

## WARD END WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Ward End	<b>DATE:</b> Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January 2024
<b>VENUE:</b> Lakeside Café, Dolphin Women’s Centre, Ward End Park, Washwood Heath Road	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 10:00am – 11:00am
<b>COUNCILLOR:</b> Bushra Bi	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 10
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Manager, BCC	<b>VISITING SPEAKER(S):</b> Heidi Murphy, Engagement Executive, WMCA (West Midlands Combined Authority)

### CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Bold Prosperous Ward - Support Businesses and Improve prospects/opportunities for Ward End Residents
2. A Bold Inclusive Ward - Volunteering and community engagement, creating community involvement opportunities and an awareness for inclusion
3. A Bold Safe Ward - Reduce speed and road safety measures
4. A Bold Healthy Ward - Improve health inequalities in Ward End
5. A Bold Green Ward - Ensure Ward End is a greener happier place to live, for all residents

## **MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Following introductions, Cllr Bi welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a special welcome was given to Year 2 pupils and their teacher from Sladefield Primary School.

### **2. Notice of Recording**

Residents were advised that members of the press and/or public may record and/or take photographs of the meeting, and that permission to take photographs should be requested beforehand particularly as young people under 16 had attended the meeting.

### **3. Cross City Bus Works – West Midlands Combined Authority**

Cllr Bi and residents welcomed Heidi Murphy and several colleagues from West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA), who had attended the meeting to give an information update/share information regarding the Cross City Bus Works and proposed 6 bus routes across the region from Birmingham to Sandwell.

Copies of the proposed Cross City Routes were circulated to everyone at the meeting, and the 6 proposed routes were:-

Longbridge – Hamstead

Druids Heath – Bearwood

Longbridge – Castle Vale

Bartley Green – Chelmsley Wood

West Bromwich – Chelmsley Wood

Complementary Routes

The new cross city routes would provide bus priority measures, junction upgrades and enhanced waiting facilities for bus passengers/service users – these would include:-

- New bus lanes and bus gates
- Parking and loading changes
- Improved bus stops and shelters
- Better information, ticketing and improved connections/integration with other modes of travel(including rail, Metro and coach services)
- Providing more reliable, regular and predictable journey times

- Cleaner, greener buses to improve air quality and protect the environment

WMCA, Birmingham City Council and other West Midlands Local Authority Partners would continue to work together to open new and direct bus links/services in, around and cross the City Centre. Walking and cycling routes would also be enhanced to encourage more people to consider them as an alternative, healthy and safe way of travel. In addition, approx. 500 would be created at nearby Drews Lane depot as changes/improvements to travel were developed.

Locally, the bus services (No 94 and 95) would have better linkages/connectivity to Broad Street, which would enable local residents travelling into the city to have a smoother/easier access to facilities such as The Library of Birmingham, Sea Life Centre and other attractions on that side of the city. Information updates would continue to be shared with residents on a regular basis.

Cllr Bi and residents thanked the officers for their attendance and information update.

#### **4. Cllr Bushra Bi's Local News and Updates**

Cllr Bi gave the pupils a brief explanation of her role as a Ward Councillor, and her previous role as Lady Mayoress alongside her late father Cllr Mohammed Azim when he served as Lord Mayor.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

None raised

Cllr Bi thanked the teachers and pupils from Sladefield Primary School for their attendance and active participation.

Meeting closed at 11:00am