

JOINT SPARKBROOK & BALSALL HEATH EAST & BALSALL HEATH WEST WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Jt Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East & Balsall Heath West	DATE: 3 April 2019
VENUE: Sparkbrook Health & Community Centre	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.35pm
COUNCILLORS Shabrana Hussain, Mohammed Azim, Zhor Malik	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 11
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nasreen Akhtar & Cathy Lee, Public Health Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Mary Mockbell chaired this meeting

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1. Police Update

Meeting advised that apologies had been submitted on behalf of Sgt Rigby who was on rest days but a written update, statistics and example of a parking notice issued to drivers parking on Ladypool Road. Residents expressed concern regarding the lack of police representation at the ward meetings as they were concerned regarding the lack of police officers available to the ward, difficulty contacting the local team and felt Sparkbrook was a ‘forgotten’ area and that no action was being taken against drug issues, parking problems and the fear of crime that residents felt. Residents acknowledged the resourcing issues but felt that given the crime in the area policing was inadequate, police were not seen in the area & when a crime was reported there was no contact or follow up with the victim. The councillors were asked to write to the police expressing resident’s concerns.

A local resident suggested that people follow the Sparkbrook Team on Twitter as it showed that the team was out on the streets, did issue tickets and were taking action around the ward. Operation Park Safe was discussed and residents advised that photos of inappropriately parked cars could be sent into the local police team to take action. Some residents however felt doing this would put themselves at risk of abuse.

Councillor Malik said he had hoped that a representative could have been sent in the sergeant’s place and undertook to take up the issue. The councillors emphasised that residents should contact them with any issues that could not wait to be raised at a ward meeting

Action: At residents request Councillors to contact police to express concerns and request representation at future meetings.

Councillor Hussain to send Sgt Rigby the list of future meeting dates

Police representative and parking enforcement officer to be requested to attend the next meeting.

2. Public Health Green Paper Consultation

Nasreen Akhtar outlined the Public Health consultation, the priorities and some statistics relating to Sparkbrook. She asked that residents take part in the consultation that could be found on the Councils website, think about the ward plan and how public health could be shaped in the ward and referred to the Health & Well Being Board public meeting that was live streamed.

Residents expressed their frustrations as they had taken part in similar exercises in the past but inequalities in the wards had not changed and Sparkbrook was still ranked 2nd from bottom of the 69 Birmingham wards which demonstrated that no action had been taken to help citizens over the years. It was suggested that rather than paper exercises residents be asked what was needed at 'street level' and resources be committed to areas in need to invest in an infrastructure that would make positive changes. The process being discussed would not help the people of Sparkbrook. Residents had taken part in discussions previously on public health issues but had seen their ideas put into practice elsewhere rather than in their community. Residents questioned whether commenting on the consultation would mean any changes for Sparkbrook and whether there was any point in taking part. It was felt that conversations with the community before undertaking a consultation would be more beneficial. The statistics referred to at the start of the meeting did not inspire residents to take part, especially as similar statistics had been quoted some 4 years ago when a similar exercise had been undertaken. If there were some good news stories this would inspire people to take part.

There was some discussion about stakeholders/partnerships and residents felt that 'real' partners ie local people needed to be involved in the commissioning of local services as this would provide local knowledge and inspire local ownership.

It was queried whether after the consultation had ended data would be available to be reported to the ward meeting on the numbers that took part, outcomes etc?

There were also questions about how the consultation was promoted and how residents without access to the internet would be able to take part.

Nasreen undertook to feed the comments made into the consultation and said she hoped that as many people as possible would

complete the survey, including the comments made so that those views could be considered. She advised that questions could also be put to the Health & Well Being Board to hold officers to account. Nasreen acknowledged the comments regarding community engagement and undertook to take those back but said that ward forums were the mechanism to impart the information and hoped that residents would help spread the word. They were working with community groups and she undertook to provide councillors with a list of the groups involved.

3. Ward Priorities & Ward Planning

There was considerable discussion on the formation of a ward plan and the most appropriate way of starting the process and ensuring that views were captured from across the community and not just those residents who attended the ward meeting.

Reference was made to the priorities in the former ward plan as a starting point and to start the discussion on priorities for the new ward plan.

Action: It was suggested that a working group be established with councillors nominating people who represented various groups to be part of the group and work with officers to draw up a draft plan that could then be shared with the community.

Councillor Malik to facilitate the lead for the group. Further discussion at next ward meeting.

4. Any Other Business

a) **Clean Air Zone** – concerns expressed – **Councillors to Invite Cabinet Member to future meeting**

b) **Begging** – in response to concerns raised Cllr Hussain explained that a S60 Notice had been served on the original group who had moved on but a different group had taken their place, therefore the process needed to be repeated.

c) **Travellers** – in response to queries Cllr Malik said that an application had been made for fencing around Calthorpe Park and the council was pursuing an injunction to cover all Birmingham parks.

d) **Litter Pick Hayden Way** – a local resident said that she and her family had started a litter pick along Hayden Way but were in need of other local people to help. Cllr Hussain referred to a litter pick undertaken every Thursday at Grantham Road

e) **Planning Application Stratford Road/Kyrwicks Lane for 12 bed HMO** – Cllr Hussain referred to the application and invited residents to submit comments.

- f) **Issue with boiler, Hampden Retreat** – Cllr Malik to take details from resident at conclusion of meeting and take up with Director of Housing
- g) **Meeting Publicity** – more people needed to be made aware of ward meetings – suggestions welcomed.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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