

PERRY BARR WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Perry Barr	DATE: 19 th April 2023
VENUE Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.45pm
COUNCILLORS Morriam Jan & Jon Hunt	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER: Simon Foster, Police & Crime Commissioner

WARD PRIORITIES:
1.
2.
3.
4.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome from Councillor Hunt Chair of the Meeting2. Notice of Recording Councillor Hunt advised the meeting to note that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.3. Police and Crime Commissioner<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Simon Foster, Police & Crime Commissioner, explained his role & responsibilities highlighting that he was not responsible for day-to-day policing but represented the citizens of the West Midlands to ensure an effective policing service. Main responsibilities included setting a

Police & Crime Plan, set a budget/local police precept and hold the Chief Constable to account.

- Key points for the Police & Crime Plan were rebuilding community policing, combating violence against women/girls, tackling violent crime (including knife crime), prevention was key across all priorities together with a partnership approach.
- Recently appointed new Chief Constable was in the process of implementing new neighbourhood policing areas and increasing the number of custody suites and consolidating force despatch into one unit.
- Vehicle crime task force was successfully focusing on car crime
- Work ongoing to reduce call response times to 999 and also looking at response to 101 calls

Councillor Jan made reference to petitions submitted requesting the return of a local police station to the Perry Barr area as currently officers commuted from Handsworth, and this undermined the importance of having police as part of the local community. There were suggestions as to where a police team could be located, including the old bus depot or Alexandra Stadium. Councillor Hunt added that the former bus depot would be set up for a team to work from there without cost. Simon Foster said there were already examples of police co-location across the West Midlands. Councillor Jan said she would continue to pursue this.

Residents then asked a number of questions and made comments and the Police & Crime Commissioner responded as follows;

- In response to comments regarding unfilled vacancies across West Midlands Police Force, the meeting was advised there were no vacancies except in specialist disciplines. The final cohort of new police officers had been sworn in last month. The Home Office had allowed additional funding to those forces that had met recruitment deadlines and the West Midlands would be recruiting an additional 100 officers
- Regarding community policing and visibility on the streets, he had a commitment to allocating additional policing to the community but had to work with the Chief Constable as it was an operational function
- Average speed cameras – commitment to increase numbers and enforce. There had been an increase in Solihull & Coventry so there were discussions with BCC as the body responsible for installation and maintenance, around expanding numbers in Birmingham. Despite a campaign to bring the revenue from speed enforcement into the Midlands this has been refused by the Home Office. Councillor Hunt expressed disappointment that other councils were proceeding with increasing cameras especially in light of increased speeding on Walsall Road following road changes for the Commonwealth Games and a promise of speed cameras as a result.
- Applications for BCC to take over enforcement of some traffic regulations governing motoring contraventions had been made eg yellow box markings, illegal right turns etc
- In respect of concerns around the increase in precept the meeting was advised that this was due to a shortfall in government funding. The

funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act was not a reliable source so could not be used for recruitment but was used to assist community groups and for police projects.

- The Police & Crime Commissioner undertook to follow up on co-location of a police station in the area and liaise with Councillor Jan

4. Update from the School Road Safety Team

Councillor Hunt advised that the Road Safety Team officers had been unable to attend the meeting.

The meeting was advised that Brum Breathes funding could be use in conjunction with school safety budgets to implement schemes around schools. Schools were being encouraged to sign up to Mode Shift Stars and Kingsdown & Prince Albert Secondary Schools had so far joined the scheme. Work was being undertaken with other schools including Dorrington, however as schools had to promote and enforce the road closure during dropping off and picking up times this was sometimes a deterrent. Councillor Jan said that a request for a van with a camera had been made for around Dorrington School so that fines could be issued. Further update to be submitted to a future meeting.

5. Localised Ward Funding

Councillor Hunt updated on the funding available to wards through Community Chest, Housing Capital Environmental budget, Local Highway budget, CIL, Clean Air Zone fund, Celebrating Communities Fund, Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination and NNS. He advised that funding was subject to a ward plan being in place to enable funding to help set actions in response to priorities and that the Perry Barr plan had been drafted and would be discussed at the next meeting and also at the 3B's meeting. The criteria for each pot of funding were explained

6. Any Other Business

- a) Sprint Bus – in response to questions Councillor Hunt said that in response to a recent consultation it had been found that there was a proposal to move bus stops in certain areas to enable the sprint buses to stop at more stops than originally planned. Residents stated that the sprint bus was supposed to have quicker journey times as it made less frequent stops so to increase stopping time was contrary to the original concept and rational for the measures put in. This needed addressing. In response to a concern regarding bus stops for the number 28 bus causing tail backs at traffic lights, Councillor Jan said she had contacted TfWM but not received a response so would pursue.
- b) Perry Park Petition – Councillor Hunt reported on a site visit with the Cabinet Member, Councillor Mahmood, and the Assistant Director and undertakings that they would push for the priorities in the petition to be addressed. In addition, residents reported alarms from the stadium sounding from 7-9am on Sunday morning and at other times during the evening. Councillor Jan to pursue.

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ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
<p>1. Next Meeting – 26th July 2023, 6.30pm at Perry Hall Methodist Church – Main item Ward Plan</p> <p>2. No 28 bus stop causing tail backs at traffic lights, blocking road</p> <p>3. Alarms left to sound at Alexandra Stadium eg 7-9am Sunday mornings</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2. Cllr Jan to raise with TfWM</p> <p>3. Cllr Jan to report</p>	<p>1.</p> <p>2.</p> <p>3.</p> <p>4.</p>