

## WESTWOOD HEATH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 22 JANUARY 2019

In opened the meeting by introducing Paul Laurie from West Midlands Fire Service and outlining the Agenda.

#### WMFS

Paul introduced himself advising he is new to the Canley station and is still getting to know the area so would like to come to our next meeting and bring local facts and figures. He gave details of the Safe & Well Service where a representative from the Fire Service visits your home to give advice on protecting property and can provide items such as smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors etc. The Fire Service is very keen to be involved in the local community.

All the information on the Safe & Well Service as well as advice for businesses and referral forms can be found on the website [wmfs.net](http://wmfs.net). Paul concluded with Q & As

Q: Are the Stations in Coventry Safe from closure?

A: All remain open at present although budgets have reduced which impacts on numbers and type of equipment.

Q: How Safe are plug-in air fresheners?

A: Branded ones should be fine but if in doubt take it out (at night).

Q: What are the main causes of domestic fires?

A: Smoking by far.

Q: Do we have problems with fires in local woods?

A: Not in our area although neighbouring areas have more instances.

Q: How long does it take for a Safe & Well visit from the time of booking?

A: Through the website 2/3 weeks and appointments are usually between 10am and 7pm. David Skinner endorsed the visits having had one himself.

Q: How many fire engines are there in Coventry?

A: Binley 2 (including one daytime only)

Coventry 2

Canley 1

Foleshill 2

A fire engine will be at your property within 5 minutes of the emergency call and Coventry works closely with Warwickshire.

Q: Are there changes in high rise fire escapes after Grenfell?

A: After the tragedy there was a national inspection, the results of which are being worked on. Coventry has a 30m hydraulic ladder reaching to the 8th floor and anything higher has to be dealt with from within the building. The "stay put" policy is still valid.

#### Crime

Statistics show crime has reduced 40% year on year which does not feel quite right but that is probably because we are more aware of incidents as the community is more connected. Statistics also say that the highest rate of crime is in January. There are various ways the community can get involved.

Streetwatch is being set up by the Police and is a form a community “self help”. Between 5 and 10 volunteers are required and receive training on patrols. Each volunteer does a minimum of 2 one hour patrols per month in pairs. It is a free service.

Commercial Security Patrols would involve contributions from households and although figures as yet are unclear it could start from around £25 per month. For this you would receive patrols, signage, possible foot patrols and fast response.

There is also the Man with a Van option but this has not yet been explored but we could be looking at £5 per week.

Ian asked for volunteers to form a committee to investigate the feasibility of the commercial options and also for volunteers for Streetwatch.

### **Planning Update**

129 (leading to 425) houses in Westwood Heath Road  
240 houses on Cromwell Lane  
Safeguarded land in Westwood Heath Road for a possible 700 houses  
Red Lane 90 houses  
Barretts Lane Balsall Common 900  
Coundon Wedge 475  
Eastern Green 3200  
Kings Hill 4000

We now know that the City’s housing needs were based on erroneous figures whereby the 95% of students originally said to remain actually leave. KOGG (Keep our Greenbelt Green) have been looking at GP, hospital appointments as well as gas and electricity etc. and no figures support the population figures. A presentation will be posted on our website and a link put on Facebook.

The 129 houses are due to start within 2 weeks although no improvements to the roads have been made beforehand - apparently they have to be done by first occupancy.

### **University of Warwick**

The new car park for 1300 cars on Kirby Corner Road opens next Monday. The University is moving car parks to the outside of campus with a net extra 1000 spaces.

The A46 Link Road Phase 1 is the improvements to the junction at Stoneleigh, Phase 2 will link to the Uni via Westwood Heath Road and Phase 3 will connect to either the A45 or Balsall Common (or both?). Details are on our website. Phase 1 Had to go to Consultation and was subsequently withdrawn and resubmitted over the Christmas period. Whilst there is merit in Phase 1, the RA objected due to the uncertainty of Phase 2. There was the suggestion of writing to either the Secretary of State or Local Government Ombudsman and also request the audit trail from the Local Authority who has to respond within 28 days.

### **AOB**

The Traffic Group has met and intends to run a Community Speedwatch. We have been allocated a PCSO to help set this up.

KOGG and Prof Reza Ziarati are looking to set up a Conference locally regarding air pollution.