

**Birmingham City Council**  
**Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum**  
**Friday 29 January 2016 t 7pm at**  
**Reaside Community Centre, Ormond Road**

Present: Councillor Andy Cartwright, Councillor Jess Phillips  
Councillor Peter Griffiths (Chair of Northfield District Committee)  
Councillor Ian Bruckshaw (Frankely Parish Council)

Sergeant Khan – West Midlands Police  
John Burke – Operations Manager, Fleet & Waste Management  
Sue Amey – District Parks Manager  
Kay Thomas – Community Governance Manager

There were 10 residents also in attendance

1. **Election of Chair** – Councillor Andy Cartwright
2. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
3. **Apologies** – Councillor Ian Cruise
4. **Fleet & Waste Management Update**

John Burke acknowledged that there had been a number of issues with missed collections but that the recycling backlog should be cleared by Saturday. Enforcement was being stepped up re: dumped black bags hopefully leading to prosecutions.

25 February – collection day for old recycling boxes but residents encouraged to recycle for alternative uses.

Residents then made the following points;

- i) Recycling had not been collected from some streets since the service began.
- ii) Wheelie bins were not returned to point of collection by crews after being emptied and were left blocking pavements
- iii) The paper recycling pods had not been replaced in the wheelie bins and were missing.
- iv) The main problems were occurring in Frankley – e.g. Quarry House Close, Devon Road, Rea Fordway, Newman Way, returned to the wrong properties/driveways, lids were left open – making the area look unsightly.
- v) There had been no communication with the Frankley Parish Council in respect of the roll out of the wheelie bins.
- vi) A road sign had been knocked down in Eachway Lane
- vii) Assisted collections were not happening and this needed to be rectified as a matter of urgency
- viii) The pod for paper recycling was too small
- ix) There had been a pilot roll out of wheelie bins in Harborne and Brandwood Wards – had lessons been learned?

John Burke made the following responses to the issues raised;

- i) Some roads, cul-de-sacs for example were unsuitable for the wagons to enter therefore there had to be a muster point for the bins to be emptied but bins should be returned to the point of collection.
- ii) Missed collections were an issue as some newer roads were not in the A-Z used by crews. More detailed maps were supposed to be being issued and eventually Sat Nav technology would be fitted in the cabs.
- iii) The rounds were being undertaken by new crews and they were therefore having to learn the rounds and this was another reason for missed collections.
- iv) The wheelie bins that had been provided were larger than those used in the pilot project.
- v) Agency staff had been employed but this was being changed and there was a recruitment exercise currently underway to employ permanent staff.
- vi) The process for emptying bins was slower and motorists were asked to have patience if stopped behind a wagon and not try to overtake via the pavement as had been witnessed.
- vii) Black bags left out by wheelie bins would be collected while residents got used to the bins but ultimately they would be tagged, the householder written to, there would be involvement by the waste prevention team and ultimately prosecution.

#### **Actions;**

**John Burke undertook to a) email the Frankley Parish Council with details of the roll out. b) Take a note of the issues mentioned in respect of specific roads c) remind crews of the requirement to return bins to the point of collection d) investigate the damage to the road sign.**

The Chair referred to recent reports of crews being abused and said that this was not acceptable. The streets needed to be kept clean and there needed to be mutual respect of the crews, residents and the neighbourhood.

## **2. Update on Forestdale Park**

Sue Amey presented detailed plans of the proposals for the playground. Work would start on site as soon as planning approval was granted and the community would be involved in the work. It was hoped to arrange a working group with the Forum to bid for funding for additional equipment such as picnic tables.

In response to comments made regarding difficulties with refuse collection in the lower part of the park the meeting was advised that local residents were aware of this and had taken action.

In response to concerns regarding motorcycles entering the park, the meeting was advised that it was not possible to put up bollards etc to prevent them entirely as this would also prevent access to pushchairs and wheelchairs but any motor cycle activity should be reported to the police so that it could be monitored.

### **3. Boundary Commission Proposals**

Maps of the changes proposed by the Boundary Commission were circulated.

The Chair commented on the historic heritage associated with the name Longbridge and that under the proposals there would be no Longbridge Ward.

Councillor Bruckshaw said that the Frankley Parish Council had sent its views to the Boundary Commission – a great many ex-Rover employees lived in the Frankley area and Longbridge's industrial heritage was important to them.

Councillor Phillips urged residents to send their views to the Commission to preserve the Longbridge name.

### **4. Residents Issues**

- a) The Chair said that at the next meeting in Frankley he would be like the Parish Council to put forward items for the agenda that were relevant to the area.
- b) Cycle Path, Baalams Wood – the path from Rubery Lane to Arden Road was to be refurbished but it was queried whether anti-scrambler measures could be put in place to protect the cycle path. Frankley Parish Councillors undertook to check the trees for damage done during the recent strong winds.
- c) Golf Development – the Chair referred to the proposal to build homes on the North Worcester Golf Course and the pressure this would place on local infrastructure and amenities, roads and traffic. While there was a need for new homes it was only a viable proposition if the infrastructure was in place to support. Councillor Bruckshaw undertook to raise at the Northfield Strategic Housing Panel. The Chair added that the topic for discussion at the next Ward Forum meeting would be the Golf Course development.
- d) Frankley Parish Council Update
  - Street Watch Patrols – patrolling with police patrols so that the numbers of patrols could be doubled.
  - Through the HLB it was hoped to pay for bollards/trip rails/barriers to deter boy racers and additional bins in the Frankley/Cockhill area
  - Following ram-raids in Arden Road a project funded from the environmental budget was being drawn up to deter further raids.
  - Removal of green waste – a grant application was being made to fund a truck to assist with the removal of rubbish and fly tipped waste in Frankley Parish. The scheme would be monitored by the City Council as part of a scheme for reporting fly tipping and if successful the truck could be hired by other areas or the idea taken up elsewhere. Sergeant Khan suggested that Street Watch could also have an input by reporting any rubbish they found.
- e) Police Update

Sergeant Khan reported on the police restructure across Northfield. There was now a full strength team able to offer more coverage as there was a team dedicated to doing paperwork. In response to complaints of drug dealing in Rousay Close Sergeant Kahn undertook to do a letter drop in the area with a view to obtaining more information.

**Date of Next Meeting**

3 March 2016 at 6.30pm at The Meadows Primary School, Bristol Road South.

Meeting ended at 8.30pm