

Ward Forum 11th March, 6:00 pm via Teams

Virtual Advice Bureau

I have continued doing weekly on-line advice bureau every Friday, via Teams from six until seven o'clock. You can find the link on my page on the council website. I am, as usual, still available on the phone to all residents. So, if you have any trouble getting online, you are welcome to contact me by phone at any time.

I am including some information here to give you an idea of the amount of casework I do and the range, from ASB to planning issues – and many, many cases of fly-tipping.

2020	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Adult Social Services	5		1	2	
Allotments		1	1		
ASB/HMOs	6		3	2	5
Children's Trust		2			
Council Tax	4	3	6	3	6
Dog Warden	3		1	1	
Environmental	15			2	
Fly-tipping	54	48	47	37	68
Grass Verges		1	1	2	
Highways/Kier	15	12	18	7	8
Household Waste	9	9	6	14	18
Housing	36	21	6	11	27
Other		6	3		
Parking		6	4		
Parks		4	2	4	3
Planning	10	6	1	4	7
Police	20	8	3	11	
Schools	2		4	2	

Meetings

I have attended the meetings of the Full Council via Teams. At the last meeting I presented my Lead Member Report on the work of the Fire and Rescue Service. February's Council meeting was the budget setting meeting that give an idea of funding for the next year.

There was a report presented to January's Council meeting on fly-tipping and what we can do to tackle it. So, the budget has made money available to try some new initiatives to clean up our streets and catch the culprits. The Council will recruit Community Wardens to work with residents and the police to stamp out this blight on our streets. Wardens will have the powers to fine anyone they catch dumping rubbish. These ideas are being piloted in a few wards first. The initiative will then be rolled out across the city.

I continue to attend the West Midlands Fire Authority meetings and the sub-committee meetings as well.

I also attend meetings of the Yardley Neighbourhood Network Service to assess funding applications made by local groups to their small grants fund.

Housing

I also have regular monthly meeting with senior managers in our Housing Department to discuss the concerns raised by residents. The main issue at the moment is the door entry system at Coppice House. The system is old and beyond repair. I can confirm that additional security will be in place until the 7th April. Work has already started on the new system which should be up and running by the middle of April.

The Communal work is continuing on the tower blocks. I had some complaints about the skips outside. I have spoken to the manager who got the mess cleaned up. John Dunleavy will be at the meeting to answer any questions residents might have.

S106, Hay Mills High Street Project

Many of you will have seen the planters that are on Coventry road. A great deal of work has gone into painting the containers and planting them. I have had a final meeting with Sylvia and Roxy. There are two more planters to go. The site for these has been identified and Sylvia will give us an update at the next meeting. My thanks to all who have been involved in making this project such a success.

Cultural Project Feasibility Study

I also want to give you a heads up of a feasibility project that is coming to Hay Mills. Khawateen Creative Mind and No.11 Arts are leading it this time. We have started a public consultation in Hay Mills, in order to find what the public interest is in the upcoming Commonwealth Game in 2022 and we have already had a number of responses. We would like to develop a project proposal for an arts & cultural project for our residents based on the findings. Gurminder will be at the meeting to update us on this.

If you would like further information on this, please contact Bano at, bano@artsintheyard.org

Celebrating Communities

This is a universal small grant award related to the City Council's role in hosting the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The fund has been established to help communities to carry out more localised activities, such as street parties, picnics and community celebrations. All proposals must comply with the appropriate Covid-19 guidance at the time of the project or event. Grants may be accessed to run initiatives which deliver against one of the following three themes:

- Get Active
- Ready, Steady, Fun
- Celebrating Culture

I will be talking to all local groups because I want every part of the ward to be involved. If you are interested in the scheme, please let me know and I will invite you to the meeting.

St Cyprian's Memorial Hall

Arts in the Yard and Inspired Steps are also working on a project to refurbish St Cyprian's Memorial Hall. The Veolia Foundation trust has already made a contribution to the cost of this project. The Tyseley Energy Park and the Hay Mills Foundation Trust are also contributing to the efforts to bring this building back into use for the benefit of local residents. Nicola Toms will be at the meeting to update us on this project.

Fly Tipping

As you can see from the figures above, fly-tipping continues to be major cause of complaints, not just in the area, but across the city. I have had some covert operations conducted in the ward. I am waiting for feedback from these. This kind of operation can only be conducted with a court order and it can only be done for twelve weeks at a time.

The bad weather and other issues has led to an increase in missed collections. I have had a meeting with our Fleet and Waste manger to address these issues.

We also discussed the issues around street cleaning and identified some of the worst streets to be prioritised for cleaning.

Census

It is important to do the census and work with the census office. There is some lack of trust in the purpose of the census. People think that they are being checked on or having their status investigated. The purpose of the census is to help with planning for health services, schools and housing. So, we have invited Aysha to come to the meeting to present and to answer any questions.

Parking

I would like to thank the Yardley Police team for all of their work in lifting the cars in the area that have no tax or insurance or are illegally parked.

Exempt HMOs

I have recently objected to a planning application for a four bedroomed HMO on Kathleen Road. I have had a response from our Planning Department to say that this application has been rejected by them.

I have had a meeting with Councillor colleagues and residents about the ongoing proposals for the Elite site on Stockfield Road. we have put in an objection to the planning Inspectorate.

Planning Applications

The old Faringdon Club site on Berkeley Road was a magnet for illegal fly-tippers. I have now had the site boarded up and work has started on the new homes to be built there. I would like to thank Lee Parkinson and John Harrison for their work in getting this site tidied up.

Old Lucas's Site, Shaftmoor Lane

Work as started on this site, so the site will no longer attract the fly-tipping that it a attracted in the past

Colliers on the Warwick Road, planning application knocking down two buildings.

Oaklands

With regards to the recent planting in the Oaklands, there are planting defects works planned next week to fill in gaps for where plants have failed or where whips did not survive in the summer. I have recently reported a vandalised tree and graffiti in the park. The police do regular walkabouts in the park due to the

ASB by youths. I have also reported dog owners not picking up the mess left by their dogs.

On the football pitches, they are been inspected on a regular basis but at the moment they are too wet to do the earth quaking. The soil needs to be dry. As soon as conditions permit this will be done.

The cricket squares have had some work done on them recently so they can be ready for play.