

WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: BROMFORD AND HODGE HILL	DATE: Wednesday 27th March 2019
VENUE: Blue Cross United Reform Church, 242 Coleshill Road, Hodge Hill, B36 8BG	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.00pm
COUNCILLORS: Cllrs Diane Donaldson and Majid Mahmood	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 16
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Ricky Bhandal – Public Health, BCC Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Kevin Gibbon – Highway Steward, Amey Sgt Neil Lloyd – Hodge Hill Policing Team, WMP Duncan Vernon – Public Health, BCC	
WARD PRIORITIES: Not yet Identified – Work in Progress	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Notice of Recording

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

2. Local Updates

- Councillors Updates/Ward Plan Ideas and Suggestions

Cllr Mahmood suggested that consideration should be given to the following matters for identifying and agreeing priorities for developing the ward plan:-
The Bromford Regeneration

The Heritage Walk

Stechford Hall Park – investment and improvements were much needed

Hodge Hill Common – would like to see the carriageway re-established in line with the original covenant on the land

Community Centre/Drop In facilities for senior/older residents

S106 Monies – would like to see this better utilised to meet the needs of the ward

School parking/traffic management around schools – including staggering/adjusting school closing hours

It was suggested and agreed that the next meeting would concentrate on developing the Ward Action Plan for Bromford & Hodge Hill.

- Police Update

Following introductions, Sgt Neil Lloyd advised of the following:-

- An increase in cars being stolen to order – these included high performance vehicles and smaller cars like the Yaris and Corsa models. Police patrols had increased and 3 arrests had been made so far along with the discovery of ‘chop shops’ in the wider Hodge Hill district.
- Burglaries had also increased, particularly in the Bromford area where perpetrators had been accessing properties via flat roofs/open windows. An old style silver Astra car had been identified as the vehicle being used – details were still being gathered.
- HMOs and Bail Hostels in the ward – steps had been taken for these to be reviewed and risk assessed on a regular basis.
- Knife Crime had increased across the city as well as nationally. WMP policing teams were continuing to work together to combat knife and other serious weapon crimes as well as provide reassurance to all sections of the community, particularly amongst young people.
- WM Now (West Midlands Now) – details were given of the messaging service. Residents were actively encouraged to sign up /register their details to receive alerts and information relating to their immediate area. Discussions were also ongoing with the local businesses at the Fox & Goose Shopping Centre to set up a Business Watch via WM Now.
- Public Space Protection Order was now in place at the Fox & Goose Shopping Centre along with Community Protection Order Notices issued to known individuals. Discussions also ongoing with the Centre’s Management Company to see what improvements and security measures could be carried out around the alleyways.
- Streetwatch – details given of the details of the initiative was given; residents would receive training from the police and carry out general patrols/monitoring of traffic in designated areas of the ward with PCSOs. Residents would also be included on the WMP Public Liability Insurance.
- Parking – obstructive or dangerous parking remains a concern, particularly around schools; residents reminded to take details of the vehicle, time, date and nature of the obstruction if it was safe to do so and forward to the local police team. The ‘Kids Court’ initiative

currently being successfully used in schools by neighbouring Local Authorities (Sandwell and Dudley MBCs) and could be considered for the ward. Residents would continue to be kept informed.

Residents advised that parking around Ashville Avenue and Flamborough Crescent remained a problem, with parents arriving up to 45 minutes before school ended which was totally unacceptable. Sgt Lloyd agreed to see what action could be taken and advise accordingly.

Residents also called for more action to be taken against cyclists speeding on the pavements. Many residents felt intimidated and at risk of serious injury by the nuisance and reckless behaviour.

Amey/Highways

Kevin Gibbon, Amey Highway Steward advised of the following:-

- Ashville Avenue – site meeting to be arranged to look at the trees and lighting
- Coleshill Road – an order had been raised for the pot hole repairs
- Hodge Hill and Bromford Roads – road inspection to be carried out within the next few weeks
- Heathlands Avenue/Bradford Road junction and Chipperfield Road – ongoing problems with ponding and slow drainage to be investigated
- Farnhurst Road – drains to be cleansed following flooding concerns

3. Birmingham Public Health Green Paper Consultation

Members and residents welcomed Duncan Vernon and Ricky Bhandal, Public Health Officers, BCC, and following introductions, Mr Vernon briefly advised of the consultation being carried out by Birmingham Public Health on the proposed Public Health priorities for the next four years. The following priorities had been based on data and intelligence on the areas of need in the city:-

- Child Health – including reducing infant mortality, childhood obesity and supporting the mental and physical health of the most vulnerable children
- Working Age Adults – including the lack of physical activity; supporting mental and physical health; healthier working environment
- Ageing Well (as adults) – including tackling social isolation; physical activity and mental stimulation
- Healthy Environments – including improving air quality/addressing air pollution screening, immunisation and communicable diseases

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Disappointment at the lack of reduction in infant mortality despite information and advice
- The health and wellbeing of pregnant women in some communities
- Increase in diabetes, obesity and other life limiting/threatening illnesses in some communities due to poor dietary habits, poverty and unhealthy behaviours
- Lack of physical activity and health checks/awareness
- Unhealthy environment, including poor air quality, increased traffic congestion particularly around schools. Residents living in the Bromford area were under subject to air pollution on a daily basis due to their very close proximity to the M6 as well as being directly under the airport fly path, and suggested that a survey should be carried out in the area to measure the air quality.

Residents were encouraged to submit their comments/complete the consultation questionnaire before the closing date on 12th May 2019.

4. Petitions – None submitted.

5. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns

No further issues raised.

6. Any Other Business – None raised.

7. Date of Next Meeting – Weds 26th June 2019, St. Wilfrid's Community Centre, Shawsdale Road, 6.30pm -tbc

The Chair thanked residents for their attendance and participation.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm