

# BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT  
COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 17 MARCH  
2016**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD  
ON THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2016 AT 1030 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6,  
THE COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

**PRESENT:** - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Alex Buchanan, Phil Davis, Barry Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Brigid Jones, Changese Khan, Mike Leddy, Eva Phillips and Rob Sealey.

**ALSO PRESENT:-**

Karen Cheney	– Service Head, Selly Oak District
Pete Hobbs	– Service Head, Private Rented Services and Tenant Engagement
John Burke	– Depot Manager, Place
Julie Windsor-Price	– Place Manager
Barry Toon	– Selly Oak District Housing Panel
Marie Reynolds	– Committee Services

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**NOTICE OF RECORDING**

333 The Chair advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site ([www.birminghamnewsroom.com](http://www.birminghamnewsroom.com)) and that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or exempt items.

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**APOLOGIES**

334 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillor Phil Davis for lateness and Jonathan Antill, Place Manager for non-attendance.

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**MINUTES**

335 **RESOLVED:-**

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2016, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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### **RECYCLING ISSUES IN SELLY OAK DISTRICT**

The following information detailing the depot ward comparison and the depot waste comparison was circulated at the meeting:-

(See document Nos. 1 and 2)

Mr Burke, Depot Manager, referred to the information that had been presented to members previously and explained that it had been somewhat confusing as the figures provided had related to percentages. He subsequently referred to the information that was circulated to the meeting illustrating the depot waste comparisons pertaining to 2014/2015 and 2015/16 which covered Selly Oak district.

He highlighted the various areas where original waste had reduced overall whilst the tonnage for multi material had increased which included glass jars and bottles. He stated that there was a mixed picture for paper, whereby in some areas it had increased whilst in others it had reduced, which he believed was contributed by the reduction of the number of newspapers purchased by people.

The Chairman agreed that the trend appeared to be that less newspapers were purchased and there seemed to be a significant reduction of paper catalogues produced over the last year.

With regard to the above, members raised various comments and issues relating to the service which included the following:-

Concerns were raised by members that when the recycling was collected more waste was left on the ground and that the procedures, in collecting the waste, did not always appear to be followed by the operatives, which included the pods being stacked on top of the bins whereby on a windy day impacted on the litter being blown everywhere.

Mr Burke referred to the ways in which the operatives undertook the collections and highlighted that in some areas, it was more efficient for the crews to use the slave bins rather than carrying the pods, as it helped to reduce the litter. He stated that they were looking with the vehicle manufacturer to provide a better designed slave bin which would improve the system overall.

In response to members' concerns relating to the operatives mixing paper with other recyclable materials when undertaking collections, Mr Burke stressed that they should not be mixing paper with other collections, unless, it was a missed collection and subsequently agreed to look into any specifics.

Councillor Huxtable referred to the written evidence relating to the shocking decrease in recycling especially in paper and cardboard, and although recognised there had been a changing mix with the increase of internet purchasing this was still unacceptable. Further concern was raised of the increase in fly-tipping, the

deteriorating condition of a local estate and operatives not collecting all of the domestic waste from residents.

In response to the above Mr Burke requested further details in order that he could investigate these issues.

Councillor Barnett stated that although the roll-out for Billesley Ward was settling down she highlighted the issues arising from wheelie bins and recycling boxes that had failed to be collected.

Mr Burke stated that although the department had expected to carry out the collection over a weekend unfortunately this did not happen and although collections continued the following week, there were still small areas where collections needed to be made. He stated that if members were aware of any addresses where collections were required he would willingly progress.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Jones relating to staffing levels, Mr Burke confirmed that the department had been going through a recruitment process which had since completed for driver/team leaders, as the city council did not want to rely on agency drivers indefinitely. He further provided an approximation of the number of agency staff that they had working for the department, adding that although they had a person filling every post, the aim was to have BCC employees covering all of these posts.

In response to Councillor Khan's enquiry relating to the setting of unrealistic targets, Mr Burke stated that with the roll-out service they would continue to review the size of the rounds and where the take-up in areas varied, adjustments would be made accordingly, adding that they were still working through the process.

In response to the inadequacy of the size of the bin storage areas in low rise blocks to accommodate wheelie bins and residents' communal wheelie bins were not large enough to meet demand which resulted in residents not being able to recycle adequately, Mr Burke confirmed that the housing department were involved in all of the discussions and that the programme boards were aware of the changes with the introduction of the wheelie bins. He referred to the number of bins that each block of 6 flats were normally allocated and stated that if more were required for recycling, this should not be a problem as the city council fully promoted recycling and were happy to provide additional bins.

The Chairman referred to the issues associated with low rise blocks, and flats located above shops and stated that there needed to be a conversation with the local authority and social landlords regarding these less standard situations.

Ms J Windsor-Price, confirmed that although she was aware of the issues regarding the storage areas with low rise blocks, had not been party to any discussions or agreements made prior to the new service being introduced.

Councillor Henley paid tribute to Mr Burke and his team for their efforts during this difficult time. He referred to the mishaps that had arisen due to the botched implementation of the geographical information system which had led to whole roads being missed and a great many assisted collections not being carried out, due to the information held at the contact centre being different to what was held

on the geographical information system in the crew cab. He stated that the fundamental systems programme had to be fixed in order that the correct information was reflected in both areas. He further stated that although there had been a high level of complaints the depot had responded well in working together.

The Chairman stated that there were still problems with the assisted collections which caused distress and questioned whether there was something in place to address this.

Mr Burke referred to the process, and stated that the city council had invested and was rolling out a 'slab in the cab' system in June 2016 which would mean that the driver would positively affirm that it had carried out the assisted collection in fairly 'real time' and also the system was able to be updated quickly. He added that he could speak to the crew again to ensure that they were carrying out all of the assisted collections.

The Chairman thanked Mr Burke for attending the meeting and confirmed that she would continue to email when necessary.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the information circulated to the meeting illustrating the depot waste comparisons pertaining to 2014/2015 and 2015/16 which covered Selly Oak district was noted.

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**BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION PHASES 2 & 3 CONSULTATION**

The following presentation of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Phases 2 & 3 Consultation was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

At this juncture as there was no officer in attendance, the Chairman invited members' feedback.

Councillor Barnett commented that the report albeit somewhat comprehensive did not mention Brandwood or Billesley Wards and questioned why they had not been included at this stage. She referred to the excellent cycle training that she had taken advantage of and stated that as she had not ridden a bike for a while it had helped in gaining back her confidence.

Councillor Phillips highlighted that there were many keen cyclists in Brandwood and would like to see the connectivity improved for cyclists.

Councillor Huxtable referred to the segregated footway cycle path along the A38 Bristol Road and stated that it needed to be properly enforced, adding, that there was a similar cycle way along Fordhouse Lane whereby cars parked along the footway causing obstruction which again was not being addressed by enforcement. He further added that numerous cyclists had contacted him regarding the A38 cycle way especially the carriage way running south of the city

centre on how dangerous it was and that it needed to be re-worked. He referred to the slide 'managing the process' and the elements, stating that there were those elements in all of the wards in south Birmingham, and was concerned that this was not adequately reflected in the overview, and therefore suggested that more detail needed to be incorporated in this presentation

The Chairman referred to the A38 and questioned whether the cycle lanes met the required standards particularly regarding the width size.

Councillor Barnett referred to the large paintings of bicycles on the road surface in Stoney Lane, Sparkbrook and questioned the purpose of the large painting of a bicycle in the middle of the road.

The Chairman expressed her disappointment that there was no officer was in attendance to respond to members' questions and comments, however, agreed to obtain the relevant information before the next meeting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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**RESOLVED:-**

That the presentation and comments be noted.

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At this juncture, the Chairman agreed to vary the order of the agenda.

**HOUSING REPORTS**

**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE QUARTER 3  
2015/16 & NARRATIVE**

The following report of the Strategic Director, Place was submitted:-

(See document Nos. 4 & 5)

Ms J Windsor-Price, Place whilst presenting the report and performance narrative highlighted that in September 2015, the local team had set up a business team with their target being to reduce the number of technical errors. The team targeted various areas which included; unlawful occupiers, abandoned properties and worked closely with the rents team, housing benefits and Birmingham Audit. She stated that by setting up the team, this had improved the performance of the group due to having knowledgeable officers dealing with cases quickly and efficiently. She further stated that up until the end of December 2015; arrears had been reduced by £17,000, 63 unlawfully occupied cases had been resolved and 43 successful investigations (11 in Selly Oak) had been undertaken.

She further reported that the estate based services team had been reorganised which was grouped across three districts had now combined into one team. This enabled the team to move across areas and deal with larger tasks which had a greater impact on issues, rather than one or two officers dealing with issues. She stated that the team had launched in October and had commenced with a month long series of events, whereby residents had been invited to come along and join in the activities which taken place in various areas of the district, which had

included a 'skip day' on the Ingoldsby Estate, vegetation pruning, litter picks and assisting the local teams with everyday tasks.

Councillor Huxtable expressed disappointment that the 'skip day' had not been publicised by the department and although the local Housing Liaison Board and contributed funding to help clear up the estate, they had not been notified that the event was taking place.

Councillor Huxtable referred to Ingoldsby Housing Liaison Board, and although had allocated funding for various projects, due to delays in Housing obtaining quotes for set projects, they were not going to be delivered this financial year and therefore, questioned, whether funding would be carried forward through to next year as had happened in previous years. He further referred to the fact that Housing Liaison Board residents' had paid for various events out of their own personal funds, and as yet, had still not been reimbursed.

He further questioned whether there was any feedback regarding the 'Estates Demolition Programme'.

Further concern was raised regarding the 'necessary dropped kerb' required outside Browning Tower within Bournville Ward, which was an essential amenity and was hoped that it would progress to a satisfactory conclusion.

At this juncture, the Chairman stressed that the issue relating to the dropped kerb had been outstanding far too long and requested that the information be provided as to who was dealing with this, as she wished to discuss with them personally.

Councillor Huxtable further referred to the other Housing Liaison Board in Bournville Ward and although a budget had been allocated, questioned; who was deciding on how it was going to be spent, what was it going to be spent on, and why were he and Councillor Sealey not provided with the relevant information.

Councillor Huxtable confirmed that the department had undertaken a good job in terms of securing the doors to the bungalows within the district, however, the same doors were also fitted to the rear of some low rise flats and questioned whether anything would be done in providing secure by-design doors for all those properties on the ground floor, as the residents were most concerned about safety and security.

In response to the above comments and questions, Ms J Windsor-Price confirmed that she was not aware that the 'skip day' had not been publicised and agreed to feed back to the department. She was unable to confirm whether the Housing Liaison Board budget would be carried forward however anticipated that a decision would be taken shortly. With regard to all the other issues raised, she agreed to take back and respond directly.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Ms Windsor-Price for attending the meeting and presenting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

That the report and comments be noted.

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**HOUSING REPORTS**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CAPITAL PROJECTS – MOOR HOUSE CAR PARK**

The following Project Proposal Form 2014/15 (Generic) was submitted:-

(See document No. 6)

It was noted that local residents were requesting off road parking of approximately a fifty metres stretch in front of Moor House, this would entail fitting angle kerbs and painting parking lines with an estimate of £4,000 for kerbs and £1,000 for lines.

The Chairman referred to the above-mentioned item and as it was more expensive than originally expected, believed that the decision should be taken at district committee.

Upon further consideration, it was:

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**RESOLVED:-**

That Selly Oak District Committee agreed the commencement of work to provide off road parking for approximately a fifty metres stretch in front of Moor House.

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**FEEDBACK FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE, JOBS AND SKILLS**

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The Chairman referred to the Jobs and Skills Neighbourhood Challenge and the briefing note which had been circulated to members at the meeting. She highlighted that it had been a very interesting process with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) officers that were working with the districts across the city, and also the contributions from other organisations and what was particularly interesting, was the contribution from the Brandwood Centre regarding this work.

Ms K Cheney, Service Head, Selly Oak District, referred to the briefing note and highlighted the progress that had been made. She referred to the fact that it had been particularly useful in getting the right people around the table and being able to exchange helpful information, adding that one of the main aspects was the communication channels and actually making them as local as possible which linked strategic to local.

She highlighted that the first neighbourhood challenge (Jobs and Skills) chosen by the district did impact on the regeneration currently taking place in Selly Oak Ward and the city centre, and that it was important that it reached the residents that lived in Brandwood and Billesley Wards with regard to jobs and skills opportunities.

She reported that the work programme outlined a series of meetings of planning and presentation of information plus the workshop at the convention. There were still several actions that would still have to be carried out but could not be done

within the timescale. This included liaising with Birmingham Education Partnership (BEP) and building links with schools and also discussions with young people around the table on their experiences regarding training and trying to obtain employment.

She referred to the key observations whereby the 2 main ones that kept re-occurring were communication and connectivity with connectivity linking transport across the district between wards and into the city centre. Also connectivity was linked locally into the large strategic developments that were taking place which included High Speed 2 (HS2), the development of the college, the training and the life sciences as well as transportation which was already being discussed.

She further referred to the presentation on HS2 and the connectivity package which concentrated on one of the main roads which was considered useful. It was noted that local best practice was mentioned by the Chair from Brandwood Centre which would be used in written form to provide part of the evidence gathering. It was highlighted that local, worked best in the first steps in getting people back into employment or newly into employment with the familiarity of local and known centres being very important. She added that a great deal had been done in linking with the DWP and using the city's local centres for job fayres.

Ms Cheney referred to the Birmingham Youth Employment initiative and that all districts should get involved in and stated that in terms of the recommendations that came out of the Neighbourhood Challenge, one of the key recommendations was to set up the Selly Oak Jobs and Skills Panel, and as all were now better informed, this would go towards enhancing the jobs and skills action plan that was being written up.

It was noted that a further recommendation was for reliable and seamless travel options. There had been lots of discussions around connectivity across the district and city centre, and what had been highlighted, was the issue of travel awareness in job preparation, and the need for smarter travel and making it easier for people to use, rather than it being presented as a barrier.

It was noted the importance of the link into schools, and the need to get the dialogue going in order to prepare the children at an earlier age, as to the necessary training and qualifications they would require, in order that they would be able to take advantage of the opportunities, that were available in the future especially at the life science park

It was noted that when the local innovation fund came on stream, there would be the need to look at greater innovative ways on how it could assist the jobs and skills agenda. It was further noted the linking and thinking with adjoining districts that were dealing with similar issues, and the relationships that had built up between the city council and DWP, which helped enormously with direct interchange and with communication levels. Reference was made to the building of stronger links with employers in the big scale however there were some local employers that were demonstrating the sharing of best practice which related to the work at the Brandwood Centre and the pragmatic way of working with local people.

She concluded by stating that once all the information was completed, members would receive a copy which would be fed into the city-wide jobs and skills forum,



as well as forwarded to Executive Members, and other districts, and it was anticipated, that it would be most likely presented to the scrutiny committee that covered this particular area of work.

Councillor Huxtable referred to the local innovation fund and suggested that it would be helpful to have more detail of what the fund was in terms of finances, support, and how it would be administered by districts.

He further referred to the forging of links with adjoining districts, and although Northfield and Hall Green had been included believed Edgbaston was also included. He referred to the life sciences, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and all the skills there, and the whole regeneration of south Edgbaston area which would seem a natural link and was why, it was agreed, that work would also take place with Edgbaston district. Further reference was made to the Smithfield development proposals and the metro link to the hospital, life sciences campus and University of Birmingham, which would play an important part for residents not just in Selly Oak district but neighbouring areas. Further reference was made to Camp Hill Chords as a strategic scheme within the district, which was essentially for HS2 connectivity package and could be considered perhaps the most significant part of the connectivity package that impacted on this district.

The Chairman agreed that Camp Hill Chords needed to be included.

Councillor Phillips commented that it was a really valuable piece of work that had been undertaken and highlighted that Roger Varley from DWP was beginning to make links with the local community centres in organising job fayres. She highlighted the improvements with partners with regard to local working, and added that it was a good list of recommendations to take into the jobs and skills panel and to continue to progress forward. She reiterated that the Camp Hill Chords should be identified.

The Chairman concluded by stating that they would be setting up the Jobs and Skills Panel in the new Municipal Year and the points raised would be included in this work.

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### **UPDATE ON DISTRICT WORK PLAN**

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Ms K Cheney referred to the work plan and confirmed that they were now moving towards the end of this Municipal Year and subsequently referred to some of the new responsibilities for district committees that had been agreed previously; which included the completion of a neighbourhood challenge and the development of new wards meetings which had since happened across the district, and also the development of a community plan. She stated that a planning meeting had taken place 2 weeks ago and an email had been sent to the 4 ward chairs inviting them to provide the top 5 priorities within the wards, for consideration over the next 2 years. It was expected that responses would be received by the end of May.

Ms K Cheney highlighted the need to review the housing panel with colleagues from Housing as to how it would be taken forward in the new Municipal Year. Reference was made to the Health and Wellbeing Partnership with the emphasis on district committees. It was noted that she had had very positive discussions with Public Health and that any associated work should be shared out between

the city council and partners. As this was going to be a priority of the district, a further meeting would be taking place with Public Health in the future.

Ms K Cheney concluded by thanking all who had assisted in the various areas of work.

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**DRAFT ADDITIONAL HOUSE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO) LICENSING  
– CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR SELLY OAK**

The following report of the Service Director Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 7)

The Chairman referred to the report and the requirement for District Committee to reach a decision supporting the proposals progressing forward to a formal consultation.

Councillor Leddy welcomed the report and suggested that recommendations should be made to the Cabinet Member that it was piloted in the south side of the city in Selly Oak, and if found successful, the zone should be widened albeit that Selly Oak was the nucleus of Housing in Multiple Occupation (HMO), there were other areas in close proximity to the district in other wards that should also be given consideration, which was agreed and supported by Councillor Jones.

Councillor Khan also welcomed the additional licensing for HMO however raised concern as to whether the consultation had been taken up with local managing letting agents. He referred to the timescale of implementation and if this was within a short time, there could be a significant number of properties not licensed which could cause a shortage of properties and increase rental prices in the short term.

At this juncture, Mr P Hobbs – Service Head, Private Rented Services and Tenant Engagement was in attendance at the meeting.

He provided a brief background relating to the initial scoping exercise in terms of consultation, which had been outlined in the last report, and had included a 'Be Heard' consultation which was an on line service, whereby members of the public, landlords and businesses, could complete a questionnaire on the impact of the private rented sector in areas of the city.

It was noted that between May to the end of July 2015, 126 responses had been received with 73 originating from Selly Oak, with the majority of responses being positive in terms of there being an impact on the private rented sector, whereby they would like to see some form of additional licensing in principle. There had also been a number of additional consultations with a landlord forum and steering group whereby representations had been made where they were generally not in favour of licensing landlords themselves, and the National Landlord Association had met the Cabinet Member as part of this discussion, and it had been highlighted, that the local authority should be not using licensing as merely an income generation process, but used in tackling issues. Reference was made to other areas of the country whereby applying additional licensing for all houses in

multiple-occupancy had increased rents. When the group had met with the Cabinet Member as part of the discussion, a view put forward was that there needed to be a more robust enforcement process by the local authority in tackling those people that avoided being licensed. It was noted that some funding had been received from Government under the 'rogue landlord fund' in tackling 200 property inspections to see whether they required licensing, and it was highlighted, that generally resources were 'ring-fenced' and that the licensing fee was for the administration of the licence and not for a range of other services.

Mr P Hobbs stated that at this stage, it was believed that there was enough evidence certainly in Selly Oak Ward, where there was a significant number of properties ineffectively managed. If the decision was taken to go out to formal consultation, it would be for at least a minimum of 12 weeks and if necessary, could continue longer. It was expected, that there would be a number of views and part of the consultation would be to draw out the range of powers on how they were being used, and also how would licensing add any value in terms of improvements. It was highlighted that the National Landlord Association would prefer to see the wraparound services provided by partners in tackling these issues.

Councillor Huxtable referred to Stirchley within Bournville Ward which was adjacent to Selly Oak Ward and suggested that it should be included as there seemed to be a gathering trend in terms of HMO's due to several aspects, which included train links and less expensive accommodation. Further reference was made to Selly Oak Ward and to the changes relating to the new boundary commission proposals, and that not enough weight had been given to landlords, who were unable to fill their student accommodation and were therefore being used by ex-offenders.

The Chairman stated that although the issues came up repeatedly, it was assumed that at the moment it was difficult to evidence. She further stated that there needed to be a clear area to pilot at the moment, and if they came back with a wider area this would be all well and good, however, they needed to start somewhere where it had been evidenced most, at this time.

Mr P Hobbs confirmed that at present they did not have enough evidence in Stirchley however agreed to look into Stirchley, as a separate issue. He referred to the changes of demography and what was happening in other parts of the city, whereby the Police were concerned with the growth of hostels.

He referred to the nature of properties changing which had been mentioned at another district committee meeting, and the need to understand how the market was working. He highlighted that licensing was not a control mechanism for stopping what was happening across the city, however the legislation around licensing and the Government policies tended to prefer to see properties licensed and so when there was an application, the department were looking as far as possible to grant a licence. He stated that it was not a planning tool. He reiterated that he would be happy to carry out a walkabout in Stirchley, adding that there may be other powers or processes that could be used in the short term, in order to get a better understanding of what was happening in the area.

Councillor Huxtable welcomed the walkabout and subsequently requested that colleagues from the neighbourhood police team that had worked with them closely over the last few years be included.

The Chairman referred to the weakness when city tenants and social landlord tenants had been affected by rogue landlords and their cowboy builders and had not been adequately defended. Although, aware of a piece of work that had been undertaken between the Neighbourhood Forums in Bournbrook and Stirchley, increasing tenants' awareness of issues such as the 'party wall act', traditionally Housing had been unaware of the implications when tenants had been presented with these types of issues and there had been nobody to take action on their behalf.

The Chairman reiterated that it would be a good idea, if Mr Hobbs investigated Stirchley, as there were a number of residents concerned of the shifting pattern of tenancy, adding that a great deal of work had gone on there with residents and neighbourhood policing teams, and it would be good to see that it continued.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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**RESOLVED**

That Selly Oak District Committee supported the proposals going forward to formal consultation.

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**FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS: BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK**

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Ms K Cheney referred to the work that had taken place in Druids Heath through the connective communities and that part of the work was reaching a conclusion which in total had been very positive.

She reported that yesterday evening there had been the first outreach session from the Birmingham Repertory Theatre where it had taken place at Stirchley Baths. Both the audience and the theatre were supportive of the idea of using local spaces and amenities and were looking to develop it further.

There was to be a new scheme 'pilot nights' introduced in May 2016 as part of the 'Artsoak festival' which would also be based at Stirchley Baths.

With regard to the cycling revolution, there was to be a new bike hub developed in the district at the swimming baths to cover the park area which should be taking place in April/May 2016, which would provide more connectivity across the south with members of staff being connected in the area.

She stated that District Services were continuing to be re-organised and at present, they were awaiting the new structure which would come through the first district meeting in the new municipal year. It was reported that Ifor Jones, Director of District Services was leaving shortly and also several colleagues that had worked in Selly Oak District and subsequently wished them well in their future endeavours.

## **Selly Oak District Committee – 17 March 2016**

Reference was made to the Bournville Book Festival where there were a number of exciting events going on not only in Bournville but also in Selly Oak in terms of workshops.

Councillor Phillips reported on the UK Green Buildings Summit Conference that had taken place in Druids Heath which had proved to be an excellent event. She stated that there had been 'walkabouts' with lots of energy experts and architects and discussions had taken place regarding the tower blocks, which were deemed to be unsuitable for purpose and it was therefore hoped that there would be some movement in this area.

Councillor Barnett thanked the committee for her reinstatement as the district Corporate Parenting Champion. She stated that the topic was very close to her heart and subsequently referred to the virtual school aware ceremony for key stage 2 that she had attended last week at the Aston Villa Club. She stated that it was a wonderful event to see local children that attended the virtual school celebrating their achievements with their teachers and carers. She concluded by encouraging members as corporate parents to embrace the role and to undertake Section 44 visits when they could.

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### **OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)**

344 No urgent business was raised.

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### **AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS**

345 **RESOLVED:-**

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

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The meeting ended at 1208 hours.

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CHAIRPERSON