

BILLESLEY WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Billesley	DATE: 11 November 2019
VENUE: Billesley Community Fire Station, Brook Lane	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.55pm
COUNCILLORS: Phil Davis & Lucy Seymour-Smith	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 16
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Neil Ogden, West Midlands Police PC Aviv Glaser, West Midlands Police Crew Commander Rob Badham, West Midlands Fire Service Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:
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1. Police & Fire Service Update

Police

Sergeant Ogden provided the following update & responded to questions;

- The local team was now based in the Fire Station & the police station had closed. The station was not directly open to the public but the team could be contacted via email. They were working with fire colleagues on issues such as road safety including vehicle faults etc
- The team consisted 3 PC's and 3 PCSO's but he was able to request assistance from specialist teams across the force to deal with specific issues
- The team had been involved in arrests, pro-active operations, offender management and neighbour disputes working with housing officers. PCSO's had supported Street Watches, junior PCSO schemes, crime prevention, promoting WMNow & the newsletter.

- Billesley crime remained static compared to the same time last year; burglaries, vehicle crime had reduced, robberies had slightly increased and crime was generally low across Billesley.
- The Traffic Team was focused around crime issues and would be in the Billesley area in the coming months.
- Parking enforcement was the responsibility of the local team and the BCC Parking Enforcement Officers and a partnership approach was used to tackle parking problems across the ward. Parking issues occurred around all schools and a council officer was introducing the safe run to schools initiative.
- Residents said that the community had its part to play and councillors urged residents to report issues such as graffiti & fly tipping to them. Cllr Davis said he was working on a city wide strategy on graffiti. Residents also highlighted the need for neighbouring wards to work together and a joint initiative to tackle graffiti was suggested. Councillor Davis undertook to speak to WMFS about removing graffiti from the Station and would investigate funding sources. Sergeant Ogden spoke of the success of Street Watch in reducing crime levels.
- In response to concerns raised regarding damage caused to the football pitches at Priory Fields by bikers Cllr Davis said that fencing was needed but there needed to be discussions with Solihull MBC and the Canals & Rivers Trust. He would also meet with the school to discuss maintenance.

2. Community Safety

PC Glaser outlined the work she undertook through the Prevent Strategy and advised residents of the anti-terrorist hotline – 0800 789321 to report any suspicious activity or via the website – gov.uk/act.

There was a local group that would welcome invites to speak to community groups about issues such as staying safe online, counter terrorism etc.

There was a particular issue with offensive stickers not just in Billesley but across the city and any that were seen should be reported.

3. Ward Plan/Priorities

Councillor Davis explained the idea behind the creation of a ward plan and there was some discussion on local priorities and actions . School Parking was raised as a particular issue and there were concerns regarding the effect of the opening of the new school. **It was**

therefore agreed to include School Parking as a ward priority and look at ways of improving in the wards hot spot areas.

CCTV was also felt to be a priority for the ward. Councillor Davis advised this was being reviewed across the city and he sat on the group looking into the use of CCTV. The relocation of the police team was welcomed but it was felt that there should be a sign on the Fire Station to signify this and advise there was a police presence in the ward. **Sergeant Ogden said he had requested this but it had been refused. He undertook to pursue and the councillors would also take this forward as a request from the ward meeting.**

Safer roads was also a priority.

Action: Councillor Seymour-Smith said that the councillors would look at the issues raised and compile into the ward plan and then hold a further ward meeting to discuss those issues and look at solutions.

4. Local Issues/Updates

- a) Leaf Fall – residents queried whether the council would be clearing leaves as in certain areas they were blocking drains and causing localised flooding. Councillor Seymour-Smith asked that the details be forwarded to her and she would take up.
- b) Swanshurst Park – a resident raised the issue of fishermen in Swanshurst Park that had caused a number of anti-social behaviour issues over the summer. This had been raised with the police but it appeared to be an issue for the council. It was noted that there should not be fishing in the Park. Councillor Davis undertook to raise this with the Parks Manager.
- c) Ward Meetings – residents requested more regular meetings and wider notification.

5. Dates of Future Ward Meetings - to be advised

Councillors (s) Signed:

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