

Summary notes

Ward: Handsworth Wood

Date of meeting: 16th May 2017

Meeting overview

Present: Councillor Atwal and Councillor Kooner

Officers: Sargent Hayley Thompson- Handsworth Police Team

Neil De-Costa – District Lead for Perry Barr District

Pat Whyte - Community Support and Development Officer

Lesley Bannister – Community Governance Manager

There were approx.20 residents in attendance.

Apologies: Councillor Hamilton

Matters arising from L.I.F meeting notes 28th March 2017

Graham Winfield wished it noted that he disagreed with notes for the L.I.F meeting held on the 28th March 2017.

Extract from the notes

Councillor Atwal declared an interest in the Handsworth Wood Community Development Trust as a member of the board before any discussion regarding the applications was given. Some residents were concerned by this and sought clarity from the Councillors. The Ward Councillors stated that as Councillors they often sat on boards of voluntary organisations, as part of their community work and said they were required to declare interests in such organisation, as Councillor Atwal had done. Councillor Atwal stated that if necessary he would seek legal clarification if this was deemed to be a problem for the residents. The meeting then proceeded.

Mr Winfield requested that it be noted that “Councillor Atwal did not declare an unprompted interest in the Handsworth Wood Community Development Trust until it came to light during a discussion where residents asked the councillors what links they have with the organisation and about the organisation’s local track record of delivery”. Ann Wackett also wanted it noted that she agreed with Mr Winfield’s statement.

Councillor Atwal wished it to be noted that he didn’t agree with Mr Winfield statement.

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Spring Housing Association Presentation and Consultation –Rachel Chiu

Rachel gave a presentation on the Public Consultation for the No.22 Hestia House enterprise space, she explained that Spring Housing Association's aim is to provide more than a roof over tenant's head it is to:

- Prevent and reduce homelessness
- To assist people in attaining a stable, happy and independent future.
- To provide high quality housing.

Rachel went onto say that within No.22 there is a Community Enterprise space which it was hoped would be used as community resource. Spring Housing Association is holding this consultation with the community to establish what kind of resource the community would like to see in this space for example

1. Convenience Store (within disused space near the entrance to the building)
2. Communal Office Space
3. Independent Café

Rachel gave out copies of the consultation, questionnaires and email address info@springhousing.org.uk and asked the resident present for their comments on how they would like to see the space being developed.

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Prior to the next item on the agenda the following statement was read out by the District Lead for Perry Barr District Neil De- Costa

“ discussions in relation to Local Innovation Fund (LIF) can take place at ward Meetings , this can be regarded as normal ongoing engagement and ward business ; this is on the basis that no formal decision is being made in that the ward Meeting will only reach ward Agreement on any proposal ; any such proposal will then be subject to appropriate officer appraisal to ensure it meets LIF criteria , only then will any ward agreement be subject to a recommendation to Local Leadership Cabinet Committee . ”

Local Innovations Fund Officers update by Pat Whyte -

Following on from the L.I.F meeting on the 28th March Pat said of the three previously submitted applications she had met with the one local groups (Handsworth Wood Residents association) invitation to meet was also extended to Handsworth Wood Community Development Trust but had corresponded with them. Pat went on to say that the applications were still a work in progress and that some work was needed on the sustainability and legacy part of each application .Pat also said that in addition to these three project applications, there were potentially one or two others, but these were in their infancy stage.

Concerns raised by some residents

- Residents suggested that those groups which were applying for L.I.F funding that had previously received Community Chest funding should produce documentation such as their end of year accounts to show how those grants had been used and whether they had achieved the outcomes they had set out to. Councillor Kooner suggested that all groups that had received Community Chest funding previously should in the interest of transparency undergo the same scrutiny .Neil De-Costa stated that the Community Chest process had been robust; all applications would have been assessed then monitored in accordance to the criteria. Grants awarded by Handsworth Wood Ward would have come to a ward committee meeting for agreement and the associated reports would've been in the public domain.
- Residents were concerned by the small number of LIF applications that had been received to date , they suggested that a more proactive approach should be taken by the Ward in seeking more applications -In response Councillor Atwal said that requests for L.I.F applications

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had been made at the two previous meeting ,Pat Whyte said she would be having additional meeting with all interested groups if possible before the next Ward meeting on the 4th July.

- No deadline date for LIF applications - Neil De-Costa said that timescales had slipped which was partly due to the snap general election being called.
- Neil De-Costa agreed to contact groups again in Handsworth Wood Ward to explain there was LIF funding available, as suggested by Ann Wackett.

Policing - Sergeant Hayley Thompson

Sergeant Thompson took questions and listened to the Councillor's and resident's concerns on the following:-

- The increasing number of Car jacking's and Robberies - Sergeant Thompson said there had been an increase in car- jacking, nasty burglary and robbery in the area ,she believed that there was probably a gang doing these crimes but this is not specific just in Handsworth wood. Some of the incidents recounted by residents had not been reported to the Police, Sergeant Thompson urged residents to report all crimes and to get them logged.
- Drug dealing – Details were given to Sergeant Thompson and again she urged that residents report these incidents on the 101 number.
- Recent stabbing in Green hill road – Sergeant Thompson said this incident was drugs related by a person who had a drugs habit and who was without any family support.
- Non- residents of Deerpark Road, Windermere Road and Sunningdale Close drinking alcohol and smoking of drugs in cars parking in these roads. Sergeant Thompson again asked residents to report this by ringing 101 at the time of the incident and if a patrol car was available then one would attend, however Sergeant Thompson said if the Police didn't attend at that particular time it would be due competing, or more urgent priorities, but to carrying on reporting and logging the incidents
- Church robbery and metal theft – Update given
- Traveller at Hempstead Pavilions – Sergeant Thompson said that the Travellers were trespassing but that wasn't a criminal offence it was up to the owners to pursue, it was her understanding that the traveller would be gone by Thursday 18th May.

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- People drinking in the Street in Headingly Road and Laurel Road - Sergeant Thompson said that this is being dealt now with by the public space protection order that is in place.

Residents Issues and Concerns

- Dog Fouling increasing in Cherry Orchard Road - to be raised at neighbour tasking in the hope of getting enforcement action.
- For Information only – Ann Wackett updated the group on the cleaner streets campaign and urged all residents to become involved and to join the residents association.
- The residents also wished to thank the Mosque at The Grange for organising a carrying out a local litter pick.

Future Meeting Topics

- ASB
- Policing
- Road Safety
- Private Landlords and HMO'S
- Environmental Issues

Date of next meeting

- 4th July 7.00 pm ,Handsworth Fire Station
- September -19th Detail TBC.
- November -14th Detail TBC

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January - 16th Detail TBC
March – 20TH Details TBC

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm

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NO.	Resident or Forum or Residents group Details	Concern/issue	Type of action to be taken (if any)	Officer or Member with responsibility
1`	Resident	Dog Fouling – Cherry Orchard road and surrounding locations	To be taken to the next neighbourhood tasking meeting.	Neil De Costa
2	Residents	Local Innovation Fund – Current applications are still incomplete and the low number of potential new applications was cause for concern.	Pat Whyte to meet with interested parties before the next Ward meeting on 4 th July to provide guidance.	Pat Whyte
3	Resident	Residents were concerned by the small number of LIF applications that had been received to date , they suggested that a more proactive approach should be taken by the Ward in seeking more applications	To contact groups in the Ward to explain that there is LIF funding available	Neil De Costa