

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

ERDINGTON WARD MEETING

21 OCTOBER 2015

1900HRS

ST BARNABAS CHURCH

HIGH STREET

ERDINGTON

B23 6SY

MEETING NOTES

Present: - Councillor Robert Alden in the Chair;

Councillors Bob Beauchamp and Gareth Moore

Guest Speakers: Dave Wagg – Leisure Projects and Client Manager, BCC
Lee Nash and Steve Mwaura – Urban Devotion

Officers Present: Mike Davis – District Head, Erdington
Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
John Mole – District Support Officer

Approximately 30 residents present

1. Notice of Recording

Noted

2. Apologies

Cllr Beauchamp for lateness.

3. Erdington Pool and Leisure Centre – Pool Designs

The Chairman welcomed Dave Wagg, Leisure Projects and Client Manager, BCC.

It was noted that Cllrs Beauchamp and Moore would not be participating in the discussion as both were members of the Planning Committee.

Mr Wagg briefly advised of the proposals for the new pool and leisure centre which would replace the old Erdington Pool building on Mason Road.

The new centre would include a fitness suite; multi-purpose studio; café facilities; viewing gallery; two swimming pools (including 13m x 8m learning pool); steam and sauna facilities; dry and wet-side changing facilities, including family and school changing areas.

Mr Wagg drew residents' attention to the designs on display in the meeting room and advised of the following:-

- The designs would be on display in the existing pool and leisure centre from the following week
- A two week consultation would be undertaken from 24 November to 4 December; this would include 2 all day drop-in sessions at Erdington Pool and Erdington Library. All partners involved with the building of the new pool and leisure centre would be present during the drop-in sessions.
- Residents' views and comments were actively sought on the designs and proposals.
- Greater use of the facilities amongst community and youth groups was encouraged, and it would be useful to engage with a number of these groups during the consultation process.

The following points were made by residents:-

- There was insufficient parking allocated for the new site. Lack of parking facilities would have a significant impact on residents living nearby, and increase problems caused by on-street/obstructive parking.
- Greater efforts should be made to secure parking facilities for the leisure centre.
- The current opening and operating times by Serco meant adult swimmers were disadvantaged; residents expressed concerns that this would continue once the new pool opened for business.
- Local residents may not be able to afford to use the facilities if there was a significant increase in fees.
- Swimming clubs would be given priority for the use of the pool ahead of local users.
- The height of the building would overlook neighbouring houses.

- The aesthetics of the new building must be in-keeping with the surrounding properties.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wagg for his attendance and update and encouraged residents to attend the drop in consultation days once the dates were known.

4. Urban Devotion – Information Update

Lee Nash and Steve Mwaura briefly advised of the youth and community development work carried out with young people across the ward. This included:-

- A weekly youth club at St Margaret's Church, which was actively supported by the Church, and well attended by the young people. Discussions were ongoing with the Church to see how the programme could be extended to accommodate the demand in youth facilities as a result of the increase in new homes and families in the ward.
- A Monday Night Mobile Youth Bus donated by the police – this was a drop in facility offering support and advice to teenagers out and about.
- Street Level Work – outreach youth and engagement work with young people; encouraging young people out on the streets to become more involved in their local community; offering support and advice. Recently, young people gathering in Short Heath Park had been helped to secure a set of football goals to enable them to play structured football matches. Unfortunately, the goals had been vandalised; however the young people had indicated their desire to carry on with these games, and support to the group would continue.
- Domestic Violence/Abuse/Sexual Health Awareness – ongoing work with young people, offering support, guidance and advice as appropriate.

Ward Councillors commended the ongoing work of Urban Devotion with young people and thanked Lee and Steve for their attendance and update.

5. Erdington Planning Applications

The Chairman advised that two contentious Planning Applications in the ward had been withdrawn by the respective applicants.

The Sainsbury's Planning Application had not yet been submitted to Planning Committee.

6. Residents Issues

- Wheelie Bins

Several crew members had been observed practising dangerous collection methods i.e. stacking the bags collected into one wheelie bin.

The collection times had been sporadic in parts of the ward; the recycling was often collected a day later than the refuse, and on occasions, missed all together.

York Road – the bins had not been collected; many were overfilled, and black bags and general rubbish had accumulated alongside. Rats had also been spotted around the rubbish.

Discussions were also ongoing regarding the retention of the bus stop on York Road.

- Sainsbury's Site

The site was very untidy and in need of clearing up; rubbish had also been dumped on the site.

- Dunvegan Road

On street parking had increased and was particularly obstructive and dangerous on the corners.

7. Petitions

None submitted.

8. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The meeting ended at 2003hrs