

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

HODGE HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE 17 NOVEMBER 2016

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE HODGE
HILL DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD
ON THURSDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2016 AT
1400 HOURS IN COMMITTEE ROOM 6, COUNCIL HOUSE,
VICTORIA SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Uzma Ahmed, Mohammed Aikhlaq, Marje Bridle, John Cotton, Diane Donaldson, Ansar Ali Khan, Majid Mahmood, Shafique Shah and Fiona Williams.

ALSO PRESENT:-

Mike Davis	- Hodge Hill/Erdington District Head
Mark Rodgers	- Contract Team Manager
Arthur Tsang	- Acting Senior Housing Manager
Danny Kilbride	- Place Manager, Bordesley Green & Hodge Hill
Mushtaq Hussain	- Place Manager, Washwood Heath
Phil Grainger	- Place Manager, Shard End
Mahroof Malik	- Lead Officer, Rights of Way
Mike Hinton	- Parks Development Manager
Helen Bailey	- West Midlands Police
Samantha J Pink	- Station Commander – Ward End Fire Station
Marie Reynolds	- Legal and Democratic Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

341 The District Committee was advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

APOLOGIES

342 Apologies were submitted on behalf of; Councillors Diane Donaldson, Mohammed Aikhlaq and Shafique Shah for having to leave the meeting prematurely and Councillors Ansar Ali Khan, Marje Bridle and John Cotton for lateness due to having to attend a previous meeting. Further apologies were submitted on behalf of

Councillors Ian Ward, Mariam Khan and Mohammed Idrees for their inability to attend the meeting.

MINUTES

- 343 That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2016, having been circulated to Members were confirmed as a true and correct record.
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MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Request for the next Hodge Hill District Committee Meeting to be held in the Evening

- 344 Following a further request from Councillor Mahmood for the next district meeting to be held at 6 pm, the Chairman suggested that the Committee Clerk re-visit the financial viability.

Information on Rights of Way

Mike Davis, District Lead referred to the above information being requested some several meetings ago and subsequently introduced Mahroof Malik as the officer reporting on the above-mentioned item.

In response to comments from Councillor Mahmood concerning issues associated with rights of way, Mahroof Malik stated that he was aware of the issue regarding the trees causing problems to the street column within Hodge Hill Ward and confirmed that the trees had now been cut back, adding that if the issue arose again to report it.

He referred to the ways in which issues could be tackled if the responsibility lay with the resident by communicating to them and if no action was taken, the city council would undertake the work and recharge to the resident. He referred to the cleansing element and confirmed that it should be included within the maintenance regime and subsequently referred to the link which he agreed to re-circulate to members detailing all public rights of ways across the city.

Malik Mahroof referred to anti-social behaviour and confirmed that there were ways of closing public rights of way both temporarily and permanently. With regard to temporary closure, he detailed the ways in which this could be tackled once it had been assessed by the community safety officers involving a public space protection order (PSPO) or that the area could be gated. If after the allotted time, anti-social behaviour continued to exist the temporary closure could be renewed. With regard to a permanent closure, he confirmed that there were various methods of closure that could be considered.

He highlighted that in December 2017 there would be the introduction of the new 10 year strategy improvement plan whereby they would be providing maps and looking at all routes of where improvements could be made. He added that the information together with the link would be circulated to members.

Hodge Hill District Committee – 17 November 2016

Malik Mahroof confirmed that through the Amey contract, the majority of public rights of ways were safety inspected and any dangerous defects would be addressed and removed although these areas were not resurfaced or routinely maintained.

He further confirmed that there had been one permanent closure and several gating orders that had been implemented adding that there was available a gating order website that members could view.

In response to a concern raised by Councillor Aikhlaq regarding Belchers Lane, Malik Mahroof agreed to investigate.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Malik Mahroof for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

345 **RESOLVED:-**

That the information and comments be noted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

346 There were no declarations of interest.

PETITIONS

347 There were no petitions submitted.

BIRMINGHAM COUNCIL HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS BUDGET 2016/17

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

(See document No. 1)

Mark Rodgers, Contract Team Manager, introduced the report and subsequently highlighted that in Appendix 1, the resurfacing of the access road in Northleigh Road had been cancelled in accordance with the wishes of residents, and that the funding had been returned to the budget for Hodge Hill Ward and carried forward to 2016/17.

Mark Rodgers referred to Appendix 2 and confirmed that they were waiting for the costing for street lighting on Bromford estate which they estimated would be in the region of £72,000. He added that he was mindful of time and was trying to maximise spend within this financial year.

Following concerns from members relating to the delay of the Nomad cameras and the disparity in price, Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, confirmed that whilst they were able to take delivery of the cameras at any time, they were putting in

Hodge Hill District Committee – 17 November 2016

place a citywide protocol before the cameras were deployed. He confirmed that they were looking to get the protocol signed off as quickly as possible.

Mark Rodgers confirmed that he would investigate with Arthur and Firoza Loonat, Tenant Participation Officer the reason for the price difference between the cameras and provide members with the detail.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan expressed concern and disappointment that the funding for each ward had not been broken down and therefore was reticent in approving the projects for Washwood Heath Ward without the relevant information. He further highlighted that he was awaiting receipt of information regarding a further project and until this was received, was unable to make an informed decision.

Councillor Mahmood made reference to the work that had been carried out in Appendix 1 of the report within Hodge Hill Ward. He referred to the street lighting phase 2 programme and the inclusion of an additional street column which needed to be discussed and the potential for resurfacing the access road in Northleigh Road once costings had been received.

Following a general discussion relating to the proposals, Mark Rodgers suggested that members agreed the proposals for the 3 Wards subject to the Wards' allocations of funding. He further suggested that Washwood Heath Ward agreed in principle their proposals with the condition that they retained some flexibility in order that any additional projects could be considered that were deemed suitable.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mark Rodgers for presenting the report.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

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RESOLVED:-

That the District Committee noted progress in connection with the projects previously initiated at Appendix 1

That the District Committee approved the projects outlined at Appendix 2 and that Washwood Heath Ward agreed in principle their proposals with the condition that they retained some flexibility in order that any additional projects could be considered that were deemed suitable.

That the District Committee noted the budget position statement provided at Appendix 3.

PARKS – UPDATE

349

Mike Hinton, Parks Development Manager, reported that the next 5 year programme of works was due to commence in December 2016 and that Ward End Park would be a priority for work to be undertaken, adding that once funding had been allocated in the new financial year, work on the park would be carried out.

Hodge Hill District Committee – 17 November 2016

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan highlighted that over the last 5 years the park had not received any funding investment and as it was used on a daily basis by both residents and communities, it was important that work was carried out especially on the pool, as it was in a very poor state. He added that it was important that members were given a timescale of when the work would be carried out.

In response to the above, Mike Hinton confirmed that he understood the park was a priority and agreed to keep members updated as to when the programme of works would begin.

Following comments from members regarding the park, Mike Hinton referred to the work that had taken place regarding the pool in order to improve the condition of the water, and also the contribution of work from Ward End Fire Station in helping to clear the perimeter of the pool. He confirmed that once the funding had been secured, they would be looking for work to begin in the park around April 2017 once the weather had improved.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Aikhlaq regarding Henry Barber Park and Digby Park, Mike Hinton confirmed that he was not aware of any planned work being undertaken in these parks. He confirmed that work had been carried out in Digby Park which included the installation of litter bins and although it appeared they were not being used, believed that it was more of an educational issue than anything else.

In response to a concern raised by Councillor Ansar Ali Khan regarding the fixing of the lights by the multi-games area, Mike Hinton agreed to progress adding that if members had any issues relating to the parks to contact him directly.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Mike Hinton for attending the meeting and providing an update.

HODGE HILL DISTRICT PLACE MANAGERS - UPDATE

Bordesley Green Ward

350

Danny Kilbride, Place Manager reported that although within the ward they were still tackling fly-tipping it had improved somewhat over the last 12 months as residents were now more likely to report this issue. He added that residents and community groups had become more active in litter picking and subsequently highlighted the litter picking event that had resulted in 4 tonnes of rubbish being collected which had included the participation of a wide variety of people.

He reported that they were addressing anti-social behaviour which had improved however with the longer evenings, it was starting to drift back which again they would be looking to target. He referred to the sports pitches located behind Asda Supermarket which they had managed to acquire under the Education Department and confirmed that they had been working with members in utilising the pitches to provide sports amenities for the young people.

Councillor Aikhlaq on behalf of his colleagues thanked Danny for all his efforts and hard work which had resulted in improvements within the ward especially with regard

to fly-tipping. He also referred to the good working relationship with West Midlands Police in tackling anti-social behaviour. He highlighted the importance of working with schools in tackling fly-tipping by educating young people who in turn educated their older generations.

Danny confirmed that he had started to contact the schools with regard to educating the children and the first school they would be visiting was Starbank School.

Hodge Hill Ward

351 Danny Kilbride, Place Manager, referred to the anti-social behaviour relating to Dreghorn Road which had resulted in 4 injunctions on 4 young people. He highlighted that all the criminal damage caused had been repaired by residents and subsequently detailed the areas of work that this had covered. Reference was made to the engagement with residents on the Overpool Estate in tackling anti-social behaviour, and subsequently highlighted the very active Housing Liaison Board that tackled various issues in the ward which included litter picking.

Danny Kilbride reported on the work with the city centre team in addressing the aggressive beggars at the Fox and Goose Shopping Parade and the work with various organisations in addressing the sex workers.

Councillor Mahmood thanked Danny for all his hard work and subsequently highlighted that they were investigating the possibility in securing funding to purchase equipment in order to make Danny's job easier with regard to fly-tipping.

At this juncture, Danny paid tribute to the excellent staff and caretakers that worked hard in supporting the service.

Washwood Heath Ward

352 Mushtaq Hussain, Place Manager referred to the Washwood Heath Strategic Partnership which had been set up in order to improve 'Clean and Green' in the ward.

He reported on the 7 day action week that had just taken place which encompassed the key aims and included engagement, education and enforcement. He highlighted the changes the city council had had to make, due to severe budget cuts and the ways in which children and young people were tackling fly-tipping and associated issues through education. He referred to the Youth Parliament held at Rosary School whereby 5 to 6 schools got together and discussed on how litter and associated issues could be addressed in the ward. He highlighted the involvement of the Faith Watch Group in addressing litter issues and how they were working with local people in trying to steer change and the leafleting that had taken place with regard to fly-tipping.

He referred to the strategy of having one activity weekly where litter picking was targeted in a particular area and highlighted that this had taken place in Bankwood Road where residents and children had participated in litter picking their area which had also included a resident cleaning an elderly neighbour's garden. He emphasised the need in trying to change the culture whereby all took responsibility

for their own patch and the partnership working that was taking place in helping to achieve this.

He referred to the introduction of the pilot scheme which was a 5 day cleaning system which was ward based and since the introduction there had been noticeable improvements within Washwood Heath Ward. He added that although improvements had been made there was still a great deal of work to be done in tackling this issue.

Mushtaq Hussain referred to the anti-social behaviour within the ward and highlighted, that due to the police and members, there was now a public space protection order (PSPO) for the triangle of Alum Road Road, Highfield Road and Washwood Heath Road, which was now helping to reduce levels of crime within the area.

Councillor Ansar Ali Khan made reference to the comprehensive report and the excellent work that the team had undertaken in addressing the issues within the ward. He highlighted the partnership working and that it was the correct model to introduce across the city and that it was the responsibility of all to work together in making a huge difference. He further referred to the excellent work that had been achieved within the 9 day action plan undertaken by Mushtaq, his team, Councillor Mariam Khan, partners and residents and the fact that the message was loud and clear that fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated. He added that it was important that everybody followed the Leader's pledge in keeping all streets clean and taking responsibility which would in turn improve the whole of the city.

Shard End Ward

353 Phil Grainger, Place Manager, provided an overview of the work that had been taking place in Shard End Ward. He referred to the housing officers, the network of residents and the third sector organisations that were very supportive and had worked in partnership in providing an excellent service with regard to tackling the various issues, which included anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping across the ward.

He referred to the number of residents groups that met monthly which were supported by the housing team and the more complex issues that arose at those meetings were addressed at the Safe and Green meetings which were supported by the police.

He referred to the establishment of the Tile Cross Neighbourhood Forum which met monthly, and that it had its own action plan which was supported by the neighbourhood team. He subsequently detailed the various actions that elected members, Place Team and local residents had been supportive in addressing local issues which included; clearing the main access way in Byfield Close, the clearing up at the rear of the flats in Bell Lane and cutting back overgrowth at the park in order to improve boundaries. Reference was made to the Brownfield Road Residents' Group and the work that had been achieved in combating speeding in the area as well as working with councillors, the police and the city council in order to secure the first traffic regulation order in the City which prohibits residents from parking on the verges in Brownfield Road. Residents had also worked with councillors and Leisure in securing and planting a great number of bulbs that would enhance the verges and

local areas that had once been destroyed by vehicle parking. He highlighted the importance of including and encouraging local residents to assist to identify/deliver against local priorities.

He referred to the work that had taken place on the Eden Project at the Meadway, and subsequently detailed how they have managed to secure the site with third sector organisations and through some innovation funding, they would be looking to create some business opportunities for local people and subsequently detailed how they were looking to create some sustainable business ventures from the Eden Project. Further reference was made to the fact that they were hoping to create a garden scheme which would involve local residents and partners in helping elderly tenants.

Councillor Cotton concluded by detailing the importance of the agenda being resident led, and the team being very proactive in responding to the agenda. He reported that the team had been nominated for the Chamberlain Awards for outstanding customer focus and although they did not win, highlighted that it had been a very worthy recognition for all the work that had been undertaken. He subsequently thanked Phil and his team on behalf of Shard End Ward Committee for all their efforts and hard work.

The Chairman thanked the Place Managers for attending the meeting and updating the Committee.

UPDATE FROM EACH WARD

Washwood Heath Ward Committee

Councillor Mariam Khan was unable to attend the meeting and therefore the following information was submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Upon further consideration, it was:

354 **RESOLVED:-**

That the information be noted.

Hodge Hill Ward

355 Councillor Mahmood referred to the new ward boundaries and confirmed that Hodge Hill Ward would be split into two areas; Ward End (1) and Bromford and Hodge Hill (2). Ward End would cover large parts of Hodge Hill Ward and would include some roads from Washwood Heath Ward. It was noted that Bromford and Hodge Hill would be a two member ward and Ward End would be a one member ward.

Councillor Mahmood confirmed that he and Councillor Williams would be meeting with the Environmental Agency shortly regarding the proposed work relating to the

Hodge Hill District Committee – 17 November 2016

Bromford flood plain. He confirmed that all work should be on target by 2018 which would then enable new housing development to go ahead.

Councillor Mahmood highlighted that yesterday was the Annual General Meeting for the Housing Liaison Board and confirmed that they were an organisation which worked very hard for the community.

Councillor Mahmood reported that the GP Surgery at Warstone Tower, Bromford had now closed and fortunately all residents had managed to secure a place at alternative surgeries.

Councillor Mahmood referred to the Innovation Fund of £48,000 and confirmed that discussions would be taking place with officers and community groups in how best the funding should be used.

Councillor Mahmood referred to the Summer Reading Challenge, whereby a hundred children from across the district and other areas across the city had taken part in the challenge whereupon it was positive to see, that the library not only served citizens from the district, but also from other areas of the city.

Fly-tipping was reported on Washwood Heath Road and the wheelie bins belonging to Drews Lane flats had disappeared which was resulting in the return of black sacks, however, this issue was being addressed with Fleet and Waste Management.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Hodge Hill District Performance Narrative Quarter 2 2016/17

The following information was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Arthur Tsang, Acting Senior Housing Manager, introduced the narrative and highlighted the salient points.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

356 **RESOLVED:-**

That the information be noted.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE UPDATE

357 Inspector Helen Bailey, West Midlands Police referred to the rise in levels of crime around the Guy Fawkes and Halloween events which had mainly taken place in Washwood Heath and Ward End and therefore, was where the police had been targeted their resources.

She reported that business crime had risen and the police had been working with local businesses regarding security measures. She added that it was mainly garages and chemists that had been affected. She highlighted the prevention and intervention that the neighbourhood policing had been focusing on with young people

Hodge Hill District Committee – 17 November 2016

within the district, in order to help them transform their attitudes against crime and anti-social behaviour. She further reported on the issue of the travellers and the two areas in Shard End that were vulnerable to travellers. She confirmed that there was a meeting scheduled in early December 2016 to discuss the long-term problem solving plans around those particular areas.

In response to Councillor Bridle's request relating to the effectiveness of PSPO's, Helen Bailey agreed to provide the relevant information at the next meeting.

Councillor Mahmood highlighted the various issues relating to the sex workers on Washwood Heath Road near the park, drug users in the area and the need for literature to be circulated to residents where events would be taking place involving fireworks.

Inspector Helen Bailey agreed to provide the relevant literature concerning fireworks. With regard to the sex workers, confirmed that a scoping exercise had taken place and that up until now no calls had been received, however, agreed to progress the issue. She confirmed that the police worked closely with the charities that helped the sex workers.

In response to a comment from Councillor Ansar Ali Khan that the police needed to work with the local mosque, Inspector Bailey agreed with this and highlighted the police needed to increase their usage of social media.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Inspector Bailey for attending and reporting.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE

358 Samantha Pink, Station Commander, Ward End Fire Station, introduced herself and since she was very new to the area agreed to provide an update at the next meeting.

NEXT NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

359 The Chair advised that the next neighbourhood challenge would be focusing on Mental Health. She suggested that if members had any ideas regarding this area of work to forward them to her.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

360 **RESOLVED:-**

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

The meeting ended at 15:55 hours.

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CHAIRMAN