

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum
14 November 2017 at 7pm
at Reaside Community Centre, Ormond Road

Present: Councillors Andy Cartwright and Carole Griffiths
PC Paul Perry, West Midlands Police
PC Vicki Rimmell, West Midlands Police
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 6 residents also in attendance

1. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
2. **Apologies** – Councillor Cruise, Richard Burden M.P & Councillor Bruckshaw (Frankley Parish Council)
3. **Petitions** – none submitted

The Chair advised the meeting that Frankley Parish Councillor Malcolm Keating was currently very ill and asked that the meetings thoughts be forwarded to him.

4. LOCAL INNOVATION FUND UPDATE

Gemma Cartwright updated the meeting on the application made by the community for LIF funding and advised that all of the bids made by groups had been pulled together to make one application. The groups that had made presentations to the previous meeting were all included. She read out the main points from the application.

Councillor Griffiths said that all three councillors had attended the meetings with the community groups and all three councillors had signed off the proposal for processing for approval.

The Chair welcomed the proposal and thanked the community for its hard work and dedication in putting the proposal together.

5. POLICE UPDATE

Pc Perry gave the following update;

- There was a focus on Frankley currently due to issues in connection to gangs, drugs and general lawlessness
- Residents were urged to email information to the local police team so that pictures could be built up. The community in Frankley was strong and needed to let the police know what was happening. Residents were asked to pass this message on.
- Cars that were not taxed could be seized when they had been untaxed for 2 months so information on vehicles was useful
- In response to questions regarding a certain vehicle the meeting was advised that vehicle had been seized
- Warrants in respect of drug dealing were being sought

- There was an issue with police resources and therefore crimes had to be prioritised and the most serious dealt with first
- The police were working with BCC housing officers where council tenants or their children were connected to a crime with eviction being an option
- The issue of Child Sexual Exploitation was highlighted and the meeting was advised that there were numerous operations/interventions in place
- The PSPO for Edgewood Road had been completed. Drinkers were still causing issues around Arden Road Post Office and therefore the survey work for a PSPO for that area would be started shortly after the Edgewood Road order was in place.

Residents made the following comments;

- The card shop at Longbridge town was having issues with college students and a police patrol was requested
- Cars were being driven recklessly around Frankley and drugs were being openly dealt
- Reports were made to the police but it appeared no action was taken
- Youths on bikes around the Lickey Road area caused a nuisance
- Reference was made to speeding vehicles on Ormond Road that had resulted in a child being run over and killed and another seriously injured. The Chair had visited Reaside School and the Head Teacher and children there wanted to be involved in action to make the road safer. PC Perry said a speed watch had been highlighted for Frogmill Lane, Ormond Road and Bolyn Road but had been cancelled. He undertook to try to re-arrange.

Councillor Bruce Pitt (Frankley Parish Council) queried whether the police could use film footage and whether there was a list of vehicles that the police were looking for that could be shared. He added that the council had cameras that could be used in hot spot areas but undertook to speak to the sergeant regarding this and information sharing.

The meeting was advised that as a result of the issues that had taken place at Halloween a meeting had been arranged, to include West Mercia Police to address cross boundary issues and find solutions. PC Perry said he was also working cross boundary in relation to gang issues, shop lifting, bikes etc.

6. RESIDENTS ISSUES

a) Fairway Day Centre

The Chair made reference to a petition submitted to last City Council meeting containing 2,500 signatures to save Fairway Day Centre. He had visited the centre which catered for people with all types of disability, dementia and of all ages and was unique. There had been no consultation with the residents and therefore councillors were supporting them in their fight to keep the centre.

b) Universal Credit

The meeting was advised to visit The Project if advice on the new Universal Credit was needed and not to use unregistered advisers. The Project could offer benefit advice, money advice, well-being advice and help people waiting to receive their credit.

c) Bogus Collections

A resident advised that bogus collectors were going door to door claiming to be collecting food on behalf of the Parish Council for food banks. Councillor Pitt confirmed that no-one from the Parish Council collected house to house.

d) Black Bags

There was an issue with black bags left at the side of bins not being collected and better information needed to be cascaded. There was a large pile of black bags in Newman Way that had not been collected. The Chair said that he had had piles of bags removed from Ravenhayes Road and Frogmill Lane and enforcement officers had examined the bags and a fine issued.

e) Kick Start Project

Colmores School and Balaam Academy were working with Aston Villa Football Club to combat gang activity and encourage young people but were looking for parent volunteers.

7. Date of Next Meeting

23 January 2018 at 7pm venue tbc

8. AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

Noted and agreed

Meeting ended at 8.30pm