

**NEWTOWN WARD MEETING  
NOTES**

<b>WARD: Newtown</b>	<b>DATE: 19 March 2019</b>
<b>VENUE: Pannel Croft Retirement Village, Hospital Street B19 2XU</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30 – 8pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR Ziaul Islam</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 15</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Sergeant Scott Edwards, West Midlands Police Jackie O’Callaghan, Senior Service Manager, Housing Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Manager Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

**MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:**

**1. Police & Fire Service Update**

Sergeant Edwards gave the following update;

- 200 new officers were being promised for the West Midlands area to be used in local policing
- S60 powers were in force in the area but reviewed daily by the Chief Constable
- Local priorities were – street gangs/organised crime groups, burglary, robbery, parking & ASB in Upper Sutton Street
- DVLA operations in relation to vehicles
- Parking operations when resources allow.
- A meeting was being held on 26 March at 7pm at The Lighthouse to provide information and for anyone wanting to get involved in Street Watch
- Local information from the community was essential
- Burglaries & robberies – burglaries were sporadic, including from businesses with no clear pattern. Robberies around King

Edwards School & Aston Manor School had dissipated as arrests had been made

In response to issues raised Sergeant Edwards said that he was part of a 'hostel watch' with providers and application was being made for a PSPO to cover Newtown which would help to ease some of the issues. Ahead of the summer months and anticipated problems in open spaces he would be seeking additional resources and would be engaging with schools in a pastoral role.

## **2. Housing**

Residents referred to the amount of damp being experienced by residents in properties in Hockley area of Newtown caused in part by leaking walkways which were due to be re-lined some while ago but no refurbishment had been undertaken. Scaffolding was erected around buildings but no work seemed to be done and there was no improvement to the conditions inside the properties. It was queried whether the work was ever inspected, especially that of roofing contractors. Stainsby Avenue blocks 1-47 were experiencing problems and had roof work but there were still leaks and the walls inside the maisonettes were black with damp. Also the internal down pipes blocked causing flooding within the flats. The lack of cleaning of the communal areas etc was also an issue and it was suggested that 'block champions' be reinstated. A resident made reference to a lack of ventilation in his kitchen that had resulted in his cooker being condemned. Jackie said she had made a note of the concerns raised and undertook to take personal details at the conclusion of the meeting and raise with the appropriate officers.

There were also concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour around Tesco in Hockley and that some of those involved gained access to the blocks and congregated in corridors causing nuisance. Jackie undertook to take details at the conclusion of the meeting and arrange for an officer to contact residents.

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Islam regarding lack of response from officers to complaints he had raised on behalf of residents, Jackie undertook to take specific details at the conclusion of the meeting and ensure the appropriate officer responded.

## **3. Ward Priorities**

Pat Whyte explained the reasons for creating a ward plan and residents gave consideration to the priorities for the ward. In particular the effect of the Clean Air Zone was a major priority for residents. Residents were encouraged to detail their thoughts on the priorities form circulated and forward to Councillor Islam.

**Councillor Islam said he had also been contacted by local businesses worried about the effect of the CAZ and said he would contact the officers working on the CAZ and invite them to attend a meeting to discuss further. He would also invite local businesses to attend.** It was suggested that residents send in advance of the meeting their questions to ensure that the appropriate information was made available.

Other priority was to improve local community cohesion and fun days in Burberry Park were suggested as a way of achieving this.

**4. Local Issues**

5. a) NACRO Building - in response to a query at the previous meeting Councillor Islam advised that NACRO was still active in the ward and worked from Newtown Shopping Centre. The site of the former NACRO building had been fenced off.
6. b) 168 Bridge Street West – planning application for student accommodation not yet submitted, Councillor Islam to monitor.
7. c) Huda Centre – successful litter pick organised for Great Hampton Row & thanks extended to BCC for loan of the equipment.

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print): .....