

Birmingham City Council

Bournville Ward Meeting

Tuesday 11 May 2017

6:30pm

Dame Elizabeth Hall, Firkbank Close B30 1UA

Meeting Notes

Present: Councillors Robert Sealey (Chair), Timothy Huxtable and Mary Locke
Dave Cross, West Midlands Fire Service
Jas Chahal, Transportation & Connectivity
Ron Webb, Place Manager
Austin Rodriguez, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit
Kay Thomas – Community Governance Team

There were 16 residents present.

1. Notice of Recording

Noted by all.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies - none

3. Notes Of Previous Meeting

Councillor Huxtable referred to paragraph 5 on page 3 and said that he had said that*perhaps* Bournville J&I school and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Schools *could* set up a children's court to dovetail with the 20mph limit. Also Emma Woolf's name had been mis-spelt. With those amendments the notes were agreed.

4. Petitions

None submitted.

5. West Midlands Fire Service Update

Dave Cross, Kings Norton Fire Station, gave the following update;

- The ward was performing well. The main issue had been injuries associated with an accidental dwelling fire.
- Information shared with local schools re; dangers of leaving dishwashers on
- There had been a number of nuisance fires in Cotteridge Park but measures were being taken.
- WMFS would be attending the Bournville Festival.

The meeting was advised that the group of young people setting fires in Cotteridge Park were known to the police and local officers had visited their schools. There was concern for

the safety of the young people and others as they had been seen putting aerosols into the fires. Dave Cross said that WMFS would also visit the schools.

Councillor Huxtable referred to Cotteridge centre and queried if there had been any effect on WMFS. Dave Cross said vehicles parked or stopped in the yellow box outside the station affected leaving the station and the constant queues of traffic through Cotteridge since the introduction of the LSTF meant it took longer to get back to the station.

6. Ward Local Innovation Fund

Austin Rodriguez outlined the criteria for the Local Innovation Fund and the process for proposals. There had been discussion at previous ward meetings, following which a group had looked at the ideas submitted and 4 proposals had been submitted. The groups responsible for those proposals had attended the meeting to share their ideas.

a) Community Matters

Emma Woolf explained the idea behind Community Matters Surgeries as peer to peer support that would piggy back onto existing events eg coffee mornings, events run by volunteer 'surgeons', supported by a paid Surgery Manager. There would also be specific support around fund raising and bid writing.

The idea was broadly supported by the meeting and the fund raising and bid writing support was felt to be particularly useful. It was noted that other community groups needed to become involved.

b) Step Up in Bournville Park

Joan Hosfield outlined the objectives of the proposal; - to protect the park, undertake clean ups, summer holiday activities, community picnics, painting in the park, carol singing, activities such as walking & tai chi, involvement of more children. Activities would be promoted and local people consulted. A group of volunteers would be trained and there would be collaboration with existing groups, schools etc. The Model Boat Club had been consulted and the groups would work together.

The proposal was generally supported by the meeting.

c) Bournville Social Enterprise Network

Gary Rogers outlined an idea to start a peer to peer support group for those interested in starting a social business to share ideas and get support, develop partnerships and active citizenship. In response to a question about funding the meeting was advised that the LIF would be used to pay for research to map local organisations and running costs. In response to concerns regarding use of the LIF for salaries Austin advised that this was acceptable provided that the salary was sustainable after LIF. Gary confirmed that once networks had been established the project would be self-sustaining.

Emma Woolf suggested that this and the community matters surgeries link up and meet together.

Gary advised that there would be a worker based in Bournville to promote the project and work with third sector networks and hard to reach groups.

d) Friends of Stirchley Library

Theresa Summerfield gave a brief background to the Friends of Stirchley Library group which had grown from the library consultations and a desire to retain the library in the library building. The opening hours at the library had been cut to 21 hours and the aim was to extend the hours, develop the volunteer network, run events, displays etc. the building was listed and in need of repair so the group was fundraising and hoped to be able to use the upstairs space to generate income.

There was a discussion regarding the proposal to use self-service equipment in the library and questions were raised regarding ownership, insurance and a possible CAT. Councillor Huxtable suggested that it be written into the conditions of grant aid that the equipment could only be used in a library in Stirchley.

In response to a question the Chair explained the position with the Section 106 money available from Tesco.

There was support for the proposal as a worthwhile use of the LIF.

7. LSTF Cotteridge Centre Update

Jas Chahal circulated a briefing document.

The Chair referred to the comments made earlier by the Watch Commander and the constant queuing into Cotteridge which was mirrored by resident's concerns but had not been acknowledged by Transportation.

Councillor Huxtable stated that this had been a sustainable travel scheme but had instead increased traffic by 7% and also increased congestion which demonstrated a modal shift in the wrong direction. There was also concern from residents regarding rat running in parallel residential roads. There had been several substantial accidents in Selly Oak Road in particular therefore the wider area needed further consideration and not just the corridor. Speeding on adjacent roads had increased as motorists tried to avoid the congestion and this could inevitably cause accidents.

Jas Chahal explained that LSTF funding had been allocated to encourage more walking and cycling and improve safety so this had to be balanced with other factors. Residents commented that the increase in traffic made it more dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. Statistics would also be helpful to fully understand the impact of the changes ie amount of traffic now using Middleton Hall Road. Longfellow Road and Popes Lane were also used at rat runs but this was not documented in the briefing note. Traffic was finding alternative routes to avoid the congestion in Cotteridge. Jas advised that a review would be undertaken to identify if any adjustments could be made.

Residents expressed concern that due to the congestion, pollution had increased but there was no record of this since the introduction of the scheme 2 years ago. People did not walk to Cotteridge any longer due to the pollution and cyclists did not use the route as it was

unsafe. The opinions of local people needed to be sought. It was suggested that NHS data on asthma etc be used.

Illegal parking along the road and in bus stops did not help the situation. Jas undertook to notify parking enforcement and request patrols. Councillor Huxtable added that Fleet & Waste Management vehicles regularly parked illegally. The Chair made reference to parking outside Sophies (by the pharmacy) where vehicle were often at an angle into Pershore Road.

Councillor Huxtable reinforced comments made about listening to the local community before devising such schemes and pointed out that not designating the area around Cotteridge School as a 20mph zone was remiss.

The meeting was advised that a review was to be undertaken and feedback and comments were requested.

Actions:- Jas Chahal undertook to; a) notify parking enforcement team regarding illegal parking in Cotteridge and request patrols b) obtain accident data for before and after LSTF scheme c) investigate air quality d) obtain NHS data e) update meeting after review.

8. Residents Issues/Matters of Local Concern

Residents advised of the following:-

- a) Travellers - In response to concerns raised regarding travellers on Raddlebarn Lane the Chair advised that the police had visited the site and made an assessment. There were guidelines that had to be followed and there was little they could do unless the information available supported their powers. The city council was currently looking into taking out an injunction in Selly Oak.
- b) Pedestrian Crossings – concern was expressed that the ‘bleeping’ on the pedestrian controlled crossings on Weoley Park Road & Bristol Road had been removed and that this caused an issue for people who were colour blind.
- c) Oak Tree Lane – this road was becoming a rat race and a suggestion was made that the road should be made one way or speed humps installed. Councillor Huxtable said that a one way system was known to increase traffic speed and that speed humps had been rejected as part of the 20mph limit but agreed that some action needed to be taken.
- d) Woodbrooke Road - parking for Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School was creating one lane for traffic and with buses using the road it was getting very difficult to navigate.
- e) Specialist Recruitment Service – Joy Whitehouse & Alexia Katsaitis explained the role of Specialist Recruitment Service as part of the Youth Promise Plus, working with young people aged 15 to 29 who were not in education, employment or training. Referrals could be made to the service and assistance with travel and accessing courses could be offered. Joy said they were looking for free venues to work from in the community as there was more chance of young people accessing support near to

their homes. Assistance could also be offered to young people with mental health issues, homelessness etc in the form of free specialist help from a venue other than the Job Centre. The Chair suggested that contact be made with local groups seeking volunteers and that Bournville Village Trust might be able to assist with venues.

- f) 20mph Speed Watch – a local resident said he was liaising with the PCSO's to set up a support group/community speed watch around the 20mph zones and was seeking support.

9. 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 Chairman thanked residents for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm