engaged proactively with dog walkers and the importance of clearing up after their pet.

Residents were reminded to remain vigilant and to report any concerns or incidents to the Ward Cllrs along with details/description of the alleged perpetrator if it was safe to do so.

Referring to the refuse collection/street cleansing service, residents felt that the street cleansing vehicle should be deployed after the bins had collected and not before as it currently was.

There were no other updates.

Action: All to Note

6. RESIDENTS NEWS UPDATES/CONCERNS AND ISSUES

Residents advised of the following matters of concern:-

- Hurst Lane/Milsom Grove - the area around the properties owned by Bromford Housing Association was in need of litter-picking/tidying up.

The Chair advised that the new street cleansing rota should be available after the Local Elections; in the meantime, the concerns raised would be referred to the Housing Association for action.

- Milsom Grove/Longshaw Grove – very poor and confusing road signage; the road names were placed in the wrong road. Cllr Cotton advised that Amey and Housing Officers had been made aware and were currently dealing with the request to rearrange the street names. The resident agreed to discuss the matter further with Cllr Cotton following the meeting.

- Hurst Lane - Cole Hall Lane – several pot holes in need of urgent repairs and the work carried out to some was shoddily done and in need of redoing.

Cllr Ward briefly advised of the dispute between Amey and the City Council regarding elements of the highways maintenance contract which had now been resolved by the Court. Discussions were ongoing regarding how both parties could move forward to ensure the remaining term of the contract was delivered.

Catching up with the significant number of pot holes repairs was one of the key priorities.

- Stechford/Iron Lane Roundabout Redevelopment – work was due to commence at the end of the year on the redesign/remodelling of the road layout to improve traffic flow/congestion.

- Stechford Pool and Leisure Centre – residents expressed disappointment at the insufficient number of parking spaces at the new centre, and felt that more parking spaces should have been provided if the use of the centre was to be fully maximised. Cllr Ward advised of the need to reduce traffic congestion on the roads and to encourage and promote the use of public transport as a viable alternative. Cllr Ward further advised that if sufficient car parking spaces continued to be provided for every development, then traffic congestion and tailbacks would continue to increase and roads remained gridlocked for lengthy periods of time. Officers would continue to work with all the relevant partner agencies regarding traffic management issues.

Action: All to Note.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members thanks residents for their continued support with issues in the ward during their years of service as Elected Members for Shard End Ward.

Future meeting details would be given in due course following the Local Elections on 3 May 2018.

No other issues raised.

7. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS

Noted and agreed that:-

“In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer had authority to act on behalf of the Committee”.

The Chair thanked residents for their attendance and active participation in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm