

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum
23 January 2018 at 7pm
at Longbridge Methodist Church, Bristol Road South B45 9TY

Present: Councillors Andy Cartwright (Chair), Carole Griffiths and Ian Cruise
Laurent Bouissonnade, Principal Infrastructure Delivery Officer
Steve Jones & Mick Flanagan, Fitzgerald Contractors
Martyn Smith, Environmental Services Manager
Chris Richards, Highway Steward, Amey
Damon Walsh, Streetwork Manager, Amey
Neil McNaught & Jamie Green, National Express
Matt Hageney, Partnership Manager Parks & Steve Hinton, Park Ranger
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 30 residents also in attendance

1. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
2. **Apologies** –Richard Burden M.P , Sergeant Howard
3. **Petition** – from residents of Leach Green Lane in respect of changes to the 98 bus service. Petition handed to Jamie Green, National Express.

4. **LONGBRIDGE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE**

Laurent Bouissonnade gave an update on the highway works & circulated the plan. Works on Longbridge Lane as shown due to be completed end 2018 but good progress made so anticipating an earlier finish by May 2018. It was hoped that Bristol Road South would be completed by February 2018. The site office was open to residents on Tuesday 4-6pm but card circulated with phone contact if an urgent issue needed addressing.

Residents referred to the rat run effect created on side roads off Longbridge Lane and the fear this would be exacerbated when the traffic lights were installed. The traffic did not flow along the main routes therefore traffic moved to side roads and residents at certain times could not exit their drives. Laurent acknowledged that the junctions had been sticking points but the traffic would flow better when the junctions were open.

While accepting that the work had been needed, residents commented on the length of time taken to install traffic lights and the temporary lights had caused significant congestion.

Technical issues had caused difficulties and contractors were only able to work a 6hour day.

The lining/resurfacing work would be undertaken at night.

In response to requests from residents Steve Jones undertook to investigate the timings on the lights at the Tessall Lane junction to ensure smooth traffic flow.

Councillor Cruise commented that due to the congestion National Express often removed buses or reduced the route which caused difficulties for users. Laurent advised that officers worked with National Express but undertook to try to make amendments in light of the comments made. He also undertook to look into an advisory sign at the right turn at the Job Centre.

Steve & Mick offered to meet with residents to discuss any specific issues.

5. FRANKLEY CREMATORIUM PLANNING APPLICATION

The Chair advised that a planning application had been submitted to Bromsgrove Council for a crematorium on Waseley Hills. Previous applications for similar had been rejected by Bromsgrove and it was believed this current application would also be refused on the grounds it was green belt land, local crematoriums were not running at full capacity and local opposition. He urged residents to submit their comments. Residents commented that there was a school and football pitches opposite the site, it was a busy road which was in very poor condition in a residential area and extra, slow moving traffic to the area would make matters worse. Councillor Cruise added that Birmingham did not need any new crematoria.

6. HOLLYMOOR ESTATE

a) Rubbish Dumping- Raven Hayes Road

The Chair reported that Raven Hayes Road suffered from rubbish being dumped continually including cookers and paint that had to be cleared from the path. Leaflets had been distributed to residents around the area, bag searches had been undertaken, residents had submitted video evidence and had been willing to come forward but no action had been taken against those responsible.

Martyn Smith gave some detail on what was required to take criminal proceedings and that the alternative was a fixed penalty notice for smaller scale fly tipping. If witnesses were willing to come forward statements would be taken. Bag searches had revealed addresses and visits had been made but as a confession had been forthcoming a FPN had been served and paid.

Use of CCTV could be considered for Raven Hayes Road due to the amount of tipping that was being brought by vehicle and so might be useful in respect of capturing registration numbers and prosecuting the registered keepers. Fly posting on lampposts and railings were also creating an eyesore. Martyn advised that 2 officers now had specific responsibility for this and suggested that complaints be made through the contact centre with details of the fly posting as there was a 5 day turnaround for removal.

The Chair showed photographs of rubbish dumped at garages and said that the issue surrounding the garages had been highlighted on many occasions. Action needed to be taken to demolish the garages. Martyn Smith recommended that the Place Manager be contacted to secure the garage doors in the first instance and he would work with the Place Manager to identify the owner. Councillor Cruise suggested, as there was no hope of recovering the debt, the garages should be demolished. **Action: Martyn Smith to investigate CCTV for Raven Hayes Road, refer fly posting and work with Place Manager re garages.**

b) Overgrown Trees/Bushes

The Chair reported, on behalf of residents, safety issues caused by overgrown trees/bushes, Tessall Lane by Manor Park Grove which forced pedestrians to walk in the road, especially wheelchair users and people with pushchairs and asked if the road could be put on a regular maintenance plan. Damon Walsh said that the trees were maintained by BCC and if putting people at risk would arrange for them to be cut back.

Damon undertook to speak to residents at the conclusion of the meeting in respect of a tree outside a property affecting telephone wires, maintenance of trees in Herons Wood Road and Leach Green Lane.

A resident queried whether action could be taken to prevent parking on grass verges and that there was a particular problem along Tessall Lane and Hanging Lane around The Meadows School. Reference made to by-laws used in Shard End so that action against motorists parking on grass verges could be enforced. The Chair advised that The Meadows School had received funding to combat parking issues and a group was working on plans. Damon undertook to speak to the District Engineer to see if any action could be taken and advised that action was being taken in respect of the area around the Orthopaedic Hospital and a letter drop was being arranged along Lickey Road re illegal parking.

A list of lamp posts that were not working was given to Chris Richards. Councillor Bruckshaw said the Parish Council would be able to assist with exact locations.

7. BUS SERVICE CHANGES & BUS STOP RATIONALISATION

A briefing note was circulated. Comments on the recent consultation would be reviewed and outcomes consulted on further.

Councillor Cruise referred to the bus stop rationalisation and that the road works in the area created congestion which delayed buses causing routes to be cut short, the no. 63 was frequently delayed. Residents referred to the recent bad weather and as a consequence reduction to bus services but information on the website had not conveyed where routes were being cut. There had been particular problems in Frankley and the Parish Council had offered to pass on information to residents but nothing had been forthcoming and residents had been left with no service and no information. Neil advised that every route had disruption provision built in and where disruption was notified by drivers the route was inspected and consideration given to safety etc. Routes were diverted to get as near as possible to housing estates, schools etc and during the bad weather social media had been used to provide as much information as possible. This had been more appropriate than using the website due to continual changes. It was suggested that there be more communication with the Parish Council who would have posted notices at bus stops etc as many elderly did not use social media. Neil undertook to discuss further with the Parish Council councillors.

In response to concerns raised regarding bus routes, late buses and location of stops Neil assured residents that any comments submitted as part of the consultation would be read and considered. All buses were tracked and if 2 or 3 were travelling in convoy action would be taken, although congestion did create issues.

A local resident queried the need for the no.98 to travel along Edgewood Road as Leach Green Road was wider and more suitable to access, especially for the elderly. Ashill Road was too narrow for 2 buses to pass without one mounting the pavement. Neil undertook to feed those comments into the consultation.

In response to comments regarding bus stop locations the meeting was advised that the stop at the Grosvenor Shopping Centre was to be reinstated.

8. RESIDENTS ISSUES

a) Parking Charges, Lickey Hills Park

Matt Hageney highlighted the proposal to look at introducing parking charges at some parks in view of the need to generate income to invest in parks services.

Charges had already been introduced at Canon Hill Park but it was stressed that no decision had been taken in respect of Lickey Hill park and a formal public consultation would be undertaken. The Chair said he had spoken to residents regarding the proposal and had been asked about annual passes, concessions, whether the money would be used to fund the ranger and when would the charges be introduced. The meeting was advised that a request for annual passes could be made when the consultation opened and that the money would go back into the park service but he would need to clarify if the revenue from charges at Lickey Hills was specific to Lickey Hill Park. Costs would be part of the consultation but parking at Cannon Hill was £2 for 4 hours. Residents suggested a mobile phone based app be made available, membership schemes to cover the cost of talks, organised walks etc, ability to make donations, that the effect of parking on surrounding roads and that parking charges be enforced.

Councillor Cruise highlighted the work done by the Lickey Hills Society that already arranged walks, talks, events and fund raising.

9. AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

Noted and agreed

Meeting ended at 9.30pm