

## YARDLEY EAST WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> YARDLEY EAST	<b>DATE:</b> Thursday 4 October 2018
<b>VENUE:</b> St. Edburgha' s Church, Church Road, Yardley, B25 8PD	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 6.30pm – 7.40pm
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b> Neil Eustace	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 25
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team, BCC Ken Walters – PCSO, Neighbourhood Policing Team, WMP  <b>APOLOGIES:</b> None submitted.	

<b>WARD PRIORITIES:</b> To be identified
<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Welcome and Introductions</b> Following introductions, Cllr Eustace welcomed everyone to the meeting.</li> <li>2. <b>Notice of Recording</b> – Residents were advised that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.</li> <li>3. <b>News/Updates from Your Councillor/West Midlands Police</b>  <u>Cllr Update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New ward boundary details given. The Yardley East Ward was now served solely by Cllr Neil Eustace.</li> <li>- Remembrance Day Parade – to commemorate 100 years since the First World War would go ahead as planned. Arrangements for the road closures, safety barriers etc. had been agreed with the local policing team, the District Engineers and Amey.</li> <li>- Stechford Leisure Centre – the new centre was fully opened and very well used. Plans for the site of the former Cascades were not yet known, however discussions were still ongoing. Residents felt that consideration should be given to using the site for either</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

additional car parking given how well used the new leisure centre was; the provision of affordable family houses or a community space/facility.

- Christmas Tree/Festive Lights at the Yew Tree – Approx. £10,000 was needed. Local businesses had been asked to contribute towards the costs. Discussions were ongoing to see if the funds could be raised in time for 2018, however it looked doubtful that enough money would be donated in time.
- Waste Collection Service – the new working arrangements for the collection crews had started w/17 September. Crews would be working 5 days per week instead of the previous arrangement of 4 days. The collection day for the ward remained unchanged. Residents reminded to contact Cllr Eustace regarding missed collections /any concerns they had with the service.

#### **4. Policing Issues in the Ward**

PCSO Ken Walters advised of the following:-

- An increase in burglaries during the last three months; many were due to windows/doors being left open or unlocked during the very warm weather.
- An increase in the theft of high performance cars, many of which were keyless models and linked to the many house burglaries.
- Surveillance operations had been carried out in hot spot areas where drug dealing had been reported
- SARA Initiative (Speed Awareness Responsive Action) – volunteers needed to help with the Community Speed Watch. Vicarage Road was one of the roads highlighted as a concern due to excessive speeding by drivers.

Residents were reminded to keep doors/windows securely locked, and to keep car keys and valuables out of sight. Extra care and attention should be paid to ensuring that keys to high performance vehicles are not kept near doors or windows and are securely locked away. Residents should also continue to report incidents to the police so that hot spot /problem areas could be identified and resources deployed appropriately.

#### **Yardley East Ward Neighbourhood Watch**

PCSO Ken Walters briefly advised of proposals by the police to relaunch the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Residents interested in learning more were invited to speak to Ken following the meeting.

#### **5. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns**

Residents advised of the following concerns:-

- The future of leisure centres. There had been rumours these were due to sold in the future. Residents were advised of the consultation process currently taking place regarding leisure centres however no decision had been made regarding their future.
- Blakesley Road/Church Road Junction – STOP sign needed at the junction on the way from the Yew Tree Centre.
- Obstructive parking remained a concern – Shaw Drive was particularly difficult to access due to parking.

#### **Good News Stories**

- Stechford In Bloom/Stechford Village Neighbourhood Forum  
Faydene briefly advised of the ongoing work with the In-Bloom/environmental visual enhancements along Station Road. Residents were actively encouraged to get involved in helping to 'beautify' or transform their immediate area. Interested residents wanting to learn more were invited to speak to Faydene following the meeting.
- Stechford Arts Trail  
Nicola Toms (Arts in the Yard) briefly advised of the Stechford Arts Trail Initiative, which had been supported with funding from the Ward Local Innovation Fund. A Celebration Weekend would take place on 26 – 27 Oct to showcase the arts and culture of the ward. All residents were invited to attend.

**6. Petitions** – None submitted

**7. Any Other Business** – None raised.

#### **8. Dates of Next Meeting**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. 6.30pm , St Edburgha' s Church/School - TBC