

**NORTHFIELD WARD FORUM  
NOTES**

<b>WARD: Northfield</b>	<b>DATE: 21 January 2020</b>
<b>VENUE: Northfield Quaker Meeting House, Meeting House Lane B31 2LD</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.30pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR Oilly Armstrong</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 35</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jemma Callow, Communications Manager, Brum Breathes Zoe Brown, Trident Reach Marcia Greenwood, BID Manager Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>	

**MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:**

**1. Clean Air Zone (CAZ) Update**

Jemma Callow outlined the progress made with the CAZ which would be going live in the summer. She explained the reasons behind the introduction of the CAZ but that it was recognised that some people might need support with the charges for non-compliant vehicles. Amongst the help provided would be to workers working within the CAZ who earned less than £30,000 who could apply for a years exemption from the charge or £1,000 mobility credit towards public transport or £2,000 towards a compliant vehicle. All money raised would be re-invested into improving public transport. Residents could register for an exemption via the Brum Breathes website – [brumbreathes.co.uk](http://brumbreathes.co.uk)

Residents then made the following comments;

- Whilst acknowledging the reasons for the CAZ it was not felt that this was the best way to reduce pollution as traffic would be sent around the Middle Way stopping and starting at traffic lights/islands creating more pollution for those living around the ring

road. A38 traffic would now have to negotiate the ring road rather than pass over it so it would have been better to allow that traffic free flow through the underpasses.

- There were comments made regarding the specifications of diesel engines and the little difference between Euro 3 & 4 standard.
- Concern regarding the publicity provided so that everyone was aware that there would be charges, especially visitors to Birmingham
- It was hoped that payment would not be web reliant
- Concern that with the CAZ going live in Summer there was sufficient time to bring public transport up to standard to meet the demand for alternative travel
- Queries regarding car travel generally into the city centre

In response to questions Jemma advised that the CAZ was being publicised through engagement with residents via ward meetings, other meetings etc and that a leaflet would be sent out with all council tax bills. The team was also working with neighbouring local authorities and updating key people who could help spread the word. They were also working with key stakeholders such as the Children's Hospital. Payment of the charge could be made via the website but also over the phone.

It was recognised that there were issues with public transport but the council was working with the providers and would be holding an engagement event with them for residents to speak to and question them direct.

Councillor Armstrong advised that some of the questions related to the Transport Strategy and he undertook to have this as an item on the next meeting agenda.

**ACTION: Next meeting – Birmingham Transport Strategy agenda item**

## **2. Golf Course/ Bloor Homes Update**

Patrick Downes, Planning Consultant for Bloor Homes provided an update on the progress of the Golf Course development.

Outline planning application had been submitted and detailed plans were being prepared. 36 conditions had been attached to the initial application and these were being worked through and a leaflet drop to the surrounding area would be undertaken in the next 2 weeks explaining what was happening. Following this there would be some public engagement in early spring. Details would be put on the

website.

Residents queried the ability of the local infrastructure to cope with the influx of people the development would bring, in particular GP surgeries. The meeting was advised that there was no provision in the S106 agreement for medical facilities. Councillor Armstrong said this had been raised on a number of occasions but referenced his lack of invitation to certain meeting to put those points.

Residents also expressed concern regarding the implementation of the highway works, in particular the loss of 2 mature trees which was unacceptable and the ability of residents to freely access their homes while the work was ongoing.

During discussion the meeting was advised that S106 would be used to build a new primary school that would be run by BCC. Councillor Armstrong queried the agreement by the council to run the school and Patrick said that there had been discussions but no actual agreement as yet.

In response to a question the meeting was advised that design work and preparation had begun on the wildlife run but that plans were sensitive due to badger protection.

A resident commented that at the hustings prior to the general election the new M.P. had agreed with Richard Burden's views regarding the development and had said he would take the matter up with the Secretary of State and it was queried whether now elected his views remained the same. On behalf of the M.P. the meeting was advised that he would be seeing the Secretary of State and looking at alternative ways to appeal.

A resident from Frankley Beeches Road said that work had begun over a week ago without prior notification or traffic management which had caused severe disruption and the contractors had left a mess behind. It was also noted that drainage at the bottom of the hill needed addressing as the area flooded in heavy rain.

In response to a question Patrick advised that the planning application would be submitted in 4 phases with the first 2 likely to be submitted together in late spring/early summer.

With reference to the amount of social housing/ affordable housing & the landlord that would be responsible, Patrick undertook to find out and provide the information via Councillor Armstrong.

In summing **up Councillor Armstrong stressed;**

- **There was strong opposition to the removal of the 2 oak trees on Hanging Lane & queried how trees could be protected while building the numbers of houses proposed**

- Decisions made had not properly thought through the impact on the local area in respect of infrastructure, traffic and flooding
- Dates for construction/road works etc MUST be provided in advance with adequate notice
- Residents needed to be part of the consultation on the planning and for the consultation to be meaningful the developers and the council must listen to and respond to the views of local people.
- Councillor Armstrong to invite the Leader of the Council to the next meeting together with the relevant planning officer

### **3. Royal Orthopaedic Hospital Parking Restrictions**

Residents expressed their dissatisfaction at the lack of information provided to those in some roads affected by the parking restrictions and that there were residents who were not aware of what was being proposed.

Residents from Maryland Drive advised that they had not received a letter and Rosefields, Laurence Court and Cornerstones sheltered housing had also been missed. Residents expressed concern regarding the 'knock-on' effect of the parking restrictions on neighbouring roads and that wider restrictions similar to the QE Hospital were needed. The cost of parking at the hospital meant that patients, visitors and staff would not use the car park and staff did not use their allocated spaces in the shopping centre. It was believed that staff were being consulted through the same process as residents and if this was the case they would object to the restrictions and the scheme would not be introduced.

Residents from St Josephs Avenue expressed concern that restrictions to one side of the road would cause considerable difficulties for residents to park due to the number of students who parked in the road and that residents parking permits should be provided.

Councillor Armstrong explained the proposed restrictions and that part of the circle around the hospital was in the Bournville & Cotteridge Ward. He had requested that the circle be widened to include St Laurence, St Josephs and Maryland and there had been a number of meetings to sort the details. The Hospital had undertaken to distribute a letter to the affected roads but it appeared some had been missed. He added that BVT had been helpful but he undertook to arrange a further meeting with BVT in respect of local parking issues, alleyways etc. Councillor Armstrong said he would request the Local Engineer attend the next meeting to discuss the scheme and would ask that a letter setting out the proposals be sent to residents in Maryland Drive, Rosefields, Cornerstones & Laurence Court.

#### **ACTIONS**

- **Local Engineer to be invited to next meeting to discuss details of the scheme in more detail**
- **Councillor Armstrong to request Local Engineer to write to residents in Maryland Drive, Rosefields, Laurence Court & Cornerstones with details of the scheme as had been the case for the other roads in the parking restriction area**
- **Councillor Armstrong to meet with BVT housing officer re residents parking issues, alleyways etc**

4. **Residents News/Councillor/Partner Updates**

**a) Trident Reach**

Zoe Brown gave a brief overview of the work that Trident Reach was doing with homeless people aged 29+ in the area, together with other organisations to help and support them into training, college, work etc. Anyone could refer to the service and contact details were provided.

**b) Fly Posting**

Resident drew attention to the persistent fly posting around the Meadows School, Tessall Lane and Bristol Road towards the college. He demanded action by the council to get the fly posting removed and improve the area as a matter of urgency. As it appeared to be regular offenders enforcement action needed to be undertaken. It was requested that an enforcement officer be invited to attend the next meeting.

**c) Black bag dumping** – this had been happening and reported continually for the past 4 years along Bodenham Road toward Chelston Road. They were cleared but immediately replaced therefore some enforcement action was required.

**d) Parking around Meadows School**- an exclusion zone around the school had been requested for the past 4 years and it had now been found that other schools had been granted a parking exclusion zone despite the efforts of residents around The Meadows for some considerable time. Residents had been forced to pay for gates on Austin Court because of the damage done to cars by parents parking for the school. Residents would now petition for an exclusion zone. Councillor Armstrong said he had requested that the schools in the ward be included in the Parking Exclusion Zone next round.

**e) Grass Verges** – in response to concerns regarding the state of grass verges in the ward from cars parking Councillor Armstrong advised that there was cross party agreement to look at this issue.

**f) Touch Base Pears** – meeting advised that the venue was holding an event on 11 February 10.30- 12.30 looking at shaping &

influencing adult social care

**g) Northfield Police Team** – meeting advised that the team was now based at Northfield Fire Station

Councillors (s) Signed: .....

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print): .....