

## LADYWOOD WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD: Ladywood</b>	<b>DATE: 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b>
<b>VENUE: Ladywood Health &amp; Community Centre, St Vincent Street West B16 8RP</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9.05pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLORS Kath Hartley &amp; Albert Bore</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Stephen Arnold, Head of Clean Air Zone</b> <b>Pat Whyte, Community Support &amp; Development Officer</b> <b>Evangeline Cripps, Tenant Participation Officer</b> <b>Wendy Ross, Neighbourhood Network Scheme</b> <b>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

- 1. Welcome** from Councillor Hartley, Chair, who advised that press/public could record and take photographs except where there were exempt or confidential matters.

Councillor Hartley advised that the next MHRC would be coming to King Edwards Road/St Marks on 6 May.

## **2. Birmingham's Clean Air Zone**

Stephen Arnold provided an update on the introduction of the CAZ with the aid of a power point presentation and highlighted the following main points –

- It was important to continue to listen to resident's views following the initial consultation to hear how the CAZ impacted lives and how the income generated could be best used. The initial consultation had helped set the price point and exemptions
- The CAZ had been part of Government policy to lower Birmingham's air pollution in response to public health issues and the system introduced had been the only way to do that
- 50% of exemption permits had been issued to Ladywood residents and those with permits would be contacted to advise that they were coming to an end.
- Since the introduction of the CAZ, 99% of buses entering had become compliant and non-compliant taxi's, private hire vehicles, vans and commercial vehicles had reduced significantly.
- Going forward it was proposed to improve air quality for all of Birmingham, starting with air quality monitors for all schools and looking at school travel.
- Revenue from the CAZ had been reinvested into sustainable travel, new stations and a Clean Air Fund that would be allocated to each ward for community spend on projects promoting improvements to air quality
- The Birmingham Transport Plan would be people focused and concentrate on -
  - Reallocation of road space
  - Transformation of the City Centre

- Prioritise active travel and
- Manage demand

Residents made the following comments and queries -

- While investment from CAZ revenue was welcomed, the roads between Spring Hill and Five Ways were gridlocked so what action would be taken to mitigate this and the impact on the residents living in those areas. The meeting was advised that the amount of traffic coming into the city centre needed to be reduced
- School traffic had an impact on traffic volume but there was often no alternative means of transport, especially for working parents.
- Suggestion for park and ride facilities to encourage Metro use.
- Motorists were parking in local roads to catch buses into the city centre to avoid the CAZ charge and this was having a detrimental effect on the area and residents. Saddlers Walk was a prime example. Motorists needed encouragement to use alternative forms of transport to access the city centre and park and ride was suggested.

Councillor Bore stressed the needed for active parking enforcement to ensure that motorists were not using residential streets on the edge of the CAZ to escape the charge. Councillor Hartley queried the use of the CAZ fund for CPZ's around Middleway View and the reservoir roads and felt a survey of residents to assess views on the suggestion should be undertaken. However, the cost of a survey should not have to be funded from Ladywood Ward's CAZ fund allocation considering the proportion of the ward that was contained within the CAZ and the impact it had on the area. Councillor Bore said that the review of the CPZ's had not come forward and a

review of the ward as a whole and not a piecemeal exercise was required, to include areas around Clydesdale & Cleveland Towers. Residents commented that consideration needed to be given to carers and residents who did not own a vehicle but needed visitor permits.

Steve undertook to take those comments and suggestions away for consideration.

There was also discussion regarding the issue of rat-running, especially around Monument Road, Osler Street and Reservoir Road and that measures needed to be taken, eg LTN's, 20mph and better pedestrian crossing facilities, if there was to be a serious move to reducing car use. Enforcement was also key to making such measures successful.

### **3. Chamberlain Gardens Park**

Presentation by the Friends of Chamberlain Gardens Park Chair, Ben Morgan, who explained the re-formed and re-launched group had undertaken a study to find out what local people wanted/liked in and about the park, and the 3 main suggestions had been –

- Beautify the park through tree planting, bulb/planting and more trees
- Improve park equipment – gym & play area
- Create more seating and more bins

The Group was looking at maximising funding opportunities and working closely with the city council to obtain grants for outdoor equipment, repairs, seating and picnic benches and had already successfully purchased 2

notice boards, ordered more litter picking equipment, campaigned for repair of climbing frame and roundabout and had a leaf clearance and path clean. A bid had been submitted to the National Lottery for bulbs, plants, bird boxes, picnic bench and bins.

New volunteers were welcomed to join and help the work of the group and a walkabout on 8 April 10-11.30am would provide anyone interested with more information.

Residents thanked the group for the work undertaken in cleaning up the park and the meeting was advised that another survey to find more ideas from residents was planned and in response to comments Ben said he would look to alternate committee meetings between on-line and face to face so that all could take part. In response to comments Ben said he would get advice on where best to site the bird boxes and would look at planting bushes along the fence on Ladywood/Monument Roads.

#### **4. Ladywood Constituency's Neighbourhood Network Scheme**

Wendy Ross, NNS Co-ordinator, explained her role to support community organisations that supported older residents 50+ and adults with disabilities 18+. Funding was available through NNS for groups to apply for grants up to £10k, including smaller grants of up to £250k for activities. Help could also be given to people in specialist/sheltered housing to set up activity groups and to also promote existing groups.

Councillor Hartley referred to Salisbury Tower that had a community room and a number of 50+ tenants and would be a good place for NNS/TPO's to work together, also Ladywood Leisure

Centre where people were meeting through the Warm Centre and raising numerous issues with Leisure Centre staff.