

SHELDON WARD MEETING - NOTES AND ACTIONS

WARD: SHELDON	DATE: 17th September 2019
VENUE: THE SCHOOL ROOM, ST GILES CHURCH, 149 CHURCH ROAD, B26 3TT	START/FINISH TIMES: 7PM – 9.00pm
COUNCILLORS: Paul Tilsley & Mike Ward	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 30
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Lewis Cashmore – Senior District Engineer John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team Pat Whyte – Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit Apologies – Lol Thurstan, B26 News	
WARD PRIORITIES: Identified	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

Residents were advised that they were able to record and/or take photographs of the meeting.

Cllr Tilsley in the Chair

2. COUNCILLORS NEWS/UPDATES

Ward Meeting Arrangements & Conduct

Cllr Tilsley acknowledged that the last ward meeting had been a little disjointed and very disappointing given that local residents attending the meeting expected to have their concerns heard and addressed. New attendees at future meetings would be asked for the

name of their road to ensure that residents living within the ward were given the opportunity to voice their concerns.

Waste Collection Service

There had been some improvement in the service, however there was still some way to go to get the service fully operational and back on track. Residents should continue to report missed collections to the Ward Cllrs or the Contact Centre. Cllr John O'Shea, Cabinet Member was continuing to keep all Cllrs up to date with the service.

Sheldon Shopping Centre

M & S was due to open shortly along with B&M Bargains. On the opposite side of the square, complaints had been made regarding the poor state of disrepair and unkempt condition of the empty business premises. Discussions were ongoing with the Managing Agent regarding a tidy up of the site and improvements to the frontages to make them more attractive to potential clients.

Sheldon Town Centre Manager Update

John Coyle, Sheldon Town Centre Manager briefly advised that discussions were still ongoing with businesses to consider the benefits of setting up a Business Improvement District. However whilst many of the main stores would like to become more involved locally, the decision to do so was often made by the respective Head Office. Large businesses often had to pay the biggest levy if a BID was established, and as such, often preferred to contribute to community interests in a different way – e.g. supporting a local charity; free use of community space; donations for raffles etc.

The range and variety of the types of shops/businesses were also being discussed and encouraged, however this had to be balanced against the number of units left empty and the impact on the centre. Several residents felt that the building of 600 or so new homes in the ward should be used to generate and improve the local business offer and encourage the centre to become a 'One Stop Shop' to attract and retain shoppers.

Residents expressed further concerns regarding the increase in rubbish/littering and the lack of responsibility of the businesses in keeping their respective curtilage clean and tidy; B&M Bargains were one of the worst offenders. The introduction of car parking charges and lack of variety in the type of shops/businesses did not encourage shoppers to use the centre especially as free parking and a wider variety of shops were available elsewhere.

John also welcomed the involvement of residents in setting up a Stakeholder Partnership Group, which would be constituted and meet

every 2-3 months. One of the main aims of the Group would be to look at better connectivity of all the shops in the parade if setting up a BID remained unsuccessful and ways to make the parade more attractive. Environmental enhancements, including street planters/Adopt A Flower Tub was one of the ideas suggested by residents. Residents interested in getting involved should speak to John and/or leave their contact details following the meeting.

Former Police Station

Although not in the Ward, Cllrs had supported fellow Cllrs in the neighbouring wards with their objections to the Planning Application Submitted by the new owners to change the use of the building to supported housing for a wide range of vulnerable people.

Two applications had been submitted and refused to date and the subsequent appeal dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate, however the owner seemed determined not to give up. Residents would continue to be kept informed as approval would have implications for the ward.

3. WARD PLAN UPDATE

Copies of the first draft of the Ward Plan based on the priorities identified were circulated at the meeting. Residents pointed out that the information relating to the ward description and population statistics were as inconsistent. Agreement also needed to be reached regarding the priorities, particularly parking which remained a contentious issue across the ward.

Residents were reminded that the Plan was a working document and that any amendments and suggestions should be sent to the Community Governance Team or Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit (Beverly Edmead/Pat Whyte) for inclusion by the end of September.

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

Lewis Cashmore, Senior District Engineer advised of the following:-

- Colway Avenue/Coventry Road – repairs to the pavement should be completed within the next week or so.

- Brays Road Traffic Calming – the budget had been approved and work was due to commence in early Spring (Feb/March). Colin (STAG) expressed concerns that small speed cushions were to be installed instead of the raised table speed cushion across the width of the road which would have been more effective, and urged that this was reconsidered especially as STAG had collected evidence of the speed travelled along the road on a daily basis and the details of over 30 cars had been passed on to the police. Lewis explained that the speed cushions to be installed were part of a wider range of traffic calming measures and that the findings from studies carried out on raised table speed cushions indicated that they did not necessarily reduce speeding along the road.

Residents advised of the following:-

- Arden Oak Road/Wycroft Rd/Shepherd Rd – significant weed growth around the base of the trees. In need of treating/removing.

Action: Cllr Tilsley agreed to raise the matter with Mike Hinton, Districts Park Manager

- Herondale/Barrows and Beechmoor Roads – increase in traffic congestion along these roads. Lack of parking provision at the Special School nearby added to the problems. Several residents felt that traffic monitoring should be carried out and asked for this to be added to STAG's observation list, and that consideration should also be given to removing some of the grass verges to create additional parking/waiting spaces. Other residents disagreed with this suggestion and felt that creating additional parking spaces would not necessarily alleviate the problem as the demand for parking provision would continue to grow; a change in drivers' behaviour and practises was needed, especially around schools as many parents lived locally and were more than able to walk their child to school but chose not to do so.
- Grass cutting and shrub pruning had improved around the ward; however there were still a few issues with grass cutting on Barrows Lane by the entrance to the Country Park.

Action: Cllrs agreed to raise the matter with Mike Hinton, Districts Park Manager

6. PETITIONS

None submitted.

7. DATE OF NEXT WARD FORUM MEETING

Tuesday 10th December 2019, 7pm, St Giles Church School Room - tbc

The meeting closed at 9.00pm