

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
EDGBASTON WARD MEETING
28 SEPTEMBER 2016
1900HRS
EDGBASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
WOODVIEW DRIVE
EDGBASTON
B15 2HU

MEETING NOTES

Present:- Councillors Deirdre Alden, Matt Bennett and Fergus Robinson

Officers: Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Raj Mandu – Transportation Services, BCC

There were 11 residents present.

1. Election of Chairman

Following nominations, Councillor Bennett was elected as Ward Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016 – 2017.

CLlr M Bennett in the Chair

2. Notice of Recording

Noted.

Residents were reminded that permission must be obtained from members of the public prior to taking photographs or recording individual comments.

3. Apologies

None.

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks/Announcements/Local Updates

The Chairman welcomed residents to the meeting and advised that an information update by Councillors would be given later in the meeting.

5. Birmingham Connected – Information and Consultation

Following introductions, Raj Mandu, Transportation Services Officer briefly advised of consultation currently being undertaken in Central South-West Birmingham Area (which included Edgbaston Ward) regarding the 20 Slower is Safer Scheme.

The proposal was part of a pilot scheme and four areas of the city had been identified as being appropriate. Funding had been secured from central government for the project.

(Paper copies of the scheme, the roads to be included, the consultation period and questionnaire were circulated to residents at the meeting).

Residents felt the scheme was unworkable, given the volume of traffic already on local roads, and daily issues with congestion and air pollution as a result of very slow and/or stationary traffic.

Residents further advised that whilst the speed reduction would be useful around schools and the hospital, having an enforced 20mph speed restriction would not improve traffic flow or congestion, and would probably make things worse.

Members and residents felt it would be useful to see how successful the pilot schemes had been in other areas before it was introduced in the ward, and that enforcement of the scheme would be difficult without the appropriate levels of powers and officers in place. Residents further advised that the introduction of congestion charges would probably be more effective in reducing traffic.

Mr Mandu explained that speed limits would continue to be enforced in the same way as the existing speed limits across the city. Signage and road markings would also be installed to make drivers aware of the new 20mph speed limit. The police in partnership with the City Council would continue to work together to deliver the scheme, monitor and look at other methods of enforcement. Roads currently identified for inclusion could also be removed and others included depending on the strength of local feelings and concerns. Schools had also been made aware of cycling initiatives as part of the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Scheme, and actively encouraged to participate as part of the attempts to reduce the number of parents driving their children to school.

Mr Mandu advised of the consultation closing date and encouraged residents to complete and return their questionnaire ahead of the deadline.

6. Edgbaston Community Plan

Residents were advised of the development of draft key theme plans for the Ward; these included Jobs and Skills; Health and Wellbeing; Children and Young People; Transportation and Parking Issues; Corporate Parenting and Heritage & Culture.

Residents' felt that the Transportation and Parking Issues Plan would be particularly useful given the congestion and parking issues across the ward, and those in particular caused by staff and visitors to the hospital.

A resident advised of recent meetings with the hospital and the setting up of two working groups, these being the Campaign for Better Transport Group and the Selly Oak & Edgbaston Consultative Group. The Green Travel District Plan would be an integral part of the work and discussions of both groups.

Members also advised of a working group set up by the Planning Committee to look at the planning and transportation issues across the neighbouring districts of Edgbaston, Selly Oak and Northfield, and chaired by the Selly Oak District Chairman.

Residents were advised that the Chair of the QE Hospital Trust, Jacqui Smith would attend the next meeting of the Edgbaston District Committee.

Other concerns included the removal of the road access barrier and bollards between Roman Way and Leasow Drive. The road markings were also in need of repainting. Residents felt consideration should be given to having both the barrier and bollards reinstalled, as well as yellow hatch markings at the junction of Harborne Lane and Gibbins Road.

Cllr Alden agreed to raise the matter at the forthcoming meeting with the Tenants Management Organisation.

Action: Cllr Alden to raise at TMO meeting and with the District Engineer.

Referring to the wider key themes and overall District Plan, the Chairman advised that Residents' views and comments would be sought on the plan in due course.

7. Residents Issues/Matters of Local Concern

Roman Way Estate – Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs)/Article 4 (2) Direction

Local resident Mike Winkett advised of a number of concerns he had raised in an email to Officers regarding the increase in Houses of Multiple Occupations (HMOs) on Roman Way Estate, and the lack of robust proactive enforcement action by the City Council Enforcement Officers to properly enforce the Article 4 Direction on the estate. These included:-

- The use of 3 properties as HMOs which was still to be resolved, despite evidence being submitted which indicated the properties were being used for this purpose.
- The inconsistent approach to applying the Direction, especially where the 10% threshold had been exceeded.
- An increase in the number of flyers from letting agents in Selly Oak and Harborne openly promoting these properties, despite the Estate being above the 10% HMO threshold.
- The over-reliance on self- declarations from landlords regarding their properties, and the failure to acknowledge the frustrations and annoyance of residents who felt ignored, let down and that their concerns were not being taken seriously.

Cllr Alden explained that Officers had been unable to attend the meeting; however an information briefing note had been submitted in response to the concerns raised. (Copies of the briefing note were available at the meeting for residents)

Following further discussion, it was suggested that a meeting should be arranged with Planning Officers, Roman Way Estate residents and Members to discuss the concerns in more detail and to agree a way forward. Cllr Alden agreed to make the arrangements.

Action: Cllr Alden to arrange meeting with Officers and residents from Roman Way Estate and advise accordingly.

Carpenters Road - Obstructive Parking/Non Collection of Green Waste

Residents advised of problems caused by the ongoing development on Carpenters Road. The site developers had not provided adequate parking for their vehicles, which were left blocking the road on a daily basis, thus causing problems for residents.

Action: Cllr Alden agreed to contact the Highways/Traffic Enforcement Team.

Review of parking provision/Residents Only Parking Scheme, Hagley Road was still to be carried out.

Action: Chairman agreed to contact the District Engineer and to advise residents accordingly.

Botanical Gardens Redevelopment

Calthorpe Residents Group had arranged a meeting for 27 October to discuss proposals and suggestions for the redevelopment of the site; however, a Planning Application was still some way from being submitted.

Carpenters Road/Church Road

Bollards/traffic calming measures had been requested to help alleviate obstructive parking. Residents were particularly concerned about the dangerous driving practices along the road which was well used by pedestrians and service users from the nearby Sense Charity in Gough Road.

Local Innovation Fund (LIF)

The Chairman briefly advised of the recent approval and allocation of £48,000 to each ward by the City Council.

The Local Innovation Fund could be used to develop, support or invest in projects and/or activities to help local communities.

It was suggested that a separate meeting should be held with residents and partners to discuss how the Fund could be used.

Action: All to Note, and that a further meeting to discuss the Local Innovation Fund was arranged by Community Governance Manager.

Thank You

Residents thanked Members for their help and support with the installation of bollards by the Ivy Bush, Hagley Road, and for the rubbish removal/tidy up in Arthur and Ampton Roads.

Ward Boundary Changes from 2018

Cllr Robinson briefly advised of the final recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England which would see changes to the current ward structure; the area north of Hagley Road would become part of North Edgbaston Ward, whilst the Benmore Estate/Speedwell Road area would become part of Balsall Heath West Ward.

8. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Noted and Agreed that:-

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 21:03hrs