

LADYWOOD WARD FORUM NOTES

WARD: Ladywood	DATE: 19 February 2019
VENUE: Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent Street West B16 8RP	START/FINISH TIMES: 7- 9.05 pm
COUNCILLORS Kath Hartley & Sir Albert Bore	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 50+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Alan Lawless & Sgt Matthew Muldoon, West Midlands Police Richard Cowell, Assistant Director, Planning & Development Andrew Hood, Development Manager Ron Williams, Principal Housing Development Officer Tim Gibbons, Local Engineer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Central Ladywood Regeneration

Richard Cowell gave an over view of the plans for the regeneration of the Central Ladywood area and provided contact details for residents to put questions.

Councillor Hartley sought clarification of the name for the regeneration project and advised that the councillors would be organising groups of residents from the estate to work through the process with officers. Councillor Bore said that it had taken several months to get to this point and the regeneration would relate to housing but also to green spaces, schools etc so there would be many more public events to engage with local residents.

Residents made the following points;

- It was essential that for the demolition of each social housing property a new social housing property be built to replace it and a clear commitment to this must be provided. Andrew Hood said that there was a commitment to replace social housing on a one for one basis.
- Those tenants wishing to move back to the area following the regeneration must have first choice.
- Concern expressed by those residents who had bought their property. Andrew Hood said officers would work with owner occupiers to buy an alternative property within the development.
- The regeneration would create considerable disruption in the community – a timescale was sought.
- Whilst the regeneration was welcomed there was anxiety within the community regarding the process and assurances were sought regarding meaningful engagement and transparency
- What improvements would be made to Kilby & Lighthorne?
- Would the work force on the project be drawn from the locality?
- It was hoped that the regeneration would not only improve housing but also the environment, traffic and crime
- Previous developments had caused St Marks estate to become over run with vermin and attract rubbish dumping – would measures be put in place to ensure this was not the case during the Central Ladywood regeneration?
- Who held responsibility for the management of the properties?
- How would residents be kept informed? People on the periphery of the area needed also to be involved in the consultation
- Could 2 non-voting residents be appointed to the Board to assist in selecting partners?
- How would current properties be maintained over the next 10 years of the development?

The following responses were given;

- Re the timescale – partners needed to be appointed and given the scale of the regeneration the project would take 10years+
- Engagement – once a partner had been selected further engagement would be undertaken with them and there was a commitment to provide regular updates.
- Clearance areas had not yet been decided – the area needed to be considered in its entirety.
- The type of improvements/changes had not been defined yet but all elements needed to be considered
- A requirement to use a local workforce/local jobs would be written into the contracts. The developer would be tested on that & a

commitment to local engagement

- Part of the process was to have a joined up approach to housing so the council would be responsible for the management of properties and maintenance alongside a housing association
- Residents would be involved through local groups, events, workshops and the ward forum meeting.

Councillor Bore referred to the ward planning process and stated that the Ladywood Ward Plan would be created in the context of the longer term regeneration of the area alongside Chamberlain Gardens, IPL and new swimming pool developments when considering day to day priorities. Discussions were underway with 3 housing associations in the area to be part of the regeneration. With regard to setting up a board to oversee the project Councillor Bore said that consideration could be given to having community representatives as members. The councillors would ensure that officers consulted the community through as many ways as possible.

Councillor Hartley suggested asking TNT News to put together a news report chronicling the development of central Ladywood over the past 30 years.

2. Ladywood Road Issues

Meeting advised of the telephone number to report highway issues – 0121 303 6644. A small amount of funding was available to the ward for highway matters and could be used for parking measures.

A local resident reported cars using Ladywood Road as a rat run during the rush hour from Hagley Road which created grid lock. A 'no entry' sign at Francis Road was suggested as a solution. After the rush hour speeding on the road was a further issue. The volume of traffic travelling along Ladywood Road made it dangerous for pedestrians crossing to school, park etc. Drivers from Falcon Cars congregated on the road creating obstructions, preventing others from parking, throwing litter onto the carriageway/pavement and being rude and aggressive when asked to move.

Tim Gibbons undertook to speak to the resident at the conclusion of the meeting and arrange to investigate the issues raised and arrange a site visit with residents & Cllr Hartley. Sergeant Muldoon said that the private hire driver issue should be reported to BCC Licensing Division.

Other issues were raised including the sequencing of the traffic lights at the Plough & Harrow and speeding in neighbouring roads.

Councillor Hartley undertook to arrange with Tim a site visit to look at the issues raised.

PCSO Carly Philip explained the use of Operation Park Safe for reporting unsafe parking.

3. Other Issues

a) Notified Issue – Prostitution in Monument Road

On behalf of Reservoir Road Residents Association the meeting was advised of the ongoing problems associated with prostitutes operating from Monument Road/Reservoir Road. The issues had been reported repeatedly to the police and action taken but while the prostitutes moved from the area temporarily they returned at the conclusion of the police operations. Local residents were fearful for their safety and the drugs paraphernalia etc that was constantly littered around the streets, near the school and church was unacceptable.

Residents were seeking for the problem to be designed out with, for example, improved street lighting and a joined up approach from the police, community & councillors.

Sergeant Lawless said that he would feed this back to Sergeant Allan as although there were operations in place and this was a priority if it was not working there needed to be some re-modelling. Tim Gibbons reported that Reservoir Road did not meet the criteria for road safety measures funding.

In response to concerns regarding speeding on Reservoir Road, Sgt Lawless advised that residents report those and any other matters to the police so that a picture could be created.

Councillor Bore requested the Local Engineer and Sgt Allan to investigate the issues raised and report back to the next meeting on appropriate action. Tim Gibbon to arrange.

b) Fly Tipping, St Marks Crescent

c) Leslie Road, operation of a car sales business from private house

Cllr Hartley to action above.

Next Meeting – Edgbaston Reservoir Master Plan – 16 April venue tbc

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):