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MEETING	CLIFTON WARD COMMITTEE
DATE	18 JULY 2022
PRESENT	COUNCILLORS D MYERS AND WELLS
APOLOGIES	COUNCILLORS

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**1. 5.30PM DROP IN WARD SURGERY**

**Residents had an opportunity to talk to ward Cllrs and other officers**

- Ward Councillors: Margaret Wells and Danny Myers
- Christina Chelin Community Officer (Communities and Prevention Team)
- Cindy Benton Community Officer (Communities and Prevention Team)
- Jenny Newman (Housing Management Officer)
- PCSO Ollie Maskell
- Rob Orr Community Coordinator at Vale of York School

**2. 6.00PM MAIN MEETING**

- Cllr Myers welcomed everyone to the meeting. He stressed its significance as the first in two years due to the pandemic.
- Apologies for absence of community groups due to ill health and the heat.

**3. CLIFTON COMMUNITY GROUPS UPDATE**

**Update from RO, Vale of York School**

- Vale of York School continues on an upwards trajectory. Increased pupil numbers have been maintained with marked improvement since 2016.
- The school was awarded a 'good' from Ofsted, thus the area is now being served by three good schools on the path towards 'outstanding'.

- Cllr Wells asked about plans for next year to involve the school in community work. As improving cultural capital is a key priority, participation in projects – such as one exploring oral history – represents an important opportunity for pupils in the area.
- Cllr Myers mentioned the ‘York Unlocked’ plan and the possibility of a group of students from the school having access to buildings in York City Centre in Autumn as part of a school visit.
- **Action:** Cllr Myers to send Rob Orr relevant information regarding ‘York Unlocked’.

### **Update from Marjorie Sharp about the Residents’ Association and St. Luke’s Church**

- Post-pandemic, the Residents’ Association is being rebooted – the first meeting will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. Key roles on the committee (such as treasurer) are yet to be filled.
- **Action:** Advertise 26<sup>th</sup> September meeting.
- Cllr Wells emphasised the importance of some form of resident’s association as some funding can only be applied for through formal organisations.
- St. Luke’s continues without a vicar; however, this is not required to keep the church open. Weekday groups are going strong, and attendance from all age groups is heartily encouraged.
- Point raised from the floor about the significance of groups such as Joyful Connections (Fridays 10:30 – 12:30) to combat loneliness and boost community mental well-being.

#### **4. PCSO OLLIE MASKELL UPDATE ON CRIME DATA & Q & A SESSION**

##### **Update on Crime Data from PCSO Ollie Maskell**

- OM formally introduced himself, having starting the role during the pandemic.

##### **- Mental Health:**

- Large rise in mental-health related calls to the police (133 in June alone) – people turning to this resource for a variety of reasons. OM follows up each call personally, yet stresses that more needs to be done through the NHS, as he is not trained in mental health crisis management.
- Point about the lack of acknowledgement of the severity of the problem echoed by a resident on the floor.

#### - **Schools and Young People:**

- OM is regularly and casually visiting the schools in the area to improve the negative reputation the police hold among some local people. There exists a considerable distance between some young people and the police.
- OM had planned to run a 'Summer Club' to provide a safe space for young people free of charge over the summer break with organisations from the local area coming in to provide entertainment.
- Due to staffing issues, this cannot, unfortunately, go ahead this summer, but plans are in the works for half term as a pilot – and beyond if all goes well. MW noted that this could be funded by the council if money is ring-fenced.
- OM noted that the vast majority of calls received by the police are after 1pm – unclear why this is.

#### - **Antisocial Behaviour:**

- Certain areas are proving problematic. Ashton Park, the old football stadium on Bootham Crescent, Bootham Stray, and the area outside the shops represent particular flashpoints.
- Cllr Myers noted that Ashton Park represents a problem every year, particularly with glass being smashed for fun.
- **Action:** Residents are encouraged to contact the police no matter how small the incident is to ensure resources are channelled to tackle areas of concern.
- Cllr Myers has received resident complaints regarding incidents at the end of Burton Stone Lane near St. Joseph's Court – damage to property as residents are

fearful in their own homes. OM points out that residents have not been contacting the police about this – they are encouraged to do so.

- **Action:** Community Safety Plan being formulated to tackle the problem.
- The new Housing Estate Officer has not received complaints, but noted there have been difficulties in contacting her.
- **Action:** Her contact details are to be put in the newsletter.
- OM raised resident confidence in the police as a potential barrier to contacting the police directly to report issues.

## 5. WARD BUDGET UPDATE

### Ward Budget for the Financial Year 2022 – 23

- **Total Budget (Revenue):** £33,825 of which £18,365 remains for the next nine months of the fiscal year.
  - Cllr Myers explained that this is a usual state of affairs as groups wait until the beginning of the fiscal year to apply for funding, which is always over-subscribed.
  - Community groups advised to approach councillors or CC to inquire about the possibility of having a project funded.
- **Capital Budget:** no funds remaining as over £180,000 already allocated of the four-year budget.
  - All projects already delivered, apart from the last project on Burton Stone Lane, which is underway.

## 6. CLIFTON PLANNING PANEL

### Clifton Planning Panel

- The Ward does not have a parish, thus a planning panel is important – the city council requires a formal body with which to work within the community. The panel is able to offer comments and objections to planning application, which are then reviewed by decision makers.

- If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer, do let Christina know. There are currently three volunteers.
- Cllr Myers and Cllr Wells wish to express their sincere gratitude to Geoffrey Williams, who was on the Clifton Planning Panel for many years, before passing away recently.

## 7. HAVE YOUR SAY

### **Have your Say: Raise any Issues, Questions or Comments**

- Communication and research issue raised from the floor regarding the felling of the ash tree of The Old Grey Mare.
  - Problem surrounding the original diagnosis of the tree's condition and the subsequent communication from the council.
  - Resident was unable to reach the relevant authorities before the tree was felled. Question regarding the contractors used to conduct the work.
  - **Action:** Cllr Myers agreed that it was disappointing; councillors to attempt to contact the relevant parties to investigate.

, Chair

[The meeting started at Time Not Specified and finished at Time Not Specified].