

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
STECHFORD AND YARDLEY NORTH WARD MEETING
THURSDAY 18 MAY 2017
6.30PM
ST. EDBURGH'S CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD
YARDLEY
B33 8PD

MEETING NOTES

Present: Councillors Neil Eustace and Carol Jones

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Dave Prosser – Place Manager
Pat Whyte – Community Development and Support Officer
Sgt Ken Walters – West Midlands Police

There were 18 residents present.

Cllr Neil Eustace in the Chair

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that members of the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Dad who was currently quite poorly. Members and residents wished Cllr Dad a speedy recovery.

3. NEWS UPDATE FROM YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Local Resident and Forum Member -Brenda Capener

The Chairman advised of the recent passing of the late Brenda Capener. Members and residents paid warm tribute to Brenda and a minute's silence was observed in her memory.

Manor Park Flats

The heating system in the flats was due to be replaced between May and September. Crabtree House would be the first block to be completed.

Illegal Traveller Encampment

Travellers had gained access to the land by Charles James House/Manor Road. A meeting was recently held with staff from Housing and Parks regarding improving site security and access restrictions.

Iron Lane/Stechford Retail Park Highway Improvements

Plans were ongoing regarding the redesign and layout of the junction to improve traffic flow and congestion. Following Cabinet Committee approval, work on the junction was due to start next year. Major disruption and upheaval was expected, however the junction and traffic flow should be vastly improved once the works were completed. Residents would continue to be kept informed.

Bus Services

Changes to the bus services in the ward had been announced. A list of the changes had been made available – residents advised to should contact Cllr Jones for further details.

Glebe Library

Discussions were ongoing with the Councillors in neighbouring Shard End Ward regarding the use of the library and its facilities.

There were no further updates.

4. WARD LOCAL INNOVATION FUND

The Chairman advised that following the last meeting, it was agreed that LIF Proposals should be submitted to the Ward Councillors for consideration ahead of ward meeting.

To date, three proposals had been submitted and representatives from the organisations invited to briefly present their proposal to the meeting.

(i) The Holiday Kitchen

Susan Larkin briefly outlined the initial proposal for the project which was aimed at addressing several social factors, including food poverty and financial stress, as well as provide support and essential life/social skills for families most in need.

Responding to questions, Susan Larkin advised the programme was aimed at parents/carers with school aged children; the teaching of basic skills including cooking and financial management was an essential part. Partnership working with a number of other agencies and volunteers was also essential if the programme was to be successful and sustainable.

Members and residents welcomed and supported the proposal.

(ii) SARA Group (Speed Awareness Responsive Action)

Nigel Smith briefly outlined the initial proposal for the project, which was aimed at tackling driving speed within the ward, and raising awareness of the effect speeding had on all sections of the local community.

Responding to questions, Nigel gave details of the plans to involve all sections of the community, particularly young people to look the wider implications of speeding, and for perpetrators to meet/hear the concerns and views of representatives from

the local community. Partnership working with the local policing team, West Midlands Fire Service, community groups/organisations, schools and other youth groups/forums was essential in order for the programme to be successful. Information gathering/intelligence could also be used to aid/provide a more targeted approach to speeding to tackling issues in the hot spot areas.

Members and residents welcomed and supported the proposal.

(iii) Stechford In Bloom

Faydene Gillings-Grant briefly outline the aim of the proposal to improve/enhance the environmental appearance of the ward through a number of 'Green' initiatives, which would be led and supported by local residents/road champions.

Responding to questions, Faydene explained that encouraging residents to take ownership/responsibility for their road or a small area would help restore civic pride and build community spirit. Partnership working with a number of key agencies including schools, churches, businesses, community and voluntary groups as well as individual residents were essential if the project was to be successful and sustainable.

Members and residents welcomed and supported the proposal.

Members requested that the project representatives continued to work with Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer regarding developing their project proposal so that the final version could be signed off.

Action: All to Note

5. RESIDENTS UPDATES, ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Northmead Bungalows

Local residents advised of ongoing problems within the sheltered housing scheme; these included noise nuisance, rubbish dumping, fly-tipping and general anti-social behaviour.

The alleged perpetrator was known to officers and behaviour had been reported several times, however, no action had been taken, which was very distressing and disappointing to the residents.

Following a request from the Chairman, the Place Manager agreed to discuss the matter further with residents at the end of the meeting.

Anti-social & Nuisance Behaviour – Conservation Area

Residents advised of the anti-social behaviour and practices of a resident living in close proximity to the Conservation Area.

Cars/vans were often parked obstructively, some were untaxed and in a poor state of disrepair; fly-tipping and rubbish dumping had also increased, and one of the

vehicles had been set on fire. Residents felt that CCTV security cameras should be reinstated.

Following a request from the Chairman, Sgt Walters agreed to investigate.

Post Office Closure/Poolway Redevelopment

Residents expressed concerns regarding the closure of the Post Office located within the Co-op as part of the redevelopment of the Poolway Shopping Centre.

Demolition of the centre was due to commence later in the year, which meant there would be no local Post Office facilities until the redevelopment was completed.

6. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Consideration was given to the following outstanding actions:-

Ref No	Concern raised by	Nature of complaint	Action to be taken	Responsible Officer	Response Target Date
01	Resident	Vacant land adjacent to police station - plans for long-term use unknown Update given – land part owned by City Council. long term plans still to be decided Update given – long term plans still unknown	Ward Chairman to investigate	Ward Chairman	Ongoing/next meeting
02	Resident	Flaxey Road Shops and Flats – ongoing problems with rubbish dumping by premises owners and tenants Update given – most of the site had been cleared by the Council and costs charged to the landlord Update given – Cllr Jones had recently visited the site; cleanliness appeared to be maintained	Cllr Dad had been dealing with the issues and agreed to continue to investigate Continue to monitor Continue to monitor	Cllr Dad Cllr Dad Cllrs Dad & Jones	Ongoing/next meeting Ongoing Ongoing
03	Resident	Flaxey Road Shops – ongoing problem with obstructive parking on the pavement; a blue Skoda was regularly parked across the	Cllr Dad currently dealing with the issues. Proactive action had been carried out by Civil Enforcement	Cllr Dad	Ongoing

		dropped kerb No further update available as Cllr Dad was unable to attend the meeting due to illness	Officers, and several cars issued with Fixed Penalty Notices	Cllr Dad	Ongoing
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7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT FUTURE MEETINGS

Poolway Redevelopment Update
Iron Lane Road Works Improvement Scheme
Co-op Sports Ground Redevelopment Update
Northmead Sheltered Housing Scheme Update

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 18 July or Thursday 20 July 2017, 6.30pm, St Edburgha's Church Trust School

9. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Noted and agreed that:-

"In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee".

The meeting closed at 8.00pm