

**PERRY BARR WARD MEETING  
NOTES**

<b>WARD:</b> Perry Barr	<b>DATE:</b> 24 April 2019
<b>VENUE:</b> Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm – 8.55pm
<b>COUNCILLORS</b> Jon Hunt & Morriam Jan	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 26
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> PC Louisa Rhoden, West Midlands Police Oliver Jones, West Midlands Fire Service Dr Dennis Wilkes & Pru Brown, Public Health Neil Carney, Project Director Commonwealth Games	

**MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:**

**1. Police & Fire Update**

Oliver Jones, West Midlands Fire Service (Perry Barr Station) gave an update on Safe & Well visits and explained what was included. Details of how to arrange a visit were left and the meeting was advised that officers could attend community group meetings and events as well as individual homes.

PC Rhoden gave an update on Community Speed Watch and that volunteers were being sought. A bid needed to be made for the device as soon as possible. Names could be provided at the conclusion of the meeting or to Sgt Uddin at the Tasking meeting. The community could decide locations including the Walsall Road if there were volunteers.

Residents said that a 'speed van' (mobile camera) was needed on the Walsall Road outside the Badshah Palace and PC Rhoden undertook to take that request back. Several residents expressed an interest in taking part in a Speed Watch and Cllr Hunt advised that Booths Farm Neighbourhood Watch was also interested.

Councillor Jan said that a Street Watch was starting in the area and was also looking for more volunteers.

## **2. Public Health Green Paper – Consultation**

Dr Wilkes outlined the consultation and the aim to tap into local understandings and link with Birmingham priorities. Views were being sought from residents about local issues and what would make a difference in the local area and at a local level. Details of how to respond to the consultation were shared.

Residents then made the following comments;

- Improving air quality was obviously important but how did this relate to the proposals to remove the A34 fly over and replace with traffic lights and stop/start traffic?
- Concern regarding those people who wanted to take part in the consultation but did not have access to the internet
- Were the questions ‘loaded’ or was there opportunity to express views?
- Groups such as Birchfield Harriers provided activities for children aged 8+ but did not advertise widely and this was something that could be addressed by Public Health
- The major source of public health inequality was poverty but this was not addressed

Councillor Jan said that an online consultation excluded those people who did not have access to a computer and that there should be an alternative available. Also the consultation had not been publicised and unless you actively searched for it residents would not be aware. Councillor Hunt referred to the Over 60’s group that had a substantial membership and the importance of their views to the consultation and therefore it was agreed that Ken collect comments from the group’s members and forward them to Councillor Hunt. Councillor Hunt said that school transport was a simple way of addressing some of the priorities by getting people walking, more use of public transport etc. However the new village being built in Perry Barr had 1,500 new homes but no primary school therefore reducing the opportunity to walk to school and a school being part of the community. These were issues that public health should be involved with.

In response Dr Wilkes made the following comments;

- Team members did work with planning officers and had toolkits to assist with planning applications. He undertook to raise the

issue of the A34 fly over

- With regard to the questions in the consultation - there were guided questions to assist with analysis but there were also free text boxes
- Accessibility to the consultation was taken seriously but via the website was the main route as there were no hard copies available.
- There were numerous community groups providing excellent activities and getting information out to the community was something that could be looked into
- Work had been undertaken on child poverty but economic planning needed to be more equitable and become part of BCC's strategy
- Traffic around schools was a major issue and a social change was required. This needed to be part of the planning process and part of BCC's strategy.

### **3. Arts Provision in North Birmingham**

Ammo Talwar outlined the consultation around Arts provision in the north of the city. Funding to arts projects had been reduced and therefore faith groups, schools, community venues etc had been visited to find out what was wanted and what was lacking. There was an opportunity for investment in the arts as part of the Commonwealth Games legacy. From the consultation it had been found that green spaces and parks, including small open spaces, were important to people – any ideas for funding for community based arts projects would be welcome.

Ammo could be contacted for further details on [ammo@punch-records.co.uk](mailto:ammo@punch-records.co.uk) or 07956 117 564

Full report to be forwarded to Councillor Hunt to post on 3B's Community Page.

### **4. Perry Park Master Plan**

Neil Carney outlined the main points of the Master Plan and undertook to go through the planning process in more detail at a future meeting. Residents then made the following comments and asked questions;

- There was no reference to Birchfield Harriers or outreach to the community

- Size of the track was queried & number of temporary seats being made available
- Concern expressed regarding the possible loss of mature trees
- Whilst residents were impressed at the scale of the ambition for the Park there was concern regarding what was achievable for the Games, whether work would continue after the Games and how the Park would be maintained
- The promise that the stadium would be a genuine legacy to the community as a community facility after the Games was welcomed, especially as currently it was not seen as a community facility. Residents queried what the community could contribute at this stage?
- There was a community aspiration to be part of the management structure as part of the legacy
- Opportunities for local employment during construction?
- Had the contractor for the new stadium been chosen?

Neil Carney responded to the points raised;

- Points raised regarding the stadium being a genuine community facility were clearly heard and acknowledged. A break down to the barriers preventing this were part of the work being undertaken and as part of this involvement of residents was welcomed
- The warm up space was a provision of the Games and would be placed behind the GMac. It was hoped that the throw space would be an enhanced green space post CWG.
- The track had to be 6 lanes & 40m
- There would be 1800 seats post CWG and temporary seating would be installed to create 40,000 seats for the Games. Use of temporary seating was usual for such large events
- Re the Park – access to the Games would be from the south side so base infra-structure would be a priority and other landscaping and structures such as the bandstand would be looked at after the Games.
- Residents were urged to keep dialogue open and engage with the planning process and generally voice their views/ideas. The management structure for the Commonwealth Campus was something that could be worked on together. Community representatives needed to come forward.
- Expressions of interest from contractors would be requested in 2 weeks and the chosen contractor appointed in October.

In respect of the transformation of the throwing space into public open space, Councillor Hunt asked that this be included as part of the planning process to ensure that post Games the proposal did not change. He added that the Residents Liaison Group meeting on 8 May would look at ways in which community engagement and communications could be improved.

5. **Councillor Updates**

- a) **Neighbourhood Plan** – Councillor Hunt reported that there was a 3B’s meeting on 2 May at 7pm at Beeches Evangelical Church and anyone living/working locally was entitled to be a member. The Plan was in draft form but was a statutory document able to influence planning and therefore would attempt to include proposals for the throw area.
- b) **A34 Flyover** – no updated news. Consultation launch awaited & an on-line petition had been started
- c) **Walsall Road Bus Lanes** – a site meeting with the Sprint Team had taken place at Tower Hill and there had been a conversation regarding bus stop at the post office, reduction in stops on Beeches Road and issues with the crossing. Point of U-turn into Tower Hill also discussed. Residents urged to make views known. Attempts made to find out how data collection was progressing. There was some optimism that an alternative bus lane plan could be delivered but there was an issue with single lane traffic. Concern expressed regarding congestion created by a single lane and that removal of the grassed central reservation meant arrangements needed to be made in respect of flooding & drain off. Councillor Hunt emphasised that the objective that all were working towards was to retain the hard shoulder on the Walsall Road.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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