

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**ERDINGTON DISTRICT
COMMITTEE TUESDAY 27
SEPTEMBER 2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ERDINGTON
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 27
SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOM 2, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Josh Jones in the Chair;

Councillors Robert Alden, Bob Beauchamp, Des Hughes, Mick Finnegan, Penny Holbrook, Gareth Moore, Gary Sambrook and Ron Storer.

ALSO PRESENT :-

Mike Davis – District Head (Erdington)
Michelle Wilkins – Chairperson Erdington Health and Wellbeing Group
Martin Smith – Regulatory Services
John Porter – Parks Manager
Inspector Mark Ward – West Midlands Police
Sarah Stride – Committee Manager.

NOTICE OF RECORDING

346 The Chairman advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

347 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mick Brown, Lynda Clinton, Mike Sharpe and Richard Stanton, West Midlands Fire Service for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

348 **RESOLVED:-**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

ERDINGTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2016/17

The following report of the District Head, Erdington was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

The Chairman advised that all amendments, additions and actions highlighted by Members at the last meeting had been incorporated in the report now submitted.

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RESOLVED:-

That the Erdington District Community Plan 2016/17 be approved.

ERDINGTON HEALTH AND WELLBEING GROUP UPDATE

Michelle Wilkins, Chairperson Erdington Health and Wellbeing Group gave a verbal report and made the following particular points:

- Background information – the Erdington Health and Wellbeing group is a group of organisations and statutory sector bodies such as the local authority, public health and CCG that deliver health and wellbeing services within the Erdington District area. The aim of the group is to discuss joint priorities and how to develop a common approach as to how services are best delivered.
- The group can also hold partners accountable for contracts that the City Council has put in place to ensure that all residents in the Erdington District has equal access to the services provided.
- Year 3 delivery strategy – the group has focussed on the following key objectives:
 - Creating a group that has an influencing function and can identify opportunities and provide solutions and create sustainability to help enhance the health and wellbeing of Erdington residents
 - To create a District which uses a platform of the ‘five ways to wellbeing’ to provide opportunities for people to be connected, active, take notice and keep learning. Work with partners to develop ways in order to maximise the uptake of lifestyle services.
- Key outcomes:
 - Work together with local community organisations such as Witton Lodge Community Association, Kingstanding Food Community, local children’s centres, John Taylor Hospice, Reach Out Recovery (contracted to deal with alcohol and drugs), Active Parks, West Midlands Fire Service, Public Health and Elected Members. Aim to grow the membership of outside bodies. Any organisation that has a health and wellbeing remit was welcome to join.
 - Ask every individual partner to take some responsibility for attaining an achievement in the plan.
 - Sharing common approaches, identifying pathways between services, planning community awareness events such as the mental health awareness day.
 - Every partner group has to produce a feedback report on their goals and achievements within the plan. The next reporting month was October 2016. Groups and individuals within those groups

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were all committed to producing a service that can achieve excellence for the residents in Erdington.

Mike Davis, District Head stated that he would forward a copy of the Erdington Health and Wellbeing Plan to all District Members at the conclusion of the meeting. He thanked Michelle and the Health and Wellbeing Group for all the excellent work that they had achieved to date.

Councillor Gary Sambrook gave details of a new group called the 'Kingstanding Health improvement Panel' and suggested that Panel members be invited to attend future meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Group.

Michele Wilkins stated that she was more than happy to engage with the group and suggested that she liaise with Councillor Sambrook to identify a representative who would be available to attend a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked Michelle Wilkins for her attendance and hoped that the Health and Wellbeing Group will continue producing excellent results into the future.

It was –

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on Erdington Health and Wellbeing Group be noted.

ERDINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE 2015/2016 REPORT – PROGRESS ON RECOMMENDATIONS

The following report of the District Head, Erdington was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

Mike Davis, District Head introduced Martin Smith, Regulation and Enforcement and John Porter, Parks Manager to the meeting.

In referring to the report he drew Members attention to page 4 of the document which listed the recommendations and the suggested timescales for completion of works and suggested that a progress report on all actions taken be submitted in September 2016 and March 2017.

The following briefing note which outlined a number of recommendations in progress from Nick Reed, Depot Manager, Environmental Services was circulated at the meeting:

(See Document No. 3)

John Porter gave a brief progress report on recommendations 14–18 as outlined in the report and made the following additional comments:

- **Recommendation 14.** Meadow creation across the District – Community support and Member support is flourishing. The meadows at Castle Vale and

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The Pimple have been a success and The Friends of The Pimple have secured additional funding from Tesco to help continue their work in producing a meadow for next year.

- **Recommendation 15.** Central Government cuts have affected the Grounds Maintenance specification and therefore core standards Citywide are being re-addressed and re-considered.
- **Recommendation 16.** Growing the number of Friends of Groups with support from Birmingham Open Spaces Forum. Recent Groups formed are The Pimple and Friends of Rookery Park. Officers continue to support and offer advice on how to access external funding.
- **Recommendation 17.** As with recommendation 15, Central Government cuts will have an influence on this consideration. Savings need to be made in the grounds maintenance contract.
- **Recommendation 18.** Work undertaken by Highways and Witton Lodge Community Association. Offer support and assistance where required.

In response to questions raised he assured Members that stated that he would re-circulate the Grounds Maintenance Specification report to all Members of the District.

Members also expressed concern that voluntary organisations and Community Groups, whilst offering and providing an excellent service in their 'keep it clean campaigns' were being faced with a bill to remove and dispose of all waste that they had collected. All Members considered this action to be unfair and immoral and they urged the Parks Manager to look at alternative ways in which the rubbish could be disposed of or whether the Environmental Services Department can assist and collect free of charge.

Concern was expressed that tree basal growth in parks in particular were not being trimmed and left to overgrow and look unsightly and could in some incidences be a trip hazard to pedestrians. John Porter advised that he would investigate who was responsible for contractually fulfilling this task and relay his findings to District Members via email.

Martin Smith, gave a brief verbal update on the briefing note that was circulated at the meeting:

- **Recommendation 8.** There is no legal requirement to have a trade waste contract. However, if a business does generate waste then arrangements have to be put in place to have that waste safely removed. There are no statutory requirements for the City Council to inspect a business for trade waste but there are a number of other ways in which the Council can inspect a business through regular and routine inspections such as food hygiene, health and safety and licensing etc and officers can then also include trade waste removal within that inspection. On top of this the Department receive complaints or intelligence if a business is not removing their business waste in an appropriate manner then enforcement operations and investigations can take place. Across the District in 2015/16 there were 63 enquiries reported to the Department that required investigation and 41 of those businesses had

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enforcement action imposed upon them via a fixed penalty notice. 5 of those 41 businesses have since been prosecuted for failing to dispose of their trade waste. However, there are a lot of businesses that are fully compliant and do dispose of their waste lawfully. In view of this the City Council is looking to develop a star rating system scheme whereby business will be able to promote to their customers and each other that they are disposing of their trade waste in a lawful and safe manner.

- **Recommendation 9.** How can the Council communicate better with all agencies, partners, Members and the public about what has gone on and what is proposed to do. There are some legal requirements and data protection issues which do not allow the City Council to communicate whilst an investigation is ongoing. The Council's enforcement policy is to engage, educate and as a last resort to enforce to bring about behavioural change. Flats above shops – roll out of wheelie bins. Residents have welcomed the scheme and through the correct communication the scheme has become a success. Keeps streets and areas litter free as unlike the black bags wildlife cannot access the contents.
- **Recommendations 3 and 4.** Waste management looking at what resources the streets require rather than what resources are available. Smaller streets require alley cat sweepers. Resources dependent upon the geographical character of the area.
- **Recommendation 5.** There is no 'one size fits all' model for street cleansing and how the Council educate, advise and deploy enforcement. Washwood Heath/Hall Green pilot scheme looking at changing the deployment regime for waste management to see what impact that has on the streets. Aim to influence change and improve service provision.
- **Recommendation 6.** Environmental Quality Surveys - regular surveys and have a standard assessment. Micro surveys being undertaken to pinpoint hotspot areas of concern.
- **Recommendation 7.** Recycling banks – areas in the City where items get abandoned or become areas where recycling items can be left. These areas are being withdrawn. Supermarket and private recycling facilities/points will remain in place.
- **Recommendation 10.** Fly-posting – includes placards, lamp columns and historic fly-posting locations where individuals, illegally, post forthcoming events. Over the years have used a wide range of enforcement techniques to prevent the occurrence of fly-posting. Used both criminal law and civil law have been used to deter offenders. Amey officers have the authority to remove the placards and where businesses have been identified their licence has been 'called in' to review.

Members expressed concern that many of the recommendations mentioned in the verbal presentation had not been fulfilled and that communication with Members was very poor. There has been no mention of what activities have taken place or what actions have been achieved and no substantial data to back the claims made.

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The Chairman agreed with comments made and stated that information sharing with Members was very poor, such as Ward cleansing exercises etc. He stated that a lot of work still required to be done and that Scrutiny should be made aware of the lack of actions achieved.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report on the Erdington Neighbourhood Challenge 2015/2016 – Progress on recommendations be noted and that further information and all statistical information be submitted to the next meeting of the Erdington District Committee for consideration and scrutiny at the March 2017 District Committee.

POLICE UPDATE

Mark Ward, Chief Inspector Birmingham North and Birmingham East areas gave a verbal presentation and made the following particular points:

- Crime statistics and ASB levels are all reported at Ward/local Tasking Groups and at the Community Safety Partnership meetings.
- Update on West Midlands Police and the 2020 Programme – how WMP are meeting issues of austerity, moving forward and improving service provision.
- Transition State 1 – comes into force in November. Will not affect to a great degree Local Neighbourhood Policing. In fact it is proposed that there will be a slight increase in the numbers in the Neighbourhood Team to include not only more PCSO's but also Police Officers. All Wards will see a slight increase in the number of Police Officers in their areas. Work has been undertaken to assess the geographical need of Police Officers in all areas. Erdington District has been selected as being at the highest level/need of demand. The Local Policing Unit will now become the Neighbourhood Policing Unit and the Birmingham North and the Birmingham East areas as they were previously called will now become one Policing Unit. Present Local Neighbourhood Inspectors will remain in situ.
- Ongoing operations – vehicle off road and street racing (A38 in particular). The Courts recently heard a City wide injunction request, proceedings were adjourned and the Court's decision outcome is proposed to be announced shortly. If given approval both off road motorcycles and vehicle street racing will be prohibited throughout the streets of Birmingham.
- Operation Pelkin – Conservative Party Conference. Work ongoing.
- He sought clarification, and it was confirmed that there were no intentions of holding a Pype Hayes Bonfire Celebration this year.
- Halloween – Police resources have been allocated across the District as per particular need. Slight increase in ASB expected.
- Active Citizenship Programme – WMP working with the community. World Café (6 – 8 October 2016) in Stockland Green. Hope to attract approx. 150 residents from across the District to have a tea/coffee gathering event where 3 questions will be asked: 1. What makes you proud of your area? 2. What would make you proud of your area? 3. How can we improve as a community to make it happen? Aim to find 25 volunteer community mentors to work within their community to be trained and run further events of this type in the future. Community priorities will become apparent and shared. Funding is available for

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community groups to bid and the community will take ownership and decide which community group will be successful.

- Erdington High Street – The Acorn Public House – will hear shortly as to whether the Landlord has appealed against the closure order.
- Erdington District Police and Primary Schools Panel – looking at safeguarding at an earlier age.

Mark Ward responded appropriately to comments raised by Members and it was -

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RESOLVED:-

That the verbal presentation from West Midlands Police be noted.

FIRE UPDATE

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RESOLVED:-

The District Committee were informed that the representative from West Midlands Fire was not in attendance at the meeting and had sent apologies.

HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT- QUARTER 1 2016/17

The following report of the District Head, Erdington was submitted:-

(See Document No. 4)

Mike Davis, District Head introduced the report and apologised that Patrick Canavan, Housing Manager was unavailable to attend the meeting in person.

Members requested that Patrick Canavan provide a response at the next meeting to the following questions:

1. The report needs more in-depth information such as examples of service failures and what action has taken place to resolve them.
2. Appointments made by the call centre and the repair team do not attend and give no explanation. Customers left confused and angry.
3. Gas/boiler repairs. Ongoing problem for many years. Need to resolve this problem before the winter months. Cannot leave customers without heating.

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RESOLVED:-

That the Housing Transformation Board Performance report be noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1. Erdington Trusts

355 The Chairman advised that a letter went out to all interested parties and organisations inviting them to attend a meeting with the City Council to discuss partnership working. Many of the Organisations responded by stating that the time period was too short and requested that the meeting be rescheduled. During the months of July and August many individuals were on their summer holiday so it was agreed that another date be arranged that would be more suitable for all to attend. A new date will be proposed in the near future and a copy of the letter will be circulated to all District Members.

The Chairman assured Members that they would be kept up to date on the progress via a monthly email to all Members.

2. District Champion Feedback

356 The Chairman assured Members that District Champions will be required to report back on progress and actions taken at future meetings of the District Committee.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

357 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 1534 hours.

CHAIRMAN