

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**YARDLEY DISTRICT
COMMITTEE
27 JULY 2017**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE
HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2017 AT 1330 HOURS
IN COMMITTEE ROOMS 3 & 4, COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillors Sue Anderson, Zaker Choudhry, Neil Eustace, Roger Harmer, Zafar Iqbal, Carol Jones, Stewart Stacey, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward.

ALSO PRESENT: -

Paul Walls	- Leisure Project & Client Manager
Jamie Bryant	- Birmingham Community Leisure Trust
Lindsey Trivett	- Head of Service
Sarah Feeley	- Commissioning Officer
Mike Hinton	- District Parks Manager
Guy Chaundy	- Senior Service Manager
Jonjo Hegarty	- Place Manager
Sgt Tony Eustace	- West Midlands Police
Jon Grimshaw	- West Midlands Fire Service
Paul Kitchen	- West Midlands Fire Service
Marie Reynolds	- Area Democratic Services Officer

ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER AND DUPUTY EXECUTIVE MEMBER

On the receipt of nominations, it was:-

440

RESOLVED: -

- a) That Councillor Mike Ward be elected Chairman (Executive Member) for Yardley District for the Municipal Year 2017/2018, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.
- b) That Councillor Basharat Dad be appointed Committee Vice-Chairperson for the 2017/2018 Municipal Year, ending with the first meeting of the Committee in the 2018/19 Municipal Year.

(Councillor Mike Ward in the Chair)

NOTICE OF RECORDING

- 441 The District Committee were advised that the meeting would be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet site and members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.
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APOLOGIES

- 442 Apologies were submitted on behalf of Councillors Ali, Dad and O'Shea for non-attendance.
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MEMBERSHIP OF YARDLEY DISTRICT COMMITTEE:

- 443 To note the membership of the Committee as follows:-

Councillors :- Roger Harmer, John O'Shea and Stewart Stacey (Acocks Green Ward)

Councillors :- Sue Anderson, Paul Tilsley and Mike Ward (Sheldon Ward)

Councillors :- Nawaz Ali, Zaker Choudhry and Zafar Iqbal (South Yardley Ward)

Councillors :- Neil Eustace, Basharat Dad and Carol Jones (Stechford and Yardley North Ward).

CO-OPTED MEMBERS:-

Jon Grimshaw, Station Commander, WMFS (to provide a substitute if unavailable)
Sergeant Tony Eustace, WMP (to provide a substitute if unavailable)

LEAD OFFICER ARRANGEMENTS

- 444 To note the Lead Officer arrangements as follows:-

Lead Officer – (Yardley) – Richard Davies
Area Democratic Services Officer – Marie Reynolds

DISTRICT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- 445 The following appointments were noted:-

Corporate Parent Champion (Councillor Sue Anderson)
Special Education Needs Champion (Councillor Zafar Iqbal)

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Employment, Jobs and Skills Champion (Councillor Nawaz Ali)
Cultural Heritage Champion (Councillor Paul Tilsley)
Regulation 33 Visits

Councillor Sue Anderson referred to Regulation 33 visits and confirmed that all councillors could undertake these visits highlighting that The Laurels had now closed, adding that there were the children's homes that they could visit and a retirement home which was located in Sheldon Ward.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The following Code of Conduct for meetings of Yardley District Committee was submitted:-

(See document No. 1)

446 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Code of Conduct be noted.

DISTRICT COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS AND GUIDELINES

The following District Committee's Functions and Guidelines were submitted:-

(See document No. 2)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

447 **RESOLVED;-**

That the District Committee's Functions and Guidelines be noted.

MINUTES

448 The Minutes of the meeting of the Yardley District Committee held on 23 March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

At this juncture, the Chairman varied the order of the agenda.

BCC EARLY YEARS SERVICE REDESIGN CONSULTATION

449 Lindsey Trivett, Head of Services reported that the consultation was running up until 17 August 2017 and that the key purpose was to ensure that the proposed delivery of the remodel of the contract provider was to seek views and opinions, highlighting that the final model may change as a result of the consultation.

She stated that the new provider's model reflected a desire to deliver the services based on a child family centre approach rather than a physical building approach, which would mean that they could place the services into areas where children and families already accessed services and where they found most convenient to access in the future. By working this way the provider had been able to target the resources to the frontline rather than supporting some expensive accommodation.

She highlighted that where a building had been identified within the consultation document as being closed or re-utilised related only to children's centre services and therefore, where buildings were there for other reasons for e.g., nursery schools those particular buildings would not be closing. She added that the provider had put a focus on trying to retain as many staff as possible.

She referred to the various consultation events that had taken place and the event scheduled in Yardley District for Wednesday, 9 August 2017 at 10.30 hours in Acocks Green Library.

Councillors Eustace and Anderson were of the opinion that the service currently delivered from Bordesley Green East Children's Centre should remain there as residents were very pleased with the service and were concerned, that if it relocated, the standard of service provided could be compromised. It was highlighted that the building was city council owned and could potentially become the hub for the area, and with the building being further utilised as a hub could result in a more cost effective way of working.

Councillor Anderson whilst recognising that there was a need for addressing vulnerable children that did not access children centres, and the need for staff to work out in the areas with these children, subsequently highlighted the importance of investment in staff and to ensure that they were not dissipated so much that the service was compromised, and that there was a system in place where staff could be easily accessed by all. She reiterated the fact that the building could be used as a hub for many reasons.

Councillor Tilsley whilst expressing sadness with regard to the changes to the service sought assurance that the monies paid under the contract held by Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust, remained within the contract and was not used for other purposes.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Lindsey Trivett and Sarah Feeley for attending the meeting and reporting.

**HOUSING TRANSFORMATION BOARD PERFORMANCE REPORT
QUARTER 4 – 2016/2017**

450

The following report of the Service Director, Housing Transformation was submitted:-

(See document No. 3)

Guy Chaundy, Senior Service Manager, gave an overview of the report and the narrative and as a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Guy Chaundy confirmed that he was fully aware of the issues regarding off road bikes and if members had any specific cases where they believed that they were not being dealt with correctly to forward them directly to him. He added that if tenants were demonstrating anti-social behaviour in their locality the City Council did have the powers under the tenancy conditions to take appropriate action.

Guy Chaundy referred to the service redesign that was taking place at the moment and the impact that it would have on changes in personnel in some areas and as a result of this, agreed to ensure members would be kept fully informed of any staff changes in the future.

Guy Chaundy referred to emergency repairs and the difficulty contractors were experiencing in not necessarily always achieving the emergency repairs target within 2 hours. He stated that there were occasions where contractors arrived and completed the work just after 2 hours, which affected the target figures. He added that there was a lot of work being undertaken in understanding the issues around contractor performance and that Asset Management would be best placed to provide more detailed information and subsequently agreed to progress this issue with them.

Guy Chaundy referred to the concern relating to the rehousing of residents at the Poolway and agreed to contact the Clearance Team to ensure that residents at the Poolway were receiving the necessary assistance in bidding for properties.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Guy Chaundy for attending the meeting and reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the report and comments be noted.

**FOX HOLLIES LEISURE CENTRE AND STECHFORD CASCADES -
UPDATE**

451 Paul Walls, Leisure Projects Client Manager and Jamie Bryant, Partnership Manager provided an update.

Jamie Bryant provided a brief update on Fox Hollies Leisure Centre. He reported that the changing rooms both wet and dry were now completed. He referred to the new village style changing area which serviced the pool and made further reference to the additional showers, lockers and cubicles that had been provided as well as the small group changing area. He referred to the dry change area which serviced the health, fitness and sports division which was

now a more modern inviting space. He stated that they would continue to look at ways to further enhance the centre adding, that they were currently working on an improved access controlled system, which prevented access to people without paying or without valid cards, and improve access to customers who had paid and wanted to access the facilities at a quicker rate.

He referred to the old gym facility and adjacent car park, and confirmed that they were now utilising the space as a technical estate store and workshop and that they would continue to provide a club room and office space for Sparkhill Harriers.

He confirmed that work had been completed on Fox Hollies Car Park in order to prevent any further illegal traveller encampments. He referred to the excellent uptake in courses and classes that had taken place since the contract had started which also reflected in health, fitness and swimming. He highlighted that there had now been the introduction of gymnastics and tennis whereupon they were working in partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association, and the British Gymnastics who were the sports' governing bodies. There was also a strong football programme which had contributed to a 30% increase in the dry course programme since the contract had started.

Jamie Bryant referred to the 2 new posts that had been created which was an aquatic activator and a dry court activator post. He confirmed that they had moved a high number of casual staff into permanent contracts and across the City, they had 50 staff members that were undertaking some form of apprenticeship training through to degree level. He further confirmed that 2 members of the team had been successful in completing the Institute of Leadership Management Court which was run in partnership with Leeds Beckett University. He concluded by confirming that they had successfully relocated all the administration staff into the Leisure Centre creating an administration hub which was providing an efficient administration service.

Paul Walls reported that the Stechford team had been very busy in recruiting new members and reported on the increased growth of the health and fitness membership and swimming, tennis and gym membership, since the contract had started. He highlighted that the team was involved in the final development of the new build scheme and was presently looking at programmes for the new sports hall. The structure for the new building had now been constructed and they would shortly be progressing to the consultation stage with the existing staff regarding the recruitment process. It was highlighted that they would be looking this year for a member of staff to obtain a place on the Leadership Management Course.

Paul Walls highlighted that the new facility would provide; a 6 lane 25m swimming pool and a 12m x 7m learner pool with family and group style changing facilities, a 4 court sports hall, 120 station fitness suite, dance studio and community room.

He confirmed that the first floor of the building had now been plastered and the fitness suite had now been fitted out with mechanical duct work, light fittings and air conditioning. Plastering and rendering had now been completed on the lower ground floor and both pools had had their side walls rendered and the

base screed had now been laid. All tiling in the pool hall had now commenced and the internal glazed screens were presently being fitted as well as the high level mechanical electrical services throughout the building.

He confirmed that the new centre would incorporate privacy for specific interest groups and they were in the process of finalising the exact type of privacy screening that would be used, which would be incorporated as part of the final phase. He further confirmed that they were on track to complete the scheme by the end of March 2018 although it was plausible the new centre may be delivered earlier given the current progress of work.

He stated that if members should like an early tour at this stage to contact him and he would be happy to oblige.

In response to members' comments and questions, Paul confirmed that the old building and land at the Stechford site belonged to Birmingham City Council.

Paul highlighted that as part of the planning application, there was the provision of safe secure places for cyclists and good transport links in addition to the transport plan which formed part of the handover package with the new operator. He confirmed that parking would be carefully monitored and opportunities in the local area would be considered if additional parking was required.

Jamie referred to the group style village changing facility at Fox Hollies Leisure Centre and confirmed that there had been very little negative feedback from users.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Paul Walls and Jamie Bryant for reporting.

Upon further consideration, it was:-

RESOLVED:-

That the update and comments be noted.

EAST COMMUNITY SAFETY GROUP

452

Sergeant Tony Eustace, West Midlands Police provided a brief update on behalf of Pamela Powis, Safer Neighbourhood Partnership Manager who was unable to attend.

He reported that there would partnership training which was to be delivered on Anti-Social Behaviour and Mental Health. He confirmed that there would be a Knife Crime Project commencing in September 2017 where there would be a Crime-stoppers Fearless Officer allocated to Birmingham 2 days per week who would be working in schools with Public Protection Officers. Work would continue with off-road bikes and on 14 September 2017 there was scheduled a citywide domestic abuse event where there would be a number of providers attending.

WEST MIDLANDS POLICE – UPDATE

453

Sergeant Tony Eustace provided a brief overview on the huge demand that had been required from the Police Force in June and July 2017 and with the high visibility patrols required following the events of London and Manchester, this had impacted on local policing.

He confirmed that there had been a 12% increase in crime in Yardley District which compared to all the other districts across the city was the lowest and was considerably lower than the force level.

He highlighted that there had been a reduction in residential burglary dwellings since Christmas and there had been some significant arrests, remands and convictions. He added that they had not seen any high levels of robberies and car-jacking which he confirmed had been experienced in other districts across the city.

He confirmed that the summer had been dominated by the ability to cope with demand and as a result of this, the force had provided some 'hot grids' in order to be more scientific on where staff should be more effectively deployed. He stated that there were 13 'hot grids' across Yardley District which comprised of a number on the Gospel Estate, Coventry Road and Garretts Green Lane where additional support was being provided, adding that in some of the cases, they were working with key problematic families in helping to ensure their behaviour was curbed.

He referred to the work that had taken place with partners over the last few months to get the Safe Haven Project up and running which was located at the side of the Co-Operative in Acocks Green. He confirmed that there had been some funding secured through Birmingham Community Safety Partnership and it was hoped that it would become a hub for diversion activities.

It was noted that on 9 September 2017, they were staging a world café at Ninestiles School and were trying to encourage a number of key community contacts, pupils and local families involved in looking at priorities. He confirmed that they were looking into obtaining funding from the Proceeds of Crime Act allocated to youth engagement consultation to actually target the off road issue.

He referred to the recently launched yearly strategy with some of the local primary schools for the next school term with regard to information sharing and working with vulnerable families in trying to intervene earlier. Work had also been set up with some secondary schools regarding knife arch crime and they were just in the process of obtaining the relevant equipment.

Sergeant Tony Eustace referred to the 23 warrants that had been issued in March whereby some were related to off road bike offending. He confirmed that the offenders remained on bail with a CPS charge and a decision impending, explaining that due to the complexity of the case, it had been transferred to the

Headquarters based in London. He highlighted that he was optimistic that the result would be favourable with there being some prosecutions. He concluded by stating that they were looking at a number of initiatives over the summer months.

As a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Sergeant Tony Eustace agreed to provide details to Councillors Harmer and Stacey regarding the Safe Haven project. He subsequently thanked Councillor Harmer for his offer of support relating to the CPS case although unsure as to whether it would be required or not at this stage in time.

In response to concerns raised by Councillors Iqbal and Chaudhry, Sergeant Tony Eustace referred to the work that had taken place around Tennyson Road and Waverley Road and agreed to look into the issues relating to prostitution and drug dealing in Coventry Road, Hall Green Road and Small Heath Park.

In response to concern raised by Councillors Anderson and Tilsley regarding the difficulties local communities were encountering in trying to acquire Local Innovation Funding (LIF), Councillor Stacey referred to the schemes that had been approved in Acocks Green Ward highlighting that 2 schemes had had to be tweaked in order to meet the needs and were now progressing through the necessary clearance procedures.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Sergeant Tony Eustace for attending the meeting and providing an update.

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE SERVICE - UPDATE

454

Jon Grimshaw, Station Commander - Sheldon Fire Station and Paul Kitchen, Station Commander-Hay Mills Fire Station provided an update.

Jon Grimshaw, Sheldon Fire Station reported that the service continued to work as a service to a 5 minute attendance time to all category one life risk emergencies, adding that both stations worked within this target.

He highlighted that the service undertook a great many safe and well visits to residents which included cooking safety advice. Reference was made to the arson vehicle and rubbish incidents especially around Fox Hollies Park that had taken place and how the service was focusing on these areas of work. He further referred to the continued monitoring of the mini-motos and scooters and the work that was taking place with other agencies and partners in addressing this issue.

He referred to the work that had been undertaken in providing advice relating to smoking and alcohol prevention and the signposting that was involved in assisting people in this area of work. He advised that due to the tragic events in London, they were currently working to reassure residents in high rise accommodation and working with landlords including Birmingham City Council, with inspections on all high rise buildings across the area. He confirmed that

any faults would be reported and any external cladding would be highlighted, inspected and made safe.

Jon Grimshaw confirmed that the Sheldon Fire Station Open Day was scheduled for Sunday, 3 September 2017 and all were welcome. He highlighted Hay Mills Fire Station had recently welcomed Jess Phillips, MP to discuss the work that was being carried out across the District. He further highlighted that the crew from Hay Mills was representing the West Midlands in the National Breathing Apparatus Competition in October 2017 adding that Hay Mills produced a quarterly newsletter highlighting the work that they carried out.

As a result of several comments and questions from members, the following were amongst the points made:-

Paul Kitchen referred to the safe and well visits that were carried out by the operational crews which included a general assessment of the property covering both fire and health risks. Any referrals could be made to the internal staff that already had links formed with the community, adding that there was a good referral network in place which worked well.

Following a discussion relating to the use of drones, Paul Kitchen highlighted the difficulties relating to the usage of drones with regard to licence, protocol issues and limited staff and stated that although they were not quite there at the moment with the resources, agreed to take back members' comments regarding drone usage. He emphasised that the fire service was not an enforcement agency and highlighted the importance that it remained an impartial service, as they did not want to lose the ability and trust that they held with the public which did not always apply to other agencies.

Councillor Eustace highlighted that West Midlands Fire Service was an excellent service and one of the finest in the Country.

In response to a question relating to vehicles being abandoned and attracting crime, Paul Kitchen explained the differences between the responsibilities of the insurance companies and city council for the removal of these vehicles.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Jon Grimshaw and Paul Kitchen for attending the meeting and providing an update.

BCC PARKS AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICE – UPDATE

455

Mike Hinton, Senior Parks Manager attended the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.

Mike Hinton referred to the reduction in the grounds maintenance budget which had impacted on the grass cutting as well as other areas of the service, confirming that this had been the only way to sustain the level of service within the stringent budget cuts.

He highlighted that consideration had been given to risk assessments and stated that both long and short grass could catch on fire and therefore they had

had cut specific areas in order to provide exit routes for people. He further highlighted that in order to provide true fire breaks, some of the areas would have had to be closed. He added that areas would have to be ploughed which in turn would involve reinstatement costs and raise health and safety issues in terms of falls. He stated that they would be taking reasonable practical measures to deal with any fire issues, which could involve additional litter picking to prevent fire hazards, adding that it was more cost effective to have more frequent litter picks than cut the grass. He highlighted that the long grass would increase the biodiversity of an area and increase wildlife in the area

With regard to dog fouling, whilst Mike highlighted that it was the responsibility of the dog owners to clean up the mess, adding that if the issue persisted, it could be tackled with the possibility of involving animal welfare on a more educational basis.

Councillor Tilsley highlighted his concern regarding grass being kept too long and with infrequent cutting the serious life threatening health issue that he had had recently experienced.

In response to concerns relating to Small Heath Park, Mike highlighted that due to the warm weather there had been a great deal of footfall in the park which had resulted in additional litter. He advised that the park keeper was now providing a 2 day service compared to the original 5 days per week which had a significant impact on service levels.

Mike confirmed that the Mughal Garden gates had been locked for security purposes preventing anti-social behaviour taking place however people were breaking into the garden and causing damage. He was not certain whether opening the gates was the solution to curing the problem. However, he confirmed that he had no objection to opening the gates but could not be held accountable if issues arose due to easy access as there were a number of areas in the garden that was not always patrolled.

With regard to the broken fence by the gate, Mike agreed to progress the matter.

In response to concern raised regarding unmown areas in Curtis Gardens, Mike agreed to look at the area highlighting that if an area of grass was mown in Curtis Gardens, the provision of service would have to be reduced somewhere else.

In response to concern raised regarding Idverdi and the poor quality of litter picking carried out by them, Mike highlighted the difficulty in monitoring the situation due to the reduced numbers of park staff now in place. He confirmed however, that the issue had been raised a number of times before and agreed to raise it again if this had not since been resolved.

Mike referred to Oak Meadow and provided a brief update. He confirmed although the line of the fence had been implemented the area had not been reinstated as was agreed. He further confirmed that the matter had now progressed to the Directors of Severn Trent Water Authority and Amey who had been advised that there would be a new landscape contractor in place on

Monday. Mike confirmed that he would be there to monitor the works carried out.

Councillor Stacey commented on the reductions in the services that were now being provided highlighting that it was due to the budgetary cuts that the City Council were having to work within.

The Chairman thanked Mike Hinton for attending the meeting and responding to members' questions and comments.

SCHEDULE OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2017/18

456

The following schedule of meetings was noted:-

All meetings would be held on the following Thursdays at 13:30 hours in The Council House, Victoria Square, Birmingham:

28 September 2017 – Room 6 30 November 2017 – Rooms 3 & 4
25 January 2018 – Rooms 3&4 29 March 2018 – Room 6

PETITION

Petition – Gilbertstone Park/Recreation Area, Yardley, Birmingham

The following petition was submitted by Councillor Eustace on behalf of local residents of Yardley concerning the lack of maintenance to the above-mentioned park and that it should be reinstated to its former condition.

(See document No. 4)

Upon further consideration, it was:-

457

RESOLVED:-

That the petition be forwarded to the Senior Parks Manager for consideration.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Current Industrial Action by Fleet and Waste Management Employees

Councillors Tilsley and Harmer expressed concern regarding the current industrial action taken by Fleet and Waste Management employees, and how this was impacting on the service with collections being missed, and with the imminent holiday period approaching, there was the need for an agreement to be reached in order for the normal collections to resume as soon as possible.

Councillor Tilsley moved the Motion:

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The Motion having been moved and seconded by Councillor Harmer was put to the vote and by a show of hands was declared to be carried and be agreed as follows:-

458

RESOLVED:-

Yardley District Committee expressed their concerns regarding the current industrial action by Fleet and Waste Management employees and resultant uncollected black bags, and wheelie bins which is a danger to public health during the hot summer period.

It urges the Leadership of the Council and Trade Unions to urgently reach an agreement and resume a normal collection service for all household waste, green recycling and recycling.

That the Motion be forwarded to the Leader of the City Council and Corporate Director, Place for consideration.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

459

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 15:30 hours.

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CHAIRMAN