

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**SELLY OAK DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
THURSDAY 30 JULY 2015**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SELLY OAK
DISTRICT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 30
JULY 2015 AT 1030 HOURS IN COMMITTEE
ROOMS 3 & 4, THE COUNCIL HOUSE, VICTORIA
SQUARE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT : - Councillor Karen McCarthy in the Chair

Councillors Susan Barnett, Alex Buchanan, Phil Davis, Barry
Henley, Timothy Huxtable, Brigid Jones, Changese Khan and Phil
Walkling

ALSO PRESENT :-

Karen Cheney – District Head (Selly Oak)
Ifor Jones – Service Director, Neighbourhoods
Natalie Potter – Senior Service Manager, Housing
Kay Thomas – Committee Services

NOTICE OF RECORDING

283 The Chair advised that the meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent
broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.birminghamnewsroom.com) and
that members of the press / public may record and take photographs.

The whole of the meeting will be filmed except where there are confidential or
exempt items.

APOLOGIES

284 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mike Leddy, Eva Phillips and
Rob Sealy

MINUTES

Councillor Huxtable referred to Minute No 279 and that Katie Road had been mis-
spelt.

285 **RESOLVED:-**

Selly Oak District Committee – 30 July 2015

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 18 June 2015, having been previously circulated, were confirmed, subject to the amendment to minute no 279 as above and signed by the Chairman.

Councillor Huxtable referred to minute no 276 and his concerns relating to the Cotteridge HLB budget. He stated that he had now found that the budget had been spent entirely in Selly Oak in error and he would be pursuing the matter further outside the meeting. The Chair said that she was not aware of the issue and requested that further information be submitted concerning the issue.

Councillor Huxtable requested an update on the position with regard to District Engineers. Karen Cheney reported that an update was awaited but that the Engineer was currently still based in the District.

CABINET REPORT – DISTRICT AND WARD GOVERNANCE AND NEIGHBOURHOOD CHALLENGE

The Cabinet report of 27 July 2015 was submitted:-

(See Document No. 1)

Ifor Jones highlighted the main points of the report as they related to District Committees, in particular the Community Plan, Neighbourhood Challenge and executive functions. The position regarding Ward Committees/Forums was explained and that District Committees would be required to submit a brief statement to their September/October meetings setting out local governance arrangements moving forward.

The Chair referred to item 7 on the agenda and proposed it be brought forward as it related to a number of elements of this report.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report as submitted be noted.

SELLY OAK DISTRICT – FUTURE PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

Karen Cheney circulated a paper setting out the future District arrangements, including suggested partnerships/forums which were a priority for the District.

The Chair stressed the importance of building on existing partnership working and suggested working towards a District Health and Wellbeing Partnership in the first instance. In light of the amount of regeneration work in parts of the District consideration needed to be given to how jobs could be created in the Brandwood, Billesley and Bournville Wards. Jobs and Skills could be the first Neighbourhood Challenge issue and could lead to the creation of a new partnership. A successful Arts Forum already existed in the District but this could be developed further.

In relation to the Community Plan this would develop from the District Convention and one of the priorities would be to create better links with young people through the Youth Forum etc.

The Ward Committee structure was progressing, with Billesley Ward Committee meeting that evening.

Karen Cheney advised that the Jobs and Skills Plan was ready and available if that was decided as the topic for the first Neighbourhood Challenge. In respect of the suggested partnerships it would be useful to have a Member champion for each going forward. The co-opted members to the District Committee would also be reviewed in light of the new partnerships.

The Chair said that future planning arrangements would be considered again at the September meeting.

Councillor Barnett welcomed this as a good starting point for the way forward and expressed an interest in the Health and Well Being partnership/champion.

Councillor Huxtable referred to the redevelopment work taking place across the District and asked that it be included in the Jobs and Skills Plan. He referred to the Ward Litter Plans and advised that he had responded to the originating department as requested but had received no feedback. The new Place Manager had taken it on board but Councillor Huxtable expressed concern that the originating department had not responded and he sought clarity as litter prevention was a ward priority.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Huxtable regarding the Social Innovation Zone, Karen Cheney advised that work had been undertaken in Cotteridge/Stirchley with community partners and Healthy Villages and the first wider group meeting would be held in September. She assured Councillor Huxtable that the matter was being pursued and he would be contacted in due course.

With regard to the appointment of Member Champions the Chair asked that this be included on the agenda for the next meeting, to include an appointment to Corporate Parent Champion.

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RESOLVED:-

That the update be noted and that future planning arrangements be considered further at the next meeting, together with Member Champion appointments.

UPDATE BRIEFING ON HOUSING PLACE MANAGEMENT IN THE DISTRICT

The following report was submitted:-

(See Document No. 2)

The Chair advised that Jonathan Antill was unable to attend the meeting as he was on paternity leave and sent congratulations on the birth of his new baby.

Natalie Potter outlined the main points of the presentation.

Councillor Huxtable congratulated Arthur Tsang on his promotion and asked that his best wishes be forwarded to him.

In response to comments made by Councillor Henley regarding the work load of the Place Managers which had led to difficulties in them being involved in events around the Ward and difficulties in meeting with them, Natalie Potter undertook to take those comments back as it was important that Place Managers were involved in local events and all that was happening in Place.

Councillor Barnett advised that the Billesley Councillors had been requesting for some time that the Billesley housing officers be based closer to the Ward as at present they were located in Northfield. Yardley Wood Library would be well placed as a base. Natalie Potter while acknowledging the points raised said that Billesley staff were regularly on the estates and visited the Ward on a regular basis therefore their desk location was not so relevant. Councillor Buchanan acknowledged that the housing officers regularly visited the Ward but it would be better for them and Councillors if they were based in the Ward. Natalie undertook to take those comments back.

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RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

HOUSING ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS – FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

A report of the Senior Service Manager, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See Document No 3)

Natalie Potter referred to an error in the report submitted as some projects had been omitted and she therefore withdrew the circulated report and submitted an amended report (Document No 4) which also included allocations from the Housing Liaison budgets and the Ariel Budget for information. She undertook to email an up to date report to Members.

Councillor Henley referred to the recent work undertaken to improve some tower blocks including emergency lighting and re-decoration but commented that there still remained a real issue with criminal damage associated with increased intimidation due to the use of empty flats for cannabis growing. The installation of CCTV was therefore imperative and the cost justified against the cost of the criminal damage being caused together with the assistance a security system would provide to the police in tackling the root cause. There were also problems with non-residents being 'buzzed' into the blocks and using the lobbies for drug taking and drinking – CCTV would also assist in dealing with these issues.

Natalie Potter said that she was aware of these issues and various approaches had been taken to deal with them. Druids Heath was currently being assessed and a plan of action progressed for the 15 tower blocks in that area. Security could be tackled as part of that long term plan. She undertook to report further to a future meeting.

Selly Oak District Committee – 30 July 2015

In response to concerns raised by Councillor Huxtable in respect of Cotteridge and Ingoldsby HLB an undertaking was given that Jonathan Anthill would investigate and report back to Councillor Huxtable.

Councillor Huxtable also queried the telephone mast income and was advised that works at Browning and Shelley Towers had been funded from that budget but that the details would be forwarded to Councillor Huxtable.

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RESOLVED:-

That the information provided be noted and that details be sent to Members and a further report submitted to Committee.

FEEDBACK FROM SELLY OAK WARDS; BILLESLEY, BOURNVILLE, BRANDWOOD AND SELLY OAK

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Karen Cheney, District Head gave the following update:-

- Interim arrangements had been put into place for a replacement Community Safety Officer to replace Austin Rodriguez and Sue Brookin, West Midlands Fire Service would be taking up the post from 18 August.
- Two Birmingham University students would be working from the District Office from September to update the third sector mapping in the Billesley Ward.
- Bournbrook all out day had been an effective and productive partnership between partners and the community.
- Stirchley Baths – there had been some high profile press articles recently and a hard hat tour was arranged for 6 August.
- The Spearhead Trust had been awarded highly commended in the Lloyds Community Award.
- The District would be involved in Heritage Week during September when Bells Farm would be open and Stirchley Baths involved.
- Democracy Week would be running again 12-18 October.

Councillor Davis commented on the range of heritage buildings in the District undertaking a range of activities and that every effort must be made to create a focus on them during Heritage Week.

Councillor Jones reported that CP4SO had won a Community Inspiration Award.

Karen Cheney reminded Members that it had been agreed to also use this part of the agenda to report SU4B recognitions and announcements. The Chair suggested that the Friends of Stirchley Park be put forward for an award and recognitions be included on the agenda for the September meeting.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (REPORTS BY OFFICERS)

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None raised.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS

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RESOLVED:-

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 1145 hours.

CHAIRPERSON