

JOINT MEETING OF KINGS NORTON NORTH & KINGS NORTON SOUTH WARDS

NOTES

WARDS: Kings Norton North & Kings Norton South	DATE: Saturday 18 May 2019
VENUE: St Nicholas Place, The Green	START/FINISH TIMES: 11am – 12.45pm
COUNCILLORS Peter Griffiths & Alex Aitken	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stuart Cross, Amey Highway Steward Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	ALSO ATTENDING:- Richard Burden M.P.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Ward Priorities & Ward Planning

Councillor Griffiths welcomed all to the meeting and explained the ward planning process and that resident's views on priorities for the wards and how to deal with those issues were needed to input into the plan.

The meeting then divided into smaller groups and after some discussion reported back the following;

- a) Concern that the statistics being used were from the 2011 Census and were therefore out of date and there were no resources to provide the quality of data needed
- b) Older people & younger people numbers were higher than the Birmingham average & therefore should be the basis of ward planning
- c) Parking – generally across the wards was an issue but especially around The Green.
Plan – parking around The Green needed re-vamping. Solution to drop off & pick up times for the school when parking was at a premium. **Suggested Solutions** – i) free parking in The Bull car park for those times, owners of the pub to be approached.

ii) Work with school to educate drivers/parents or make it more difficult to park & more attractive to walk. iii) More enforcement required or signs to discourage parking.

iv) Pedestrianize The Green. There were parking spaces behind the shops to provide additional spaces and a portion of land from the open space beyond the Library could be made into parking spaces to serve the school, library, church & shops. This would take parking off The Green and make the most of the Conservation Area. It was acknowledged that the loss of public open space would not be popular but Kings Norton was lucky enough to have a large amount of green space and this solution could benefit all.

- d) Pot holes/road repairs throughout the wards – particularly dangerous for cyclists. Repairs required especially as cycling was to be encouraged but the condition of the roads was a deterrent.
- e) Lack of facilities for young people – in light of the increase in knife crime & gangs young people's services were needed to help tackle these issues
- f) Friends of the Earth proposal to create local climate action groups could be championed in Kings Norton.
+ Other environmentally friendly steps that could be taken could include – **Solutions:** solar panels on all council properties; all new housing developments in the ward should be carbon neutral (solar panels, rain water collection, retro fitting older properties with insulation etc etc. Look at all housing stock). **Climate change to be included in the Ward Plan** – take action on smaller things to change the bigger picture, acknowledge the issue of resources but felt important to include as a local issue so that it can be discussed more widely.
- g) Older Peoples Care – dwindling support in sheltered care schemes, acknowledged that resources were limited but the age profile of the wards had an older than average population which was felt to be increasing and therefore more support was needed in the early stages. The 7 sheltered schemes across Kings Norton had created an umbrella group to put on events, fund raise and target the most vulnerable/isolated residents to help them get out and meet people etc. **Solutions:** City Council to advertise local social activities & community events, clubs, groups etc including ward meetings as widely as possible so that people were able to see what was going on locally. Use the Farmers Market community stall/ community grants. Councillors to leaflet more regularly.
- h) Lack of pride in the area
- i) Good News – there was a great deal of 'good community stuff' going on across the wards and the Kings Norton Community Facebook

page was a good way of delivering local news. **Solution:** Use more to advertise events etc.

Next Steps – Councillor Aitken said that a draft plan would be drawn up and would be presented to the next ward meeting for comment/alterations/sign off.