

SHELDON WARD MEETING - NOTES AND ACTIONS

WARD: SHELDON	DATE: 19th March 2019
VENUE: THE SCHOOL ROOM, ST GILES CHURCH, 149 CHURCH ROAD, B26 3TT	START/FINISH TIMES: 7PM – 8.35PM
COUNCILLORS: Paul Tilsley & Mike Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lewis Cashmore, District Engineer John Coyle, Business Improvement District (BID) Manager Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Sgt Jennifer Edwards – WMP, Sheldon Team PC Tabbish Hussain – WMP, Sheldon Team PCSO Katie Wynne – WMP Sheldon Team Kevin Gibbon – Highway Steward, Amey	
WARD PRIORITIES: Ongoing	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<p>1. NOTICE OF RECORDING</p> <p>Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.</p> <p>Cllr Tilsley in the Chair</p>	

2. COUNCILLORS NEWS/UPDATES

Waste Collection Service – Industrial Dispute

A resolution to the ongoing dispute had been reached between the City Council and the Unite and Unison Unions. Discussions were ongoing to resume the service and clear the backlog as soon as possible. In the meantime, residents should still continue to report missed collections to the Contact Centre or to Cllrs Tilsley or Ward.

West Midlands Police/Sheldon Policing Team

Sgt Jennifer Edwards briefly introduce two members of the Sheldon Policing Team, PC Hussain and PCSO Wynne. Both were part of the wider team made up of 3 PCs, 3 PCSOs and 2 Probationary Officers.

Residents were advised of the following:-

- Burglaries and robberies were slightly lower than last year; currently Operation Cantill was looking to identify trends/patterns of behaviour.
- Section 60 Notice currently in place across the whole city following the increase in knife crime/violent crime. Where a Section 60 was in place, it allows police officers to stop and search anyone in a certain area where there was evidence that serious violence has taken or may take place. Sheldon was the first ward/area where the Section 60 Notice had been lifted.
- Street-Watch Initiative - residents would receive training from the police and carry out general patrols/monitoring of traffic in designated areas of the ward. Residents would also be included on the WMP Public Liability Insurance. Residents interested in finding out more/becoming a volunteer were encouraged to contact the policing team following the meeting.

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- Obstructive parking on the pavements and junctions in Barrows Lane, Brays Road, Common Lane/surrounding roads which reduced driver visibility when approaching the junctions. Pedestrians were also forced to go into the road as they were unable to get past the vehicles parked on the pavement, all of which compromised everyone's safety.
- Sheaf Lane/Rectory Park Road – regular nuisance driver who deliberately slowed the traffic down, causing traffic congestion and obstruction. Details had been submitted to the police, including photographic evidence with the vehicle make and registration number; however the nuisance was still ongoing.
- Sheldonfields Road – drivers contravening the Highway Code by parking their vehicles less than 10 metres away from the junction.
- Ongoing problems with the 'local persistent beggar'
- An increase in drug –dealing in the ward. Residents were left unsure how to report it and the type of information required by

officers.

- An increase in off road biking/mopeds nuisance behaviour in Sheldon Country Park with bikers gathering by the Greenvale Avenue and Common Lane areas and then riding into the Park. Sundays afternoons (about 1pm) tend to be the meeting time.
- Increase in graffiti/ tagging across the ward; photographic evidence had been provided

Responding to residents' concerns, Sgt Edwards gave details of the Streetwise Initiative which enabled residents to take and send pictures of obstructive parking along with a brief statement to the local policing team within 4 days of the offence. The vehicle owner would then be sent a warning letter in the first instance.

- Calls to report crime/criminal activities including drug dealing, should call 101 in the first instance (unless it was an emergency), giving as much details as possible, including description of the alleged perpetrator, vehicle registration number and photographic evidence if it was safe to do so.
- Help and support had been offered to the 'local beggar' by several partner agencies including St. Basil's, however the individual had refused all attempts to assist him. A number of other options were being explored including the consideration of a CRASBO (Criminal Anti-Social Behaviour Order).
- Steps to address the off - road biking/moped issues were being discussed ahead of the summer months, which was when the nuisance behaviour tended to escalate.
- The graffiti/tagging were currently being investigated and would include visits to a number of schools in and around the ward.

STAG representatives sought assurances that the commitment to supporting the group with the Community Speed Watch and the use of the specialist equipment 2 days per month would continue as this had proved to be very effective. Sgt Edwards agreed to look into continuing to support STAG with their activities where possible, however this would need to be balanced against staffing resources and the priorities required to be met by local policing teams.

Members and residents thanked Sgt Edwards and members of the team for their attendance and updates and also for their help with the removal of untaxed cars reported in the ward.

3. SHELDON TRAFFIC ACTION GROUP (STAG) UPDATES

Colin Parker and Bob Toms advised of the following:-

- (i) Vehicle Activated Speed Signs (VASS)

The installation of the signage and appropriate equipment (6 in total) were due to be completed and activated within the next few weeks. A further update would be given at a future meeting.

(ii) Brays Road Traffic Calming Plans

Lewis Cashmore, District Engineer advised that the proposals for the scheme were currently out for consultation; to date the feedback and comments received had been mostly positive and welcomed. Some concerns had been raised by the bus and ambulance services regarding the raised tables across the width of the road, however a meeting had been arranged with both services to discuss the issues and find a resolution.

Lewis added that the evidence and statistical data provided by STAG had been crucial in strengthening the request for width wide raised tables instead of the usual speed cushions which were often ineffective in reducing speeding vehicles.

Members and residents welcomed the update and commended the ongoing hard work and commitment of STAG in partnership with Lewis in trying to find a solution and address the speeding and safety concerns on this particular road. There were several other surrounding roads also in need of traffic calming measures and consideration needs to be given to how speeding cars displaced from Brays Road were effectively managed.

4. 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)

5. RESIDENTS NEWS/UPDATES/LOCAL CONCERNS

The following concerns were raised:-

- Sheldon Country Park – several footpaths were covered in wet leaves, very slippery and in need of clearing.

Action: Cllr Tilsley agreed to raise the matter with Mike Hinton, District Parks Manager

- Barrows Lane/Sheldon Country Park – consideration should be given to installing a cycle path at the end of Barrows Lane leading into the Country Park as this stretch was very well used by parents taking their children to school.

Action: Cllr Tilsley agreed to raise the matter with Mike Hinton, District Parks Manager

- Hatchford Brook/Westley Brook Close area – Mike Smith advised that remedial work had been carried out to improve safety along the path.

6. WARD PLAN – IDEAS, SUGGESTIONS AND PRIORITIES

Residents were reminded that each ward was required to look at and prioritise its areas of concern so that a Ward Plan/Plan of Action could be developed to see how these priorities could be addressed over a period of time.

A copy of the Ward Priorities Ideas and Suggestions template was issued to residents for information and discussions in the first instance. The Plan would be a working document – amended and updated over the next three years as priorities were discussed, agreed and actioned where possible.

All partner agencies and businesses in the ward were also encouraged to contribute to the ward plan, working with residents, Cllrs and locally based officers to help identify how resources could be allocated and used effectively in the ward.

It was agreed that full consideration would be given to drafting the Ward Plan at the next meeting. In the meantime, residents were encouraged to submit their priorities to the Ward Cllrs or the Community Governance Manager.

7. PETITIONS

None submitted.

8. DATE OF NEXT WARD FORUM MEETING

Tuesday 18th June 2019, 7pm, St Giles Church School Room - tbc

The meeting closed at 8.35pm