

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD  
WAS HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2018 AT 6PM**

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Batty), Councillor Hook (P), Councillors Bateman (P), Burgess (P), Earle (P), Mrs Hook (P), Mrs Huggins (P), Hylands (P) Mrs Jones (P), Miss Kelly (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy, Ronayne (P), Scard, Wright (P)

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.5, Councillors Hook and Edgar had been nominated to replace Councillors Murphy and Scard respectively for this meeting.

**21. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from Councillors Murphy and Councillor Scard.

**22. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY BOARD HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER AND 17 OCTOBER 2017**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meetings of the Community Board held on 6 September 2017 and Extraordinary meeting held on 17 October 2017 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

**23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**24. DEPUTATIONS**

There were none.

**25. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**PART II**

**26. BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE AND COUNCIL DWELLING RENTS 2018/2019**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Treasurer and the Housing Services Manager seeking consideration of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan including the revised 2017/18 budget and the 2018/19 budget including recommendations on rent levels for next year.

The Board were updated that there was an addendum appendix B to the report as a result of the re-examination of administration costs after the agenda had been dispatched.

Members acknowledged that changes were imposed by the new national rent policy.

In answer to a Member's question, the Board was advised that there was

provision in the major repairs budget for roofs, gutter and fascia repairs and that this would allow the work to be tendered.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board recommend to Council that:

- The revised HRA Business Plan extract (Appendix A) and associated 2017/18 Revised Budget and 2018/19 Budget (amended Appendix B) are agreed.
- That Council Dwelling rents decrease by 1% (an average of £0.80 per week), continuing the four year reduction programme as detailed in the new national rent policy introduced in April 2016.
- The rent for older style garages is increased in line with inflation, as agreed in the Garage Renewal strategy and rent for non GBC tenants who have garages is increased by £1 per week.

## **27. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ACQUIRE HRA PROPERTIES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive recommending that the Board delegate its power to purchase residential properties for use as housing to the Head of Housing where the purchase is funded by the use of retained Right to Buy receipts.

Members welcomed the proposal and felt that it was an appropriate use of delegated powers to officers and accepted that often property purchases were time critical, but expressed concern at the devaluing of Members decision making in other areas.

Members discussed the option of introducing a cap on the value of the properties purchased and it was felt that it may preclude the purchase of larger, much needed properties leading to the Council to missing out.

Members acknowledged that an independent valuation of the properties was carried out but requested that consultation be carried out with the Chairman of the Board and that Members be advised of any purchases undertaken.

**RESOLVED:** That the Community Board, agrees to delegate its power to purchase residential properties for use as housing to the Head of Housing, in consultation with the Chairman of Community Board, where the purchase is funded by the use of retained Right to Buy receipts.

## **28. PETITION: PUBLIC SPACES PROTECTION ORDER FOR HARDWAY GREEN**

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

The special circumstances were created as there was an urgency to start the consultation period, if approved, to allow the order to be in place as soon as possible before the spring and summer.

Councillor Allen was invited to address the Board as ward councillor for Hardway and advised that the issue had escalated over the past 6 or 7 years.

He advised the Board that the lighter evenings had led to young people gathering at the site and that whilst the majority of young people were there to enjoy harmless fun, an element of them were causing havoc and damage to the area. This was unpleasant for the residents and had led to severe suffering, distress and worry for them.

He advised that some residents health had been affected as a result of the situation and that the young people involved had escalated the situation by inviting their friends from further afield to the location.

Councillor Allen advised that the reports received regarding the behaviour were all true and that he had seen first-hand the damage being caused. He advised that residents regularly called the Police but that there was little that they could do.

He advised that he was not keen to see young people banned from the area but the situation with a fraction of young people needed to be dealt with to allow residents a decent standard of living and the area to be treated with respect.

He advised the Board that it was a lovely area with great views and that people were being driven away from enjoying it correctly by those causing trouble.

Councillor Allen advised that Board that previously a section 35 dispersal order had been used by the police to disperse the young people during the summer bank holiday weekend, but that these were of limited use as they require authorisation by a Police Inspector. He concluded by advising that the cycle of behaviour needed to be broken and that enforcement powers needed to be in place to do so.

Members advised that intervention and support work with the youths had been ongoing for a number of years to try and address the situation. There had been engagement of youth services, patrols by Police Officers, uniformed and plain clothes streetscene patrols, but the problems still persisted.

It was reiterated that approval at the meeting would allow for the consultation period to begin on the proposed Order, allowing a report to be presented to the March Community Board to ensure that if the Order's adopted it would come into place before the lighter evenings arrived.

Members reiterated their disappointment that a minority of young people were ruining the enjoyment for others, but acknowledged the residents needed protecting. The Legal Officer advised that the proposed restrictions in the Order do not ban ball games or young people socialising on the green.

Members had seen the issue in the area first hand and expressed disappointment that cuts in Police levels meant it could not be patrolled more frequently. Members also reiterated the need to report every incident and obtain an incident number by telephone or online via the 101 service to ensure that incidents were recorded.

Members supported the proposal, but reiterated their concern for other areas

within the Borough that were also subject to antisocial behaviour.

Members were advised by the Legal Officer that additional information on the level of the antisocial behaviour and its impact on the wider community had only recently been made available since the submission of the initial petition and that the order would be for a period of three years.

**RESOLVED:**

A. The Community Board notes the contents of the petition and results of the community survey undertaken by the Hardway residents' action group as to the nature and scale of the anti-social behaviour during the summer months at Hardway memorial green and its impact on those living in the locality (Appendix 1 of the report):

B. The Community Board has regard to:

- (i) the informal intervention work the Council and its partner agencies undertake with young people to prevent the behaviour escalating; and
- (ii) the existing anti-social behaviour powers and other enforcement tools at the disposal of the Council and police.

C. The Community Board agrees, notwithstanding paragraph B above that it may still be appropriate and proportionate to make a Public Spaces Protection Order for Hardway Memorial Green and the immediate locality in the form of Appendix 2.

D. The Borough Solicitor and Deputy Chief Executive be delegated authority to undertake the statutory consultation exercise with the partner agencies and stakeholders identified in paragraph 5 of the report and the public on the proposal to adopt the draft Public Spaces Protection Order.

E. The Community Board shall at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018 have regard to the consultation responses and make the final decision as to whether it is appropriate and proportionate to adopt the draft Public Spaces Protection Order

**29. ANY OTHER ITEMS**

There was no other business

The meeting concluded at 18.38

CHAIRMAN