

Tuesday 10 th March 2020	
WARD: Sheldon	DATE: 10 th March 2020
VENUE: St Giles Church, 149 Church Road B26 3TT	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.55pm
COUNCILLORS Paul Tilsley & Mike Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Coyle – Sheldon Town Centre Manager Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Manager APOLOGIES – Sgt Bhatoe, Local Police Team	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<p>1. <u>COUNCILLORS NEWS & UPDATES</u></p> <p>Cllr Tilsley advised of the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amey Highways Maintenance Contract had officially ended; an interim contract with Tarmac had been arranged to enable a schedule of urgent works outstanding from the Amey contract to be completed. A new contractor would be appointed from April to June 2021 to carry on with the rest of the work. Several roads in the ward along with others across the city had been identified and passed to Tarmac for urgent work to be carried out. <p>Residents expressed concerns regarding the very poor state of most of the roads in the ward and the substandard work carried out by Amey when the work was eventually done, most of which clearly did not meet highways standards. Residents further advised of a recent accident in Horse Shoes Lane where a cyclist fell from the bike as a result of the poor road surface. Cllr Tilsley confirmed he was aware of the incident which was currently being dealt with and that concerns had also been raised regarding the very poor and dangerous state of other roads including Cranes Park Road, Arden Oak Road and other surrounding roads.</p> <p>Residents were briefly reminded of the dispute between Amey and the City Council regarding the highways maintenance contract, and that following the final High Court ruling, an agreement had been reached by both parties regarding the termination of the contract. Residents were reminded to continue to report issues, repairs and concerns regarding to Ward Cllrs or on the BCC website.</p>	

- West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) had begun consultation regarding the A45 Sprint Route. Cllrs had contributed to the consultation and included the longstanding wishes of residents to have the Wheatsheaf Underpass filled in.
- East Birmingham Inclusive Growth Strategy Document was recently launched a few weeks ago and is currently out for consultation. Cllrs had expressed their disappointment at the lack of involvement and engagement with community/voluntary groups and local people prior to the Strategy Document being launched.
It was suggested that the Officers leading on the Strategy would be invited to the next Ward meeting, and that in the meantime, the consultation details including the link and the Strategy Document summary would be emailed out to residents for wider circulation.
- The new Ward Sgt had been unable to attend the ward meeting which was disappointing despite an earlier agreement. Concerns had also been raised with the Sector Commander about the high turnover of Sgts, the lack of stability and uncertainty for dealing with policing issues in the ward. A separate meeting with the Sgt and Cllrs would be arranged following the ward meeting.

Sheldon Town Centre Manager Update

John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager briefly advised of the following:-

- His contract for the post had been successfully extended for another 12 months or so.
- Discussions were also ongoing to see if there were viable alternatives to creating a Business Improvement District (BID) as there was some interest amongst local businesses to have a coordinated support network and many were unable to afford to pay the precept required as part of a BID. Suggestions had been made for a Community Investment Company (CiC) which was a model being used by Moseley Ward and was less expensive than the requirements of a BID.
- Funding had also been secured for this year's Christmas Lights.

Residents expressed disappointment at the imminent closure of Barclays Bank at the end of the month and that the loss of established business names from the area did not bode well for the future.

2. SHELDON TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (STAG) UPDATE

Members from the group gave a brief update on their speed watch activities to date, and that following the use of the Vehicle Activation Speed Signs in the most dangerous roads in the ward there had been a significant reduction in excessive speeding. A speeding analysis table with the comparison figures for June 2018 and February 2020 was circulated at the meeting.

Residents were reminded to let STAG/Cllrs know of speeding concerns in their neighbourhood so that the roads concerned could be

added to the list for observation and surveillance. Residents were further advised that further planned speed-watch events had been put on temporary hold, however a meeting with the Policing Team Inspector had been arranged as there had been a delay in officers responding to the speed-watch data analysis submitted as well as some difficulties in attending planned speed-watch events.

Group members further advised that a complaint against the City Council regarding the installation costs of approx. £24,000 had been made to the Local Government Ombudsman in a bid to reclaim the money, which was felt to be excessive and unjust. Written questions about the costs had also been submitted to the relevant Cabinet Member at the recent meeting of the City Council.

Cllrs and residents welcomed the update and commended STAG on their ongoing efforts to reduce speeding in the ward.

3. REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Consideration was given to the summary of ongoing residents' issues and concerns raised at previous meetings and the action(s) required.

(See Outstanding Actions List attached)

4. RESIDENTS NEWS & UPDATES

The following concerns were raised:-

Obstructive parking on a daily basis by a very large truck across the pavement and driveways/junction in Elmay and Boyne Roads. There were also similar problems in Berryfield and Silvermere Roads. Residents agreed to send full details including photographs of the vehicles and obstruction to Cllr Tilsley following the meeting.

Coalway Avenue – still insufficient number of guard rails at the bottom of the avenue and the road surface was still in a poor condition despite being reported several times. Several pavement slabs were also loose/unstable. Cllr Tilsley agreed to chase up with Tarmac.

Sheaf Lane - adjustments to the traffic lights were still needed to help ease traffic congestion; currently only 4 vehicles were able to turn right at any one time due to the light sequencing. Also the arrow in the left hand lane needs repainting. Cllr Ward agreed to discuss the issues with the District Engineer.

The Builders Woodyard, Romford Lane– the recent TROs had made no little or no difference to the obstructive parking and traffic

congestion. Residents/pedestrians still had difficulty trying to get pass on the pavement and were forced to move into the road to get by. The road and pavement surfaces were also crumbling away and a section of fencing by the bus stop had fallen down, thus affecting the access for bus users. Cllr Tilsley agreed to investigate and contact the relevant officers.

Tesco Superstore – consideration should be given to lengthening the slip road leading to the store to help ease congestion on the A45. Cllr Tilsley agreed to raise the suggestion with the District Engineers but advised that funding would be a major issue. It was acknowledged that road capacity would continue to be a problem in the ward and across the city as a whole and would continue to be so unless there was a huge change in driver habits and a move towards using public transport instead.

CCTV Cameras were suggested for the underpass or for it to be completely filled in following a number of unpleasant incidents, including the recent assault and robbery of an elderly resident.

Sheaf Lane – increase in traffic congestion on approach to the lights. Residents felt that adjustments were needed to enable a much better traffic flow and that the arrow in the left-hand lane needed repainting. Cllr Ward agreed to raise the issue with the District Engineer.

A significant increase in litter in the accessway and car park leading to B&M Bargains, Morrisons and M&S; none of the businesses appeared to be taking responsibility for keeping these areas clear and there were no litter bins installed in the immediate area. Cllr Tilsley agreed to investigate.

Monthly clean ups no longer being carried out by Amey despite assurances they would continue; the underpass remained a particular concern. Cllr Ward agreed to raise the issue with Amey/Tarmac/Kier representatives.

There were no other issues raised.

5. PETITIONS

None submitted.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tues 9th June, 7pm at St Giles Church – tbc