

WARD END FORUM MEETING NOTES

WARD: Ward End	DATE: Wednesday 19 th December 2018
VENUE: St. Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Avenue, Ward End	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.10pm
COUNCILLOR: Mohammed Aikhlaq	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Team Kevin Gibbons – Highway Steward, Amey Apologies for absence submitted from the Local Policing Team	

WARD PRIORITIES:

Work in Progress

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

- 1. Welcome** - following introductions Cllr Aikhlaq welcomed residents to the meeting.
- 2. Notice of Recording** – Cllr Aikhlaq advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
- 3. Cllr News/Updates**
Residents were advised of the following:-
Ongoing problems with fly-tipping in the ward which had not been helped by the recent industrial action currently being taken by the bin collection crews who were Unite Union members. The current dispute was between Unite and GMB Unions regarding a payment

made to GMB who had been excluded from the talks to resolve the last industrial action. Talks were ongoing between Cllrs, Officers and Unite to resolve the matter as quickly as possible. However, prior to the latest round of industrial action, problems were still ongoing with the new working arrangements; some crews were still not familiar with their collection rounds; collections were inconsistent, which resulted in complete roads being missed and along with assisted collections. Residents were reminded to let Cllr Aikhlaq know of any missed collections.

City Council 2019+ Budget Consultation starting from 13th November to 31 December. Residents were encouraged to submit their views, comments and concerns regarding the budget proposals before the closing date. This could be done online or via Cllr Aikhlaq.

HS2 Community Funding Scheme – further details regarding how to access funding would be provided in due course. Discussions were also ongoing to with the Parks Manager and several community groups to see if funding could be secured to provide astro turf facilities in the ward. Residents interested in finding more were invited to contact Cllr Aikhlaq following the meeting.

WMP Update – deferred to next meeting

Amey Ward Highways Issues and Updates

Following introductions, Kevin Gibbons, Amey Highway Steward briefly advised of his role in ensuring that all roads in the ward were inspected every 6 months or so; some roads were inspected more frequently where there was a cause for concern, and to ensure that any road/ pavement/lighting repairs reported were inspected and programmed in for work as soon as possible. Working alongside community groups like Alum Rock Community Forum and other community/residents groups was very important to the role of Highway Stewards/Amey as their support was invaluable in ensuring that work like gulley cleansing/whole road repairs were carried out.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Grange Avenue – defective lights for approx. 18 months
- Asquith Rd/Grange Avenue – lighting very poor and dark; needs much brighter lighting
- Rogers Road – several pot holes in need of repairs; also tree branches overhanging from Ward End Park causing an obstruction
- Washwood Heath Road – yellow marking lines along the pavement to enforce the current Traffic Regulation Order and appropriate signage needed. Uneven slabs also reported outside Paddy Power betting shop
- Alum Rock Road/Belchers Lane/Chetwynd Road roundabout – ongoing problems with ponding – surface water slow to drain away
- Drews Lane/Washwood Heath Road opposite the Fire Station – ongoing problems with ponding when it rains – surface water slow to

drain away

- Washwood Heath Road/Aston Church Lane – raised tree roots causing difficulty for pedestrians
- St Margaret's Road – several potholes reported a while ago; repairs still outstanding
- Blocked gullies across the ward remained a problem and were in need of cleansing.

Mr Gibbons agreed to investigate and to advise Cllr Aikhlaq accordingly, and that a copy of the Ward Highway Maintenance Programme would be made available to Cllr Aikhlaq once it had been finalised.

Action: Amey to investigate and advise Cllr Aikhlaq accordingly.

4. Ward Plan – Ideas, Suggestions and Priorities

Cllr Aikhlaq briefly advised that each ward was required to look at and prioritise its areas of concern so that a Ward Plan/plan of action could be developed to see how these priorities could be addressed over a period of time.

A Ward Priorities Template was issued to residents for completion. Residents were encouraged to complete and return to Cllr Aikhlaq over the next few weeks – these would be used to help formulate the Ward Plan/Plan of Action.

5. Residents News/Views/Updates

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Asquith Road – cars speeding excessively throughout the day and night; road also being used as a rat run. Drug dealing was also being carried out openly during the day.
- Drews Lane/Washwood Heath/St Margaret's/Northleigh Roads – cars also speeding excessively along these roads even though they were designated 20mph roads. Traffic calming measures should be considered on Northleigh Road to help to provide a level of safety for the children and parents going to and from Ward End Primary School. Obstructive parking was also a concern in these roads. Cllr Aikhlaq advised of a recent meeting with the School Ambassadors regarding the concerns; a petition had been started and would be presented to the next/future City Council meeting. A meeting with the Lord Mayor and pupils had also been arranged for 8th January 2019.

Residents called for a more proactive and robust approach in dealing with speeding drivers and obstructive parking across the ward and that if funding was available the reduction of the width of the roads would be one of the ways to solve the problems.

- Drug Dealing across the ward remained a cause for concern with dealers blatantly disregarding residents' concerns and the presence and close proximity of school aged children. Cllr Aikhlaq gave details of recent police enforcement activities which led to the execution of several search warrants in the ward and a number of arrests. A significant amount of drugs and money was seized and a number of arrests made. Information and intelligence from residents had led to the successful execution of the warrants and residents were commended for their stance and willingness to come forward and stand up against drug dealing in the community.
- Several older residents felt there was a lack of activities for older/elderly residents in the ward to help with social isolation. Local Resident and voluntary worker Asha advised of a number of activities that took place in St Margaret's Church and agreed to meet with the residents concerned following the meeting.
- Obstructive parking in Sladefield and Banville Roads; pedestrians, wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs unable to walk on the pavements.
- Barber House – problems with youths/antisocial behaviour around the flats. Residents to speak to Firoza Loonat, Tenant Participation Officer following the meeting.
- Fly-tipping/rubbish dumping continues to be a problem across the ward. Asquith Road/St Margaret's Road and Avenue were particular problematic and whilst cleared on a regular basis, fly-tipping continued. Residents called for more proactive and robust enforcement action, including carrying out covert operations in order to catch persistent offenders.

6. Ward Petitions

None submitted.

7. Any Other Business

None raised.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be agreed