

## HIGHTERS HEATH WARD MEETING

<b>WARD:</b> Highters Heath	<b>DATE:</b> 21 January 2019
<b>VENUE:</b> Warstock Community Centre, Daisy Farm Rd B14 4QA	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.45pm
<b>COUNCILLOR</b> Adam Higgs	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 35
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Sergeant Neil Ogden, West Midlands Police</b> <b>Andrew Daw, Resilience Team</b> <b>Melvin Powell, Housing Manager</b> <b>Kerrie Titterton, Housing Officer</b> <b>Kevin Gibbons, Amey</b> <b>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>	

<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. Police Update</b></p> <p>Sgt Ogden had available copies of the recent newsletter. Year on year crime statistics were reported showing a 5% rise in overall crime. Main concerns for the ward centred around The Maypole retail area, especially issues of aggressive begging. Speeding, parking, anti-social behaviour &amp; drug activity were other issues of concern and these were being addressed through police work and work with housing officers.</p> <p>Residents raised the following issues;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Drug dealing &amp; issues Maypole Grove – reported to police but no action taken. CCTV requested but advised none available but a bid could be made if serious problems occurring.</li> <li>– Prince of Wales Lane – drug dealing from 3 houses in the road – reported to police/council but no action. It was felt that the area was becoming a ‘dumping’ ground and cameras were needed to capture crimes/offenders.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sgt Ogden to provide email address so that details could be provided &amp; action taken</li> <li>2. Sgt Ogden asked for the details to be emailed to him</li> </ol>

- Street lights in Henlow & Sladepool Farm Roads had been replaced and the Neighbourhood Watch signs removed but not replaced.
- Motor bikes driven by riders not wearing helmets in large groups caused chaos around The Maypole. Riders driving dangerously had also been reported in Ravenshill Road and action was called for. This was also being copied by young people on cycles.
- Street Watch – Sgt Ogden explained Street Watch and sought volunteers

## 2. Flooding in the Ward

Andrew Daw explained the role of the Resilience Team and the Flood Drainage Team and undertook to take back any questions specifically related to the drainage team. Reference to the questionnaire that had been sent to all households affected by flooding in May. A number of residents affected reported not receiving the questionnaire, especially in Sladepool Farm Road & Maypole Road.

It was acknowledged that the response had not been 'joined up' and notifications had only been received re Selly Oak – the Resilience Team was addressing how it worked with other agencies, shared information etc. The Section 19 report was due to be published and Andrew would let Cllr Higgs know how to access so it could be shared via a ward meeting.

Meeting informed about Flood Action Groups and how one could be set up in the ward, what it could achieve and several residents showed an interest in being involved.

Chair of Henlow Road Allotments referred to a visit from the drainage team regarding the brook and that he had been advised of work that was required in addition to that already undertaken by Sainsbury. The work had to be done by Spring but there had been no further contact. Andrew Daw to report to drainage team to be actioned.

Residents made the following comments;

- Flooding was caused by the amount of rubbish dumped in the brook

3. Keith Gibbons undertook to investigate as the signs should have been replaced
4. Sgt Ogden said that information was required on riders, where the bikes were stored etc.
5. Residents interested in setting up a Street Watch to contact Sgt Ogden
6. Sgt Ogden to organise a separate police meeting
7. Addresses to be given to Andrew Daw at conclusion of the mtg so that questionnaires could be sent.
8. Andrew Daw to advise Cllr Higgs when Section 19 report published
9. Names/details of residents interested in a FLAG to be provided to Andrew Daw.
10. Andrew Daw to report to drainage team

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Water had come from the rear of the allotments and the drain had overflowed – this had caused flooding to homes in Maypole Road. The drain (at the back of Arundel Road) was on land where the ownership was questionable and therefore did not get cleaned</li> <li>– Private drives in Henlow Road caused water to run off and this caused the drains to block, together with the flow of water from Alcester Road meant the drains could not cope. Residents felt strongly that if drains were regularly cleaned the flooding would have been less severe</li> <li>– A resident had been unable to return to his property for 6 months after the flood while damage was repaired – was council tax still payable for that period?</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Gating in Mountfield Close</b></p> <p>Melvin Powell, Housing Manager, gave an overview of garage clearance, noting that Housing owned the land while the Garage Investment Team was responsible for the actual garages. The gate at Mountfield Close had been put up without consultation with the local housing team. Melvin was holding a meeting with the Garage Team late in the week to discuss issues at Mountfield Close. There had been other garage projects where gates had been erected eg Glenavon Road due to extensive fly tipping in the garages and this had worked well, with each resident being issued a key. A resident from Mountfield Close said he was having difficulty accessing his home due to inconsiderate parking and the swing gate had caused damage to some vehicles. He had applied for a garage some 3 years ago but was still waiting. He added that the swing gate had been installed as the contractor was having difficulty accessing the site due to parked cars.</p> <p>In response to a query the meeting was advised that the block of 8 garages and 2 from the other block that had been refurbished were being retained, the others were being demolished as they were beyond refurbishment. Melvin said that due to the parking issues he would be asking to meet with the local engineer on site to look at any restrictions that might be possible.</p> <p><b>4. Ward Plan</b></p> <p>Councillor Higgs explained about ward planning and a ward priorities list was circulated for residents to</p>	<p>11. Residents to report blocked drains to Amey. Kevin Gibbons to request Severn Trent to look at capacity of drains/sewers in Henlow Rd</p> <p>12. Andrew Daw to find out about Council Tax</p> <p>13. Melvin Powell to take details of garage application at conclusion of mtg and arrange an officer to contact the resident</p> <p>14. Any comments/ideas from residents to be fed to meeting with the Garage Team by Melvin</p>
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complete and return

## 5. Residents Issues

Following matters were raised;

- Prince of Wales Lane – lorries were churning up the grass verge when parking. The pavement was also badly broken and dangerous
- Traffic lights at the Maypole were too bright
- Grit bin required Henlow Road/ Myrtle Ave

15. Kevin Gibbon to report verges. Cllr Higgs to report pavement & raise with Local Engineer regarding parking prevention measures.

16. Kevin Gibbon to see if any action could be taken

17. Cllr Higgs to take up request for grit bin

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

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