

HARBORNE WARD MEETING NOTES
MONDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2018
6.30PM – 8.00PM

VENUE: The Community Room, Harborne Pool & Leisure Centre, Lordswood Road, B17 9QS	
COUNCILLORS: Jayne Francis & Peter Fowler	NOs OF ATTENDEES: Approx. 30
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marie Brown – District Engineer Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Sgt Khalil – Neighbourhood Policing Team, WMP APOLOGIES: Fiona Alexander, Queen Elizabeth Hospital	

WARD PRIORITIES: Not yet identified

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome & Introductions.

Cllrs Francis & Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

New ward boundary details given following the changes to the wards across the city – the ward was now served by two Cllrs following the Local Elections in May.

2. Notice of Recording – noted by all.

3. Notes from the last meeting and Matters Arising

- The Royalty Information Update

Rob Sutton, Harborne Royalty Trust advised of a recent fire which had consumed much of the Royalty Cinemas structure. The resolve amongst the Trust members was to continue to find ways to bring back a substantial community facility to Harborne which could assist regeneration whilst retaining whatever remains of the Royalty's heritage.

In the meantime, the Trust would continue to complete the heritage delivery as part of the Local Innovation Fund, and would be working with Professor Matt Houlbrook, Professor of Cultural History and Head of Department of History, School of History and Cultures, the University of Birmingham. The consultation remains integral to the future of The Royalty and also provides residents with an opportunity to contribute. Future consultation events were arranged for Café Nero on Friday 28th at 4pm to 6pm and then Harborne Primary School on Saturday 29th. The findings from the consultation would be made available in due course.

Responding to the update, several residents expressed concerns that the alleged proposals to purchase and renovate the Royalty had been ongoing for some time with no further progress forward made. The derisory offers made to the building owner by the Trust to purchase the premises had not helped and residents were left feeling upset and disappointed at what was being perceived as false hopes and promises.

Mr Sutton explained that the offers made to the building owner for purchase had been made on the advice and guidance of City Council Officers and discussions with the premises owner regarding the purchase of the building would continue.

4. Policing Issues in the Ward

Following introductions, Sgt Khalil advised that:-

- The demands on the police service following an increase in crime across the city; however the local policing team remained committed to responding to reported incidents and offender management of known/prolific offenders
- A Criminal Behaviour Order (CBO) had been applied for against a known prolific offender. Failure to comply with the order could result in imprisonment and/or a fine.
- A Sexual Offences Protection Order (SOPO) had also been applied for against a local resident, which again could result in imprisonment if the Order was breached.
- The response to the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Harborne High Street had been very positive. The process to apply for the Order was currently being dealt with.
- Reference was made to a known offender who had subjected residents and businesses along the High Street to extremely unpleasant and threatening behaviour. A CBO had been applied for with powers of arrest, and a referral to drug rehabilitation had

been made. Residents were reminded not to give this individual or street beggars/rough sleepers money as this was often used to fund their addictive habits – alcohol and/or drugs use.

- Following a spate in thefts of bicycles, the offender had been arrested and detained
- Domestic Violence, Burglary, Sexual Exploitation/Modern Day Slavery and offender management remained key priorities for the local policing team.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Drugs dealing openly in and around Queens Park and War Lane by the parade of shops.
- An increase in anti-social behaviour and wanton damage in the High Street. The bench appeared to be a magnet for much of the anti-social behaviour and that its removal should be considered.
- Obstructive parking remained a problem across the ward and that more enforcement action was needed.
- Residents were fed up and frustrated with the 101 telephone service as it was very difficult to get through, and the eventual service offered was often very poor.

Responding to residents' concerns, Sgt Khalil requested that where possible, vehicle registration numbers and details of alleged drug dealing or obstructive parking should be passed on to the police, if it was safe to do so. Residents must continue to report incidents to the police so that hot spot areas could be identified and resources deployed accordingly. Work was also ongoing to improve the 101 Service. Low level incidents could also be reported online and residents were encouraged to sign up to the West Midlands Now (WM NOW) Service provided by WMP to receive alerts regarding incidents/advice relating to their immediate neighbourhood.

5. QE Hospital Parking Concerns – deferred to the next/future meeting as Fiona Alexander, Director of Communication, QE Hospital was no longer able to attend.

Marie Brown, District Engineer advised that discussions were ongoing between Council Officers and Hospital representatives regarding traffic management issues. It had been acknowledged that previous attempts at trying to resolve the parking issues had been ad-hoc and disjointed and a number of options were being explored to see how the issues could be effectively managed. Cllr Fowler added that he had been in regular contact with Fiona Alexander to discuss the traffic management issues, and hoped Fiona would attend a future meeting.

Neighbouring Edgbaston and Selly Oak Wards were also affected by the problems.

6. Highway Issues – Update from District Engineer

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- It would be useful for a programme of works/improvements was available, so that residents were able to see what works were planned and when it was likely to take place.
- The current lighting across the ward was in need of upgrading to the new LED lighting which would help with helping residents to feel a bit safer in the darker evenings.
- Several roads were in urgent need of resurfacing; a programme of works from Amey would be useful.
- Ongoing problems with parking in War Lane which was mainly caused by visitors to Kingdom Hall. Residents Only permits/parking scheme should be considered.
- New residential developments in the ward did not provide enough parking spaces; Crosbie Road was particularly problematic with an increase in on-street parking and driveways blocked on a regular basis.
- A number of newly planted trees had not been properly cared for or maintained by Amey; several newly planted trees in Harborne Park Road had died due to a lack of feeding and watering during the hot weather.
- Speeding remained a cause for concern across the ward; 20mph limit and the necessary enforcement action should be considered.

Responding to residents' comments and concerns, Marie Brown, District Engineer advised of the following:-

- Residents Only parking schemes did not guarantee everyone a parking space even though it was a paid for service. Consultation would have to be carried out and the majority of residents would have to be in favour of the scheme.
- Where appropriate, residents were encouraged to apply for a dropped kerb outside their home.
- Residents unable to access their driveway should contact the Enforcement Team on 0121 303 7613.
- Amey would be contacted regarding the concerns raised regarding street lighting, road surface repairs and tree maintenance.

7. Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods

Residents were briefly advised of the document which was currently out for consultation, which sought residents' views on working together in partnership with the City Council/partner/public sector agencies and how things could be done better/differently.

Suggestions included different models of Local Governance, including Parish/Neighbourhood and Community Councils. Copies of the summary paper and comments were circulated at the meeting.

Residents were actively encouraged to submit their comments and views before the consultation closing date on 28 September 2018.

Residents advised of their disappointment regarding the constant changes to Ward meetings over the years; the gradual erosion of decision making powers and that residents views, concerns and suggestions were ignored.

8. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns

Residents expressed the following concerns:-

- Harborne Primary Annexe: the catchment area for admission was still a major cause of concern for parents who wanted their child to go to the school, whilst the increase in traffic/traffic management was an issue for residents living in the immediate area. A sensible and appropriate solution must be found and should take into account those children who lived closest to the annexe.
- Queens Park Flood Alleviation Works – residents asked for an update to be given at the next/future meeting.

9. Petitions – none submitted

10. Date of Next Meeting - to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm