

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**BRANDWOOD WARD
COMMITTEE
23 APRIL 2014**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BRANDWOOD
WARD COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 APRIL
2014 AT 1900 HOURS AT THE BRANDWOOD CENTRE,
157 ALLENS CROFT ROAD, B14 6RP**

PRESENT: - Councillor Eva Phillips in the Chair;
Councillor Barry Henley.

ALSO PRESENT:

Sarah Stride – Area Democratic Services Officer
Robin Bryan - Constituency Parks and Customer Liaison Manager
John Burke – Lifford Lane Depot Manager, Fleet and Waste Management

(There were 10 members of the public in attendance).

HOUSEKEEPING

148 Members and members of the public were advised of the location of fire exits, toilet facilities and general housekeeping rules for the meeting.

APOLOGY

149 An apology was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mike Leddy for his inability to attend the meeting due to Mayoral duties.

CODE OF CONDUCT

150 The Code of Conduct for the Brandwood Ward Committee was noted:-
(See Document No. 1)

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

151 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at this meeting.

No declarations of interest were raised.

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

152 The Minutes of the Ward Committee meeting held on 26 February 2014 having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

153 The Chairperson had no announcements.

PLAY AREAS – DRUIDS HEATH

The Chairperson stated that Members and members of the public were appalled that a decision had been taken to decommission two play areas in the vicinity of Britford Close and Topfield Tower, Druids Heath without any prior consultation with the Local Councillors, service users and local residents.

Robin Bryan, Constituency Parks and Customer Liaison Manager expressed his deepest regret and apologies that normal practice had not been followed in this instance.

He explained that following a stringent City wide parks safety inspection, eight children's play areas had been identified as falling below the required standard for health and safety regulations. More specifically, the play equipment and surrounding surface areas in the two Druids Heath play areas were worn, of poor quality and had corroded from the base line which was perceived to be unsafe for children to play on. He stated that in view of this the City Council had no option but to decommission the two play areas in Druids Heath as a matter of urgency. No financial funding was available to resurface the park or replace the broken play equipment.

He explained that the average number of play areas per Ward was 6. Excluding the loss of the two areas mentioned, Brandwood Ward currently had a total of 8 play areas which was above the City wide average.

Members and members of the public expressed their concerns and made the following points:

- Anger was expressed that no public consultation exercise had taken place with residents or Local Councillors concerning the proposal and decision to take away the 2 play areas.
- Druids Heath was a deprived area and many young families lived in one of the 14 tower blocks on the estate. Many families in the area did not have gardens for the children to play in. Many families did not own a car or were able to afford bus fares to travel to play areas. Other Wards in the City did not have as many tower blocks. There was a definite need to provide and retain all play areas and parks in the Druids Heath area.

Brandwood Ward Committee – 23 April 2014

- Concern was expressed that the safety rails surrounding the play area had been removed which posed a danger as children could now run into the road.
- Residents expressed concern that the now vacant land would attract fly tipping and dumping.
- Cocks Moors Woods play area was not suitable for children from the Druids Heath area because it involved crossing major, heavily congested roads. The park was not safely accessible for children from the Druids Heath area.
- Residents were promised Section 106 monies from the Sainsbury's and Tesco developments but the money was spent elsewhere in the Ward.
- Druids Heath residents felt worthless and insignificant. Funding should be made available to redevelop and enhance the area.

The Chairperson requested that a meeting be convened with senior officers, Local Councillors, interested parties and local residents to ascertain whether additional funding could be sourced to reinstate one of the two parks.

Robin Bryan agreed and stated that he would investigate the possibility of reinstating the safety railings around the preferred chosen site.

It was -

154

RESOLVED:-

That a meeting be convened, to include Parks Managers, Local Councillors, service users, local residents and interested parties, to discuss the future of play areas in the Brandwood Ward and discuss initiatives and ideas of procuring external funding to develop a new and much needed play area for all young children in the Druids Heath area.

GREEN WASTE RECYCLING

The following glossy information leaflets were circulated at the meeting:

- i) New Chargeable Green Waste Recycling Collection Service
- ii) Get composting – compost bin special offer

(See Document No. 2)

John Burke, Lifford Lane Depot Manager, Fleet and Waste Management stated that since Brandwood Ward had become one of the two pilot areas for the introduction of wheelie bins to all residents there had been a noticeable difference in street cleanliness. He thanked local residents for their co-operation and participation in the scheme. He added the following additional comments:

- Green garden waste was no longer a free service for all Birmingham citizens. The City Council has had to make budget cuts in the Fleet and

Brandwood Ward Committee – 23 April 2014

Waste Management service and green waste was not considered to be a statutory service. The collection of green garden waste costs the City Council approximately £3,000 per annum.

- The Council have introduced a new paid for green recycling collection service. Residents can sign up for the service online or via telephone (Birmingham.gov.uk/greenrecycling or telephone 0121 303 1112). The charge is £35 per year for a 240 litre wheelie bin (or equivalent sack service) which will be collected fortnightly. A £2 discount is available to all residents that sign up online. In Brandwood Ward 900 residents have taken up the scheme and have been supplied with a wheelie bin, 200 residents have been supplied with the equivalent sack service.
- The Council have teamed up with getcomposting.com to provide an exclusive offer of home compost bins and other green products. Composting at home cuts CO2 emissions and recycles most kitchen and green waste into a free supply of compost. The compost converter is priced at £16.98 (buy one get one half price). He stated that it was a good initiative for neighbours to work together and buy two bins at a discount.

Members of the public expressed concern that rubbish was being dumped in the following areas - Linley Grove, Sunderton Road, Brandwood Park Road, Dawberry Road, Kings Road and Manningford Road. Concern was also expressed that bags that had been identified as being dumped (yellow sticker attached to the bag) were being left for up to three months which made the area look unsightly and encouraged others to dump rubbish at the same location.

John Burke explained that the enforcement team investigate the contents of all bags that had been dumped to ascertain ownership and submit a financial penalty the individual/household concerned.

A member of the public congratulated fleet and waste management for an excellent provision of service. She stated that her household wheelie bin was emptied on a regular basis. She stated that a composter would eradicate the need for a green waste collection service and was also a good means of educating children on the advantages of recycling.

A member of the public stated that the paper pod in the recycled wheelie bin was too small for her recycling needs and requested that investigations be made to either increase the size of the pod or provide a separate recycling box to house the paper overspill.

The Chairperson thanked John Burke for his attendance and it was -

155

RESOLVED:-

That the verbal report on green waste recycling be noted.

BE HEARD – ONLINE CONSULTATION PORTAL

The following information briefing note from the Corporate Consultation and Engagement Manager was submitted:

(See Document No. 3)

Members welcomed the initiative and it was -

156

RESOLVED:-

That the information briefing note on the Be Heard – Online Consultation Portal be noted.

PETITIONS

157

No petitions were submitted.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES

The following list of Outstanding Minutes was submitted:-

(See Document No. 4)

158

RESOLVED:-

That Outstanding Minute No. 16(a) be continued.

MATTERS OF URGENT LOCAL CONCERN

159

A member of the public sought to raise the issue of dog owners depositing dog poo bags into street litter bins but the Chairperson stated that the issue was not Ward related as it was a Citywide instruction to all dog owners.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

160

The Chairperson agreed that an update report on 'Mytime Active – Cocks Moors Woods Golf Course' (outstanding minute no. 16(a)) be included as an agenda item at the next meeting of this Ward Committee.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

161

That the next meeting of the Joint Brandwood Ward / Police Tasking Committee be held on Monday 28 July 2014 at 1900 hours at Monyhull Church, St Francis Drive, B30 3PS.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRPERSON AND OFFICERS

162

RESOLVED:-

That the Chairperson is hereby authorised to act until the next meeting of the Committee except that, in respect of the exercise of the Council's Executive functions delegated to it by the Cabinet, the appropriate Chief Officers are hereby authorised to act in consultation with the Chairperson and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services is authorised to affix the Corporate Seal to any document necessary to give effect to a decision of the said officers acting in pursuance of the power hereby delegated to them; further that a report of all action taken under this authority be submitted to the next meeting and that such report shall explain why this authority was used.

The meeting ended at 2030 hours.

CHAIRPERSON