

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities held at 3.00
pm on Thursday, 13 October 2016

Members: Councillor A Khan
Councillor J Birdi (Shadow Cabinet Member)
Councillor P Akhtar (Deputy Cabinet Member)

Other Members: Councillor J O'Boyle
Councillor D Welsh

In attendance: Sgt P Mercer (West Midlands Police)
PC L Billings (West Midlands Police)
Ms Taylor (KT Management)

Employees (by Directorate):

Place: C Hickin, M McHugh

Resources: G Carter, C Sinclair

Public Business

28. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

29. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 were signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

30. Response to a petition from residents of Swan Lane and Thackhall Street relating to Anti-Social Behaviour in the locality

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which responded to a petition bearing 10 signatures, sponsored by Councillor O'Boyle, a St Michaels Ward Councillor which had been submitted to the City Council on 4 July 2016 calling for the City Council to place pressure on West Midlands Police to address issues of drug dealing, damage to property and anti-social behaviour occurring in the area. The petition also called for the City Council to place pressure on the private management company, KT Management, to support residents in their quest for a peaceful life.

Councillor O'Boyle and the petition organiser attended the meeting together with representatives from West Midlands Police and KT Management.

All attendees spoke in detail about the difficulties experienced by local residents in respect of a number of anti-social behaviours in the area which had been taking place over a long period of time and which residents described as "plaguing our flats and its surrounds in Swan Lane and Thackhall Street". Councillor O'Boyle

and the petition spokesperson also spoke about frustrations around reporting such behaviour and stressed the need for greater police resources in the area. Ms Taylor from the property management company, KT Management, spoke about the problems in the area and her experience of reporting incidents. Officers from West Midlands Police spoke in detail about their ongoing work in the area, reporting that they would continue their daily patrols. It was anticipated that a new reporting system, which graded according to priority, and which would go live in November 2016, would offer a more long term solution.

Following discussion, the Chair directed Ward Councillors to meet with KT Management, local residents and Police Officers in 6 months' time in order to discuss progress and identify any actions going forward.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- (a) Request that West Midlands Police and KT Management continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance.**
- (b) Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police as soon as they occur.**

31. Response to a petition regarding concerns over Anti-Social Behaviour, Police Patrols and Street Cleansing in Cawthorne Close

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Executive Director of Place which responded to a petition bearing 32 signatures, sponsored by Councillor Welsh, a St Michaels Ward Councillor which had been submitted to the City Council on 5 April 2016 and referred to issues of anti-social behaviour, police patrols and street cleansing in Cawthorne Close.

Councillor Welsh, the petition organiser, local residents and representatives from West Midlands Police were present for this item.

The Petition Organiser and local residents explained the issues they were experiencing on a regular basis. Police Officers went through the crime data in the area for the preceding months and had met with local residents. In light of the issues raised, Sgt Mercer reported that a named officer would be assigned to the area as a single point of contact. The Police Officer's detailed would be shared with local residents in order that they can report incidents directly.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities:

- (a) Request that West Midlands Police, Council Officers and Ward Councillors continue their monitoring of the area and respond accordingly to residents requests for assistance.**
- (b) Encourage residents to set up a Neighbourhood Watch in the area and report incidents of concern to Police and the Council as soon as they occur.**

32. Outstanding Issues Report

There were no outstanding issues.

33. **Any Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 4.20 pm)