

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL**  
**EDGBASTON WARD MEETING**  
**22 SEPTEMBER 2015**  
**1900HRS**  
**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
**MONUMENT ROAD**  
**EDGBASTON**  
**B16 0HP**

**MEETING NOTES**

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

Guest Speakers: Will Martin, Andy Millington and Paul Simkins – Birmingham Cycle Revolution

Approximately 30 residents were present.

1. Election of Chairman

Councillor Alden was elected as Chairman for the Ward Meetings for the Municipal Year 2015 – 2016.

2. Notice of Recording

Noted

3. Apologies

None

4. Chairman's Opening Remarks/Announcements

The Chairman welcomed all residents and a special welcome was given to Councillor Matt Bennett who was elected to serve as Ward Councillor following the Local Elections in May 2015.

The Chairman briefly advised of the changes to the format and arrangements for local ward meetings.

## 5. Birmingham Cycle Revolution

Andy Millington briefly advised of the City Council's strategy and proposals to improve cycling provision across the city. This would include:-

- Improvements to existing cycling facilities and routes, including canal towpath.
- Provision of new cycle routes along designated areas of the city.
- The provision of bicycles as part of the big Birmingham Bikes Initiatives were being provided to encourage greater activity and participation with cycling as well as to help provide a mode of transport to residents seeking employment and were unable to afford public transport costs.
- Citywide consultation had commenced regarding the proposals; specific consultation would be carried out in the areas most affected by the proposals. Residents' views and comments were being sought.
- A holistic approach towards improving traffic congestion, pollution, road safety, increased use of public transport and cycling across the wider city and surrounding areas must be taken as the current traffic management and control arrangements were unsustainable. A 'Do Nothing' approach was not an option.

Funding had been secured from the Department for Transport for the Birmingham Cycle Revolution Programme, which would take place over the next 5 years.

### Specific Ward Issues included:-

- The recent completion of the canal route
- Improvements to Harborne Walkway
- On-street work included parallel and main routes in the ward; residents' views, comments and suggestions regarding the scheme and the ongoing development of the proposals were actively encouraged.
- Further consultation was needed with the local residents on the Harborne Road/Augustus Road proposals, which included shared highway space with cars and cyclists; sections of dedicated cycling only space; single line contraflow traffic; installation/upgrading of traffic lights and appropriate parking provision.

### Residents Comments:-

- On street parking will be severely affected, which would have a significant impact in the immediate areas and the wider ward.
- There would be no parking spaces available for allotment holders if the existing parking spaces were removed.
- Some of the routes proposed were inappropriate and that cyclists would be left more exposed and vulnerable.
- Too many cyclists did not obey the Highway Code and by flouting the rules, they were putting themselves and other road users at risk.
- Kerbed cycle lanes would be an excellent way to provide dedicated and separate lanes as well as provide better protection for cyclists.
- Street furniture/clutter would have to be removed if the proposals were to go ahead.
- Traffic congestion would need to be properly monitored and managed. The proposals to include a designated bus lane as well as a cycling lane would impact significantly on traffic flow to and from the city at peak times.
- Any alternative route(s) proposed must take into account residents' views, comments and concerns, as well as other ongoing parking/highway issues across the ward.
- Better education of cyclists and motorists was needed if the scheme was to work effectively and safely.
- The number of cyclists using the main route through the ward to and from the city had been over-exaggerated; most cycling undertaken was for recreational purposes, and the costs and disruption associated with the implementation of the scheme was unwarranted.
- Drivers were reluctant to give up their preferred mode of transport as the alternative offer of public transport was costly, unreliable, and often too overcrowded, which made travelling for many very uncomfortable.
- Improvements to public transport as well as the reduction in costs would negate the need for cycle lanes on the main arterial routes.
- Greater efforts should be made to encourage cycling for recreational use and that the existing cycling routes in open spaces and the canal towpaths should be improved.

### Members comments:-

- In-depth traffic monitoring studies should have been undertaken and must be reviewed before any aspect of the scheme is implemented in the ward.
- Residents' concerns and comments appeared not to be adequately addressed or taken on-board.
- The daily lives of local residents would be affected by the proposals, and an increase in on-street parking, rat-runs and congestion in residential roads would be inevitable as motorists sought to find alternative routes.
- The proposals to remove markings at traffic junctions at the local accident hot spots could lead to an increase in more accidents.
- Discussion and consultation with local residents should be ongoing as the proposals were being amended and residents fully advised of any changes prior to implementation.

The Chairman thanked the officers for their attendance and presentation and suggested that a further update on the proposals was given at the next meeting.

### 6. Ward Wheelie Bins Collection Service

Residents were advised of the following:-

- The wheelie bins would be delivered to households in the ward deemed as suitable from the end of September 2015. Each household would have 2 bins unless additional bins had been requested.
- The properties deemed as unsuitable for wheelie bins would remain on the weekly sack collection service.
- The wheelie bin collections would commence from 16 November 2015. The collections would now take place on Mondays instead of the current Friday collection.
- Assisted collections would still be available for residents who required this service.

### 7. Residents Issues/Matters of Local Concern

The following concerns were expressed by local residents:-

- Kings Court Road – consideration should be given to extending the double yellow lines at the junction of Harborne Road, which was a particularly dangerous section of the road.

- An increase in traffic congestion by Bristol and Priory Roads which was mainly due to the number of buses not running to their scheduled timetable.
- Consideration should be given to reducing the street furniture on Hagley Road; traffic congestion and obstructive parking had significantly increased, and the reduction of street furniture would help increase visibility.

The Chairman advised discussions were ongoing with the District Engineer and residents would be advised/consulted accordingly.

8. Authority to Chairman and Officers

Agreed.

The meeting closed at 20:57hrs