

Jewellery Quarter Neighbourhood Forum AGM - 17th July 2017

Open meeting

Chaired by Tom Wildish

1.0 Introduction to JQNF

The JQNF is the residents' forum for anyone living in the Jewellery Quarter. It provides an independent voice for residents to be represented and to make the Quarter to best possible place to live.

The activity of the committee in recent years has gone in peaks and troughs, where there was more public activity in previous years and then in more recent years members have been highly active less visible initiatives such as through JQ neighbourhood plan and representing in part of the JQDT.

At the last AGM Jonathan Price was the Chair of the Committee and he has since stepped down due to work commitments part way through the year.

2.0 JQ Business Improvement District Update – Nicola Ridler

The BID received a successful ballot for another five years for the Business Improvement District for the JQ in the recent vote. It is an additional levy on businesses with details on their website to show how much they have coming in. <https://jewelleryquarter.net/jqbid/>

A key aim of the BID is to increase the numbers of visitors coming into the Quarter. While the BID exists to improve the area for businesses, the improvements made are hoped to also benefit resident. Examples of how money received through the BID has been spent include floral displays, three bears for "Big Sleuth" and the Christmas lights. The Third JQ Festival is being hosted as a free event in the square and will include the Open Studios events organised by Tina Francis.

The renewal proposal included new initiatives; to improve the environment with dedicated clean team in the Quarter, now collecting 20-30 bags of rubbish every day in addition to what is collected by the City Council; Free public wifi in certain areas; additional CCTV cameras linked to police stations so that we can have a more responsive service; set up recycling scheme in the quarter as an additional service. Future plans include refurbishing the Chamberlain clock for which they have had a specialist provide a proposal.

Thanks were given to Nicola Ridler (Chair of the BID) for use of the meeting space from the Big Peg.

3.0 Crime and Policing Update – Sgt James Ashcroft

JQ neighbourhood policing team are based in the Big Peg downstairs and have responsibility for policing in the JQ. Restructuring that happened was aimed at investing in neighbourhood policing, intervention and prevention so that small issues don't develop and to work with youth that may become disaffected. Local team operate hours from 8am-11pm.

3.1 Vehicle Crime

Two people have been arrested from the recent car jacking's that happened in the Quarter. This was a good example of engagement from local people to help in identifying those involved that led to the arrests. Advice is to not leave valuable items on display and remove the opportunity by not leaving any visible items.

3.2 Receiving and Providing Information

James recommended signing up to "West Midlands Now" to keep up to date: <https://www.wmnow.co.uk/>

Message from James following meeting regarding best ways to contact the team:

Our team can be contacted on tel: 101 – Ext 862 6000 or email jewelleryquarter@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk – residents are welcome to use whatever is easier for them. However, KIV if they are reporting crime they will need to do so via 101 as it will likely go to another department. In the near future there will be an option to do online reporting but this is not yet in effect FYI.

3.3 Rough Sleeping

The Police seek to sign post people sleeping on the streets towards other help such as Midland Heart. First instance is to work with them to offer help for their situation. If someone is causing antisocial behaviour and becoming a nuisance, then direct it to call on 101. It is then possible for them to be referred to the housing team. If they don't take this advice and keep repeating their behaviour this can then be treated as an offence.

3.4 20 mph Speed Limit

3.4.1 Speed Limit

Resident raised concern that since this has been put in place it is clear that some drivers are intentionally flouting. Question raised about how this is being enforced. James agreed that this is certainly an issue and that there isn't currently capacity to give this attention as an intervention. Fire service through the Community Speed Watch initiative is something that has been done in other areas which he will look into and raise with his line manager. Tina Francis mentioned that there will be a campaign around this as part of the JQ Festival in July.

3.4.2. ANPR – vehicle tracking

The CCTV cameras that have been proposed through the BID don't have the software to provide ANPR. However, they are in place on the boundaries and this will likely pick up people come into the area to commit crime.

- ❑ James will follow-up and feedback on this item.

3.4.3 Drug Paraphernalia

When this is found please report it so that someone from the team can come with a sharps box to deal with it. JQ Clean team are also available to do this.

- ❑ Nicola will provide the contact number for these.

3.4.4 Recommendations for Residents from Sgt James Ashcroft

1. Be aware that people will take items that are left on display
2. If you know anything about crime share the intelligence then we can help
3. Street Link as a way to target help for homeless: <http://www.streetlink.org.uk/>
4. Self Defence for women sessions

4.0 Air Your Views

4.1 Car Parking Consultation

Parking charges are currently split across the JQ in that the closer you get to centre the more metered parking there is for on street parking whereas further out are free to park or restricted for a specific numbers of hours. The proposal is to extend the metered parking and the number of permit resident places by removal of free on-street parking to equalize the spread of parking across the area.

Concern about visitors to businesses not being able to park and therefore the street is then left empty. Question about where delivery companies can park when they are making drop-offs. Visitors to the Quarter have to pop out to move their cars every few hours. Identifying that this is a potentially growing issue as more car parks are being lost in the area.

There is currently a year's waiting list for businesses permits and a local business owner voiced that they are welcoming this change as they struggle to find parking for their employees.

While the City Council does provide visitor permits this doesn't currently apply to the Jewellery Quarter.

Encouragement to everyone to respond to the consultation with their views and concerns.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/20109/parking/1296/parking_in_the_jewellery_quarter/3

4.2. Urban Gulls

A suggestion of a solution was given where once a week someone has been contracted to bring a hawk that is funded through the service charge for the management company.

Wexler Lofts tried a pole with a flapping bird to act as a deterrent but actually causes more noise than the gulls.

As part of JQ plan they have done an investigation that they like to nest in derelict buildings and on flat roofs.

4.3. Next Door

This is a platform for people within the neighbourhood to connect and communicate on local issues. People are verified as living within the Quarter to have access to the app to discuss topical issues and share news related events.

4.4. Jewellers Arms

The applications for extended hours that was raised as an issue has now been withdrawn. We will wait to see what further applications are submitted.

4.5 Update on Jewellery Quarter Neighbourhood Plan

This was started three years ago to put in place Localised Plan has to comply with the Birmingham wide legislation for planning. They are now coming to the final stages that will result in a Design Guide for the area to replace the existing one. The plan aims to tackle dereliction, improve design and improve the relationship between businesses and residents. There have been public events and consultations taking place over the last year.

This will then be submitted to a vote in the area and as it has been declared a business area it means this ballot will be both businesses and residents on the electoral register. If a majority in both groups vote for the plan it then becomes local planning law.

5.0 Future Activities of JQNF

5.1 New website – www.jqnf.org.uk

We now have a new site that allows anyone involved in the committee to add updates. Please share content with us so that we can update information and photos of the area. Please follow and share with others.

5.2 Finance

Bank account has been inactive for the past year. We are currently working to change over names on the account. We can apply to the council for funding again next year once we are active again.

5.3 JQNF Constitution

5.3.1 Insert "if they so choose"

5.3.2 Amend how management committee is made up; make this by who wants to be involved

5.3.3 Change the number of times for meeting. Normally six but at least four times to make this management as a commitment.

5.3.4 Footprint change to standardise with JQ Plan

This was unanimously voted on to accept.

5.4 Adopt a Canal

Canal and river trust, they are keen to work with us to adopt the section of canal in our area. The section is a flight of 13 locks from the back of Centenary Square through the JQ.

It would mean a commitment of a day a month throughout a year to do painting, weeding in the canal, trimming vegetation and also more transformative ideas such as engaging the landlord of local buildings. Suggestion is to have a go by doing a taster session and try it out, suggested dates are in September Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th evening, Saturday 9th & 10 daytime. People who are interested should let Tom know.

6. Parish notices

6.1 There is a social media "surgery" aimed at volunteer groups that will run as a regular session, the first one will be on Wednesday 19th July in the afternoon

6.2 The Real Junk Food Project run a "Pay as you Feel" Café and Veggie box scheme in Ladywood community centre. Plus a food boutique on Wednesdays and Fridays.

6.3 New Café has opened in the Agent College, grow a lot of their own veg on the roof where they have a micro farm. Opening hours are 7:30am-3pm on Vittoria Street.

6.4 JQ Festival is happening 29th – 30th July <https://jewelleryquarter.net/jq-festival/>

6.5 Google pop up shop – free workshops in the old Works shop on New Street on getting online, setting up your own website.