

SPARKHILL WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Sparkhill	DATE: 10 February 2023
VENUE: St Johns Church, St Johns Road B11 4RG	START/FINISH TIMES: 10am – 11am
COUNCILLORS Nicky Brennan & Rashad Mahmood	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 5
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Amer Khan, Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome

Councillor Brennan welcomed all to the meeting & advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items

2. Ward Action Plan

Councillor Brennan explained that all wards had been asked to review their ward plans and develop a new (or revised) Ward Action Plan for 2022 – 2026. To do this priorities, goals and actions needed to be identified to better enable residents, organisations and councillors to work together to achieve local solutions.

Ward priorities could be set across a range of themes such as (but not only) volunteering, High Streets, community

safety, parks, community gardens, litter picking and residents were asked for their views and ideas.

Councillor Brennan said that conversations had been had with residents and community groups and views invited via social media, a leaflet drop and school newsletters. Amer had arranged a meeting with a group of residents who wanted to establish a Friends of Percy Road Park and was surveying businesses regarding interest in a Sparkhill BID. A further priority was to formally constitute the Flood Action Group.

Residents raised the following issues for consideration as priorities for the ward plan –

- There were too many shisha lounges in the area and there were associated issues attached to them such as noise and nuisance to local residents. This matter had been reported by a number of residents who had requested that the meeting attendees raise it on their behalf.
- Stratford Road – appearance and shopping experience required improvement. Reduce litter, encroachment, more bins, deal with rubbish from flats above the shops, parking on pavements and nuisance beggars
- Community involvement was key to improvement and to assist the councillors in getting things done. Community groups in the area needed to work together more to help each other going forward. There was a focus around Sparkhill Park at the expense of other areas eg Wake Green Road & Tyseley part of the ward
- Use the MHRC as a focus to get the community out to help clean up the area
- Encourage more litter picking groups to help educate, build community involvement and look after the ward a street/area at a time
- Public toilet facilities required in view of the number of visitors to the area for the shopping facilities and restaurants etc
- Public transport – better links required. Bus services had reduced and been re-routed and the night-time

services were limited. There was no train station and the cycle route along College Road had been closed.

- School parking – measures needed to prevent safety issues caused by cars being driven on pavements, parking on junctions/over dropped kerbs/double yellow lines. Enforcement was felt to be key to stopping inconsiderate parking
- Business parking – measures to stop businesses parking along the Stratford Road, on the red route and in residential streets
- Improve community spirit

In response to some of the issues raised above, Councillor Brennan advised that bins were being provided for flats above shops to reduce rubbish on the streets and efforts were being made to ensure other residents had the right size bins. The Enforcement Team had been working along Stratford Road and notices and fines had been issued. There was a great deal of ongoing work that was not in the public domain.

Councillor Mahmood said that the litter picking groups were involving children to educate the next generation and he had been visiting schools and speaking about the local environment.

It was also noted that issues around begging were complex and required a multi-agency approach to tackle.

Action: Further meetings, including an on-line meeting, to be held to ensure community views collected as widely as possible. Ward plan to then be drafted by councillors and shared at a future meeting.