

WARD END WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Ward End	DATE: Thursday 18 th October 2018
VENUE: St. Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Avenue, Ward End	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9pm
COUNCILLOR: Mohammed Aikhlaq	NOs OF ATTENDEES: Approx. 50
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Team Firoza Loonat – Tenant Participation Officer, Hodge Hill District Apologies for absence submitted from the Local Policing Team	GUEST SPEAKERS: Cllr Majid Mahmood – Cabinet Member, Clean Streets, Waste & Recycling Natiesh Marshall – Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV), HS2 Project Melanie Ryan – Community Engagement Manager, Laing, O'Rourke & Murphy (LMJV), HS2 Project

WARD PRIORITIES:

None identified at this stage – work in progress

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1. Welcome and Introductions** – following introductions Cllr Aikhlaq welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Ward End Ward.
- 2. Notice of Recording** – Cllr Aikhlaq advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
- 3. Cllr News/Updates**
 - Residents were advised of the changes of the ward boundaries and ward names across the city prior to the Local Elections on 3 May 2018. Following the Elections, Cllr Aikhlaq was elected to serve as the sole Councillor for the new Ward End Ward.

- Cllr Aikhlaq suggested that future ward meetings could be held with neighbouring Bromford & Hodge Hill Ward, which was a natural fit for the ward if residents were in agreement. Single Ward meetings would continue, however, where issues affected both wards, this would be a sensible and practical solution, given the reduction across public services in resources including officer availability at every meeting.

Several residents felt that each ward should continue to meet separately and that should joint ward meetings be arranged, equal time and attention must be given to the issues in each ward.

Following a show of hands, most residents indicated a preference of separate ward meetings but that joint meetings should be held where appropriate.

- Alum Rock Community Forum (ARCF) – residents were briefly advised of the ongoing voluntary work carried out by the Community Forum across the two wards (Alum Rock & Ward End), working alongside the respective Ward Cllrs, the local policing teams and other partner agencies to make the area a cleaner and much safer place to live. Activities included weekly clean-ups, street patrols 4 evenings per week; helping to signpost vulnerable people on the streets to the appropriate support services, etc. The Forum had also been proactive in building up a good working relationship with the Eastern European community including the business/premises owners. Mr Ali (Chair, ARCF) highlighted the importance of everyone in the community working together to make the ward a cleaner, safer and more inclusive place in which to live.
- Housing Liaison Board (HLB) – Firoza Loonat, Tenant Participation Officer gave details of the involvement of the Housing Liaison Boards in Alum Rock and Ward End wards to address concerns relating to council owned properties and housing owned land. The HLB met on a monthly basis with Housing Officers and local Ward Cllr(s). Council tenants wanting to get involved should contact Firoza or their local Ward Cllr(s).

4. Waste Collection Service

Following introductions, Cllr Majid Mahmood, Cabinet Member, Cleaner Streets, Waste & Recycling advised of the changes to the working arrangements/patterns for the Waste Collection Service which had been introduced from w/c 14 September 2018. Crews were now required to work 5 days per week instead of 4 and that each crew had the same amount of properties; collection rounds had been altered/amended to ensure that the daily collection rounds were proportionate to the working day of 7:30 hours;

The rounds started at 5:30 am which meant that collection times would inevitably change throughout the rounds. The collection days across the ward would remain unchanged. As expected, a few problems had been experienced by residents and the collection crews

with a number of missed collections reported, however it was anticipated that these would be resolved as the crews settled into their new working arrangements.

Street Cleansing – took place across the ward over a four weekly period. Most roads were cleaned once within this period. Street cleansing maps would be issued to all Ward Councillors in due course which would enable Cllrs to keep track of the service.

Fly-tipping continued to be a huge problem across the city, with some wards blighted more than others.

Within the ward, Burney Lane, St Margaret's Road/Avenue and Stechford Lane had been identified as hot spot areas, with 376 reports of fly-tipping reported to date. Residents were reminded of the bulky waste collection charges where up to 6 items could be collected for £23.00. Alternatively, the Household Recycling Centres across the city (HRCs) were available for residents to use without charge.

Residents were reminded that larger sized wheelie bins were available for larger families/households which would help reduce side waste, and that greater efforts were needed to encourage more recycling in the ward. Business owners/traders were also encouraged to ensure that the appropriate trade waste arrangements were in place, and in some instances, a Community Protection Notice had been issued to traders who had not complied.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Church Walk – recycling not collected for several weeks despite repeated calls to the Contact Centre.

Action: Cllr Mahmood agreed to investigate and arrange for refuse/recycling to be collected.

- Ward End House – communal bins for the tower block remained uncollected for weeks despite repeated calls to the Contact Centre. Residents living in the flats had been told by crews the tower block was not on their collection list. In addition, one of the communal bins had been stolen and there was a mice infestation in the bin stores/surrounding areas. Cllr Mahmood explained that crews had been given responsibility to make the rota arrangements for tower blocks and agreed to arrange a site visit with Cllr Aikhlaq to resolve the matter.

Action: Cllrs Aikhlaq and Mahmood to arrange site visit.

- Fazeley Road – ongoing problems with fly-tipping by the railway line. Residents were advised that the land was owned by Network Rail who had responsibility for clearing the site and had been contacted several times.

Residents felt that they were continually let down by the services despite their efforts in trying to keep the streets tidy and treated less favourably than the more affluent areas. Repeated calls were made to the Contact Centre, yet rubbish/recycling remained uncollected for weeks on end, however many felt that residents living in the community should take greater responsibility in disposing of their

rubbish correctly and called for greater efforts in educating all sections of the community to do so.

5. High Speed 2 (HS2)Project – Information Update

Following introductions, a brief presentation was given to residents by representatives from LMJV (Laing, O'Rourke & Murphy) and Balfour Beatty, the main contractors who would be working on the HS2 project in Birmingham; LMJV would be responsible for the Early Works Contract and BBV (Balfour Beatty Vinci) the Main Works Contractor. A number of identified buildings at Heartlands Parkway would be demolished to make way for the new depot, and a number of job opportunities/apprenticeships & training were expected to be provided, which local people would be actively encouraged to apply for.

Two funding strands would also be available to support communities and local economies disrupted by the construction of Phase I of HS2 - Community & Environment Funding (CEF) & the Business & Local Economy Fund (BLEF). Further details regarding the funds, the types of projects funded and the criteria for applying were available on the following website www.Groundwork.org.uk/HS2funds

Concerns were expressed regarding the former LDV site acquired by HS2 and the long-term plans for use. Residents felt that the whole site should be redeveloped or released in order to minimise blight in the area, especially as the timescales for starting the project appeared uncertain. Traffic management issues and air pollution were also causes for concern and that every effort must be made to ensure that these were minimised as much as possible. Consideration should also be given to investing in the community, infrastructure and green open spaces like Ward End Park and that evidence of local people being employed/offered training and employment opportunities must be provided.

Residents were advised that both organisations involved with the HS2 project were committed to working with local people, schools, community/voluntary groups and organisations as well as public services like the City Council and Environment Agency, who were key partners in the project. A number of issues were still ongoing, including traffic surveys and remodelling, environmental impact assessments including the monitoring of air/noise pollution levels and wildlife inhabitants.

Residents' comments and concerns would be reported back to the senior project team to see how they could be taken on-board. Residents and local Cllrs/Wards affected by HS2 would continue to be kept informed and further updates on the project given at future Ward meetings/local residents meetings. Further details regarding the scheduled programme of works was available on the HS2 website.

Cllr Aikhlaq and residents thanked Natiesh and Melanie for their attendance and presentation.

6. Local Innovation Fund

Update deferred to the next meeting.

7. Residents News/Views/Updates

None given.

8. Petitions.

None submitted.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Weds 19th December, 7pm, St. Margaret's Church.

The Meeting closed at 9.05pm.