

PERRY BARR WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Perry Barr	DATE: 24 th April 2024
VENUE: Perry Hall Methodist Church, Rocky Lane B42 1QF	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 8.30pm
COUNCILLORS Morriam Jan & Jon Hunt	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 35
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Craig Cooper, Strategic Director Operations Mark Shelswell, Assistant Director Highways & Infrastructure Bob Churn, Head of Landscape Practice & Anthony Downe, Landscape Architecture Joanne Martin, Alexander Stadium Project Director Carla Belle, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apologies from the local police team.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:
<p>1. Welcome & Notice of Recording Councillor Jan welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the public/press could take photographs and record the meeting, except where there were exempt or confidential matters.</p> <p>2. Discussion with Craig Cooper, Strategic Director City Operations & Mark Shelswell, Assistant Director Highways & Infrastructure –</p> <p>a) Update on Perry Park Craig Cooper gave a brief introduction of his role and responsibilities and his involvement with the Commonwealth Games, during which the importance of Perry Park to the local community had been evident. He apologised that promises around Perry Park had not been delivered yet but assured the meeting that the park and allotments were safe.</p> <p>Bob Churn, with the aid of a power point presentation, showing the re-instatement of the park, said works had been approved, with most work to be</p>

completed by end of 2024 and all by end March 2025. Details of the works were outlined, as follows –

- Details of work on the footpaths outlined. Feedback on the work was welcomed.
- A way through on north boundary was being created.
- Athletes road to be softened
- Creation of play area on original site, 2 times original size
- Insufficient funds to remove transport mall, so activating for events e.g. community sports.
- Option for outdoor gym on north side of park
- Creation of leaning green wall over south embankment.
- Practice track would be laid with artificial grass.
- Anything moved for the European Games would be put back to original state.
- Wildflower meadow planting around transport mall, tree planting along Queens Jubilee Avenue and tree planting along Perry Villas boundary.
- Benches, bins, signage, and improved access at entrance for pedestrians.
- Provision for sports pitches and a mile route around the park.
- Larger car park.
- Consultation regarding the children's playground could be found on Be Heard. Drop-in event had been held last week and paper copies of the consultation document were available at the stadium.

The Chair of Friends of Perry Park thanked the team for listening to residents in respect of the main issues and addressing their concerns. It was noted that there were other matters but the difficulty in addressing all was acknowledged. However, the impact of the floodlighting remained, and a resolution was needed before the proposed plan to extend the lighting.

Craig Cooper explained that the CWG Committee had installed more lighting than necessary for the opening/closing ceremony, but that lighting had been taken down and a new planning application was to be submitted for the type of lighting that was supposed to have been initially installed. Jo Martin said that the legacy lighting had not been installed at the time the other lighting had been removed as notice had been received at that time that the stadium was to be used for the European Games. The planning application would be for permanent legacy lighting (Government funded), half the height of existing and pointing into the stadium bowl. The warm up track lighting was being altered to address complaints of lighting affecting nearby homes.

In response to comments, the meeting was advised that arrangements for the European Games had not yet been finalised but there would be fewer seats than for the CWG and the plans would be based on the successful elements of the CWG. Residents were requested to report complaints in respect of the PA system, but Jo undertook to feed back comments to focus the system into the West Stand.

It was reported that during the CWG Church Road had been used by coach drivers to park their vehicles and residents had to offer use of their facilities as there had been no arrangements made for them. The meeting was advised that this had been noted and provision would be made for coach drivers for future events. Lessons had been learnt regarding future stewardship to ensure future activities were better and less disruptive for residents.

b) Local Parking, School Parking & Highway Issues

Mark Shelswell explained his role and responsibilities, including, Kier contract, highways, flooding and advised a new parking manger had recently been appointed. He said that the highways team and parking manager would be attending ward meetings in the future.

There was some discussion regarding concerns around the Tame Valley Viaduct and works being undertaken, and while the meeting was assured the structure was safe, residents were requested to forward photographs for investigation.

The following parking issues were raised –

- Church Road (opposite cricket ground) obstructive parking caused by packing company lorries parking on the pavement. Pedestrians had to walk in the road, which was dangerous given how busy the road was and not helped by other vehicles parking on the opposite side of the road. The issue had been raised on numerous occasions by the councillors.
- Church Road parking on double yellow lines
- School parking, Dorrington School & Calshot School – Councillor Hunt suggested powers to ban pavement parking in zones around the schools be used to deal with the issues created by obstructive/dangerous parking around both schools. Fines would then be instantly issued. Repeated attempts had been made to work with both schools and while Calshot School had expressed an informal interest they had not signed up to Mode Shift Stars. In response to questions, Councillor Hunt suggested the no pavement parking zone around Dorrington School include Rocky Lane to Baltimore/Dorrington Roads and roads off and some of Tower Hill.

- Parking on grass verges
- Obstructive parking on Rocky Lane by community centre, Friday was an issue
- Street Watch used to be provided with cards by the police that could be placed on badly parked cars. Query whether BCC could provide similar.

Other highway issues – One Stop shopping centre junction, road markings not adhered to, filter lane did not work properly, drivers jumping red lights

In response to parking issues in Church Road, Mark Shelswell advised local engineers had investigated the problem and a TRO could be instigated so parking restrictions could be enforced, however, the lorries needed somewhere to load/unload. There needed to be some work with the factory to find a local solution and the local engineers would arrange to speak to the factory owners about being a good neighbour and the difficulties being encountered by pedestrians on Church Road. Regarding general parking issues, Mark suggested an enforcement ‘blitz’ to act as a deterrent. Pavement parking legislation was used elsewhere and was something the council was monitoring.

Mark requested residents report parking issues as this identified ‘hot spots’ and initiated enforcement action.

With regard school parking, the lack of school engagement was a challenge but ways of looking at safe ways of travel to schools for children could be investigated without school input. The Council was considering using new technology – cars with ANPR cameras – to undertake enforcement in relation to e.g. zig zag parking and work with schools to keep school routes safe.

In respect of the no pavement parking zones, several residents commented that the zone did not need to be as extensive as suggested as the pavements were exceptionally wide and cars parked on pavements in e.g. Kingsdown Avenue, did not block junctions. The proposal to ban pavement parking in those roads would then create a problem where one did not exist. Councillor Jan advised she was undertaking a site visit in respect of the garages in Kingsdown/Hillside Roads and would look at the parking situation. It was reported that this was also the case in Dorrington Road where up to 8 cars parked on the extended part of the pavement and would be displaced.

Mark undertook to hold a site visit with Councillor Jan to look at the issues raised.

3. Councillor Updates/Local Updates/Issues

- a) Tower Hill Library – Councillor Jan made reference to the current library consultations and advised residents there was a face-to-face consultation meeting at the library, 9 May 10.30-11.30am. She acknowledged that on-line consultation was not accessible to all and therefore urged residents to attend the meeting to make their views known. A library WhatsApp group had been set up and anyone wishing to join or to volunteer at the library, should contact the councillors. Councillor Hunt added they had created an information sheet about the library, how to volunteer, petition etc, and copies were available.
- b) Change to ward meetings – number of ward meetings to reduce from 3 to 4. Next meeting to be held on 25th September, following meeting 22nd January 2025. Start time to change to 7pm to ease the parking situation.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Parking issues – site visit	1. Cllr Jan/Mark Shelswell	1. asap