



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Kings Heath Residents' Forum Wednesday 2nd March 2016 Held at Kings Heath Community Centre

The Chair Jon Jaffa welcomed all attendees to the meeting.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Councillor Lisa Trickett

All Saints Youth Project: Kiu and Sam explained that the project worked with young people to promote leadership skills and to encourage them to be involved in the local community. The group works with local police and the town centre manager. The group also identifies and tackles local litter and graffiti hotspots and every Thursday evening members do litter picks.

Minutes of the Last AGM Meeting: Approved by Bill Drackley and seconded by Peter Bailey. The meeting read and approved the minutes.

Matters Arising: Paul Slatter is still running Time Banks. The group meets regularly at the Loco Lounge in Kings Heath.

Kings Heath railway station is strategically placed in the HS2 category. Councillor Spencer will keep the Forum in the loop about progress.

Chair's Report: The Neighbourhood Forum represents all residents in the designated area. It also has influence in adjacent wards. The proposed boundary changes will alter the area which the Forum represents. The forum is a bridge for residents and councillors and provides a vehicle for local interest groups to be represented.

This year the group has been working on the community partnership which will provide a more two way system than the old ward committees system. The road safety strategy for Kings Heath which was developed through the Forum is now part of the Birmingham strategy for road safety. The 20 mph scheme is currently being rolled out in Kings Heath. The cycling ambition is work in progress.

Network Rail is considering capital works chords at Bordesley in their financial plan for 2019 to 2024.

The forum has a website which is currently being regularly updated. The Chair recorded his appreciation to Gavin Wray, Tom Tierney and Ken Clayton for their work on the website.

Councillor Spencer commented that the proposed changes to boundaries are complicated by changes to constituency boundaries but promised to keep the forum updated.

Treasurer's Report: Sam Cornwell reported that the Forum is financially sound. A grant of £1400 has been made to the group to serve 8000 households. The money is used to fund the running of the forum but can also be used to fund community events. The chair explained that as the Forum is part of the democratic process it is funded by Birmingham City Council.

Election of the Committee: the chair introduced the current members of the committee. All the existing members are willing to serve again on the committee but the Treasurer wishes to stand down from his role. Four new members have been elected to join the Forum, Ann Britten-Munez, Helen Baglee, Norah Tracey, and Adrian Edwards. The meeting approved the election of the members to the committee.

Adrian Edwards proposed a vote of thanks to Sam for his contribution to the Forum's work.

Questions from the Floor: Clarification was sought about the role of Birmingham Improvement District group (BID). Jon Jaffa, who is chair of the group explained that local businesses pay money into a fund which is used to improve Kings Heath. The Christmas lights were paid for out of the fund, the floral display and Kings Heath crown at Howard Road was another feature funded by BID. Its legislative framework requires it to work with the local community.

The meeting discussed problems which arise for pedestrians and through traffic congestion created by cars parked on busy roads including Howard Road and Addison Road. The problems are particularly bad around Howard Road at Christmas when there are a lot of people collecting parcels from the Post Office. Councillor Straker-Welds offered to liaise with the Post Office to improve parking and advise Roger Mohan, one of the concerned residents of the outcome.

Councillor Spencer advised the meeting that the district committee is doing a neighbourhood challenge on road safety. When parking violations occur, it is not clear to whom the problem should be reported. She is trying to get a definitive promise on how to tackle them and the appropriate authority, police or traffic wardens.

She also advised that although the council website is not easy to navigate it is the quickest way to report road and street structural problems.

Councillors' Reports: Councillor Straker Welds thanked the neighbourhood wardens role in the Greener, Cleaner, Safer, Environment group (GCSE) who have helped to shape the litter strategy. He also expressed his thanks to members of the group who give their time and energy to improving their local environment.

A voluntary agreement with traders has been drawn up to address litter and waste which can be created by their activities. Environmental wardens also work with schools to encourage children not to drop litter and to undertake litter picks. The council is working with different agencies within and outside the council to improve the environment by tackling litter and fly tipping. The introduction of new recycling and wheelie bins has been a positive development in reducing litter.

Councillor Spencer advised in response to a comment from the floor about anti social behaviour in Beechwood Road that ASB problems are on the police's agenda as other problems have been experienced around Cocksmoor Woods. She will share information with Brandwood Councillors. She said it was important not to accept bad behaviour and it should always be reported on the 101 contact line.

Problems with overflowing litter bins and streets which attract piles of litter due to wind funnelling litter to certain hot spots was raised. Councillor Spencer advised that in the past the Fleet and Waste team had been highly dysfunctional but she considered that even though they have less money now, they could still operate more effectively than before by redeploying existing resources. The Cleaner Streets Plan will underline what the cleansing teams should be doing. Kings Heath has a vibrant night life and therefore needs resources to clear up after the weekend nights. The area no longer has neighbourhood wardens but the GCSE group would be a good vehicle for residents to access local councillors about litter and fly tipping issues.

A resident raised the problem of Amey leaving road barriers, street signs and sandbags on the highway long after road works had been completed. Councillor Spencer advised that she has been working with Amey to improve their performance which has been of variable quality.

She also suggested that litter enforcement teams which operate regularly in the town centre, could be employed to do periodic swoops in Kings Heath to tackle littering.

The council still employs dog wardens following a comment from the floor about the amount of dog mess on roads leading to Kings Heath Park, that dog wardens should be contacted.

High level graffiti on buildings is the owner's responsibility to clean. The council can do it eventually if the owners do not comply with orders to remove graffiti but it takes time for it to go through all the required stages of compliance notifications.

The Moseley and Kings Heath Bus users group want their concerns to be raised at the Forum meeting. Councillor Spencer advised that with the combined authority coming into being there should be more control over the bus service.

The 20 mph restrictions are being put in place. Bigger signs will be going up shortly.

Luke Holland Presentation: Luke was spurred to work with the local mosque following a spate of vile graffiti directed against the Moslem community in Kings Heath in 2015. He organises regular litter picks with the children from the mosque and is planning to get the children from the mosque and All Saints Youth Project to work collaboratively on environmental projects.

The Chair thanked all the attendees and contributors to the meeting. The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Sam asked the meeting how they found out about the meeting.

10 on social media, 12 on the signs on the street crossings, 6 by e mail and 8 through the leaflets.