

Sutton Reddicap Ward Meeting

Monday April 22nd 2024

Falcon Lodge Community Centre

6.30pm to 8pm

A. Application to utilise *Brum Breathes* fund:

Remaining *Brum Breathes* budget is £2,909. The cost of the proposed works below is £1,869.

This Ward meeting to note the below proposal to be considered for funding support from the *Brum Breathes* project:

The proposed works will reinforce the collapsing retaining timber sleeper wall and protect the Memorial Garden in Rectory Park planted by and maintained by the Friends of Rectory Park, a resident volunteer group. At the moment the rear wall (around knee height) is collapsing and subsiding into the path which runs alongside the back of the Sutton Coldfield Cricket and Hockey Club.

This project will ensure that the Memorial Garden is properly maintained, secured and protected for the enjoyment of all Rectory Park users for many years to come.

This project aligns with several core aims of the Reddicap Ward Plan:

- **Investing in open spaces** to protect, maintain and enhance the local environment
- **Backing resident volunteer groups** (in this case the Friends of Rectory Park) in initiatives to improve health and well-being by supporting improvements to the local environment and reduce air pollution'
- **Engaging with the local community** in identifying areas of concern, and then taking action to improve the daily lives of residents.

B. Written Waste Department update:

I have received a written update from the Waste Department regarding several local issues of concern I have raised on behalf of residents:

1. Concern raised: There is in my opinion a shortage of large general waste communal waste bins at the two high rises (Redway Court and Copsehill Court) at **Mount View** which are often overflowing and creating a mess, scattering rubbish everywhere.

Response from Waste: *"I have spoken to the refuse collection team at Perry Barr. They are going to have the recycling wheelie bins removed due to continuous contamination issues*

with the site monitored for further residual container to be sited The Assistant Service Manager will liaise with Housing and the container collection crew if more bins are needed at the location."

2. **Concern raised:** Update on the general rubbish situation at the **back of the shops of Churchill Road** – more bins are required and I am not convinced that flytipping here is being regularly monitored, as requested and agreed

Response from Waste: "Area at the rear of the shops is private land. Waste enforcement have been asked to investigate."

3. **Concern raised:** A review is needed of the hardstanding area and wheelie bins **halfway down Woodington Road (flat nos 10 – 30)**: either more general waste bins are needed and/or recycling bins need to be replaced by black wheelie bins because the recycling at this location is frequently being contaminated.

Response from Waste: "Recycling wheelie bins to removed at blocks with continuous recycling issues with additional residual bins to be put in place"

4. **Concern raised:** Why are the communal recycling bins being missed at the **Fairfax Road maisonettes** week after week?

Response from Waste: "The recycling crew reported location as contaminated. Recycling wheelie bins have been emptied to reset and crew will monitor for further issues."

5. **Concern raised:** I believe a **general review is needed of all the communal recycling bins outside flats in Falcon Lodge**. Most areas are generally working very well but there are a handful of areas which are of concern and in these areas the recycling bins are frequently not being used properly/contaminated. This leads to more missed collections, additional waste being added, followed by more missed collections again etc.

Response from Waste: "Refuse collection teams/Assistant Service Managers to monitor locations with issues."

In addition, I have asked Waste not to remove any recycling bins at Mount View or Woodington Road unless they are immediately replaced at the same time by at least the same size/number of general waste bins, or ideally more of them. I am still awaiting clarification.

C. General Reddicap Ward Update:

1. Completed projects since the previous Reddicap Ward Meeting:

Benches in sheltered accommodation garden: Four benches have now been installed in the rear garden of the properties on Churchill Road (75% funded by the Town Council; 25% funded by BCC) to be enjoyed by the mainly elderly residents who live in the 32 flats and 7 bungalows. These new weatherproof benches have replaced the previous old wooden benches which were beyond repair.

Floral displays from the children at the Falcon Lodge Community Centre Playscheme have been added in the garden too.

Access road into Sutton United Football Club, New Hall Allotments and Coleshill Nursery off

Coleshill Rd: Road repairs to the entrance to SUFC/allotments have now been completed – 90% of the funding has come from the Town Council and the Football Club. The new roadway includes speed bumps, bollards alongside the pedestrian walkway and double yellow lines to prevent parked vehicles obstructing the entrance to the allotments. A barrier to the allotment site and a new bin have also been installed by the Town Council.

Replacement bus shelters: The two bus stops at bottom Carhampton Road have now been replaced by two new bus shelters – both with seats – after I successfully lobbied TFWM. This followed complaints from residents about the lack of seats in one of the shelters and I was fortunate enough to convince TFWM to replace both of the old, tired shelters with new ones at the same time

New bus stop Rectory Road has been installed (on the Reddicap side of the road) after the old one needed to be relocated as it was too close to the junction with the new housing development.

Sanctuary Housing service charges: there has been a well-publicised outcry amongst local Sanctuary residents with the huge service charge increases being imposed by the housing provider. Myself and fellow councillors backed the well-organised residents' campaign to get these planned charges reduced and I'm pleased to say that Sanctuary have now scrapped the increases.

In fact, this year's charges are now slightly *lower* than last year and residents affected have also been issued with a £50 compensation. However, it was incredibly disappointing that Sanctuary issued these massive increases in the first place as it understandably created a huge amount of worry and distress amongst residents, but I am pleased they have at least acknowledged their mistakes and done something to correct them.

Ivy removal Carhampton Road: following a complaint from a resident about mould and damp in a property I arranged for the council to deal with the problems, which included removal of ivy on the outside of the property which was contributing to the issues. As a result, I subsequently successfully pushed for ivy to be removed from other council properties on the road at the same time. There is also a job booked in for ivy removal on Stone Avenue too.

Churchill Road surface works: potholes have recently been repaired by BCC after complaints from residents. I would like to see large sections of the road completely resurfaced but with BCC's plans to cut the Highways maintenance budget across the city by a third over the next two years there will be no large resurfacing projects like this carried out anywhere. In the meantime, the best we can hope for is 'safety-critical' patch-up repairs.

I would urge resident to report potholes directly to BCC and forward me the report reference numbers to follow up if necessary.

Grass verge junction Langley Hall Rd/Springfield Rd: after pushing BCC to take action following damage caused by contractors I am pleased to say that the grass area at this junction has now been repaired. Unfortunately, the next challenge is to stop the few parents of schoolchildren at nearby New Hall Primary from parking on this green space as they are now damaging the recently re-soiled and re-seeded area. There are double yellow lines at this location and I am urging residents to report this illegal parking to BCC whilst urging Highways Officers to get Parking Enforcement Officers to visit the area and issued FPNs.

Graffiti removed New Hall Valley: there has been extensive graffiti at the area around bridge in New Hall Valley off Ebrook Road for some time. Acting on complaints from residents and working alongside fellow local Councillor Cllr Pears we succeeded in ensuring that Network Rail sent out a team to remove all the graffiti.

Hedgerow running alongside cemetery (Lindridge Road): all the overgrown hedgerow, bushes, trees etc have been cut back by BCC. This followed a site visit with myself, BCC Officers and National Grid as much of this excessive hedgerow and tree branch growth was directly under live power cables. As a result, National Grid had to turn off the power for some neighbouring properties and Trinity College for several hours whilst the works were carried out.

Stanley Avenue: after liaising with the local police several vehicles which had been completely blocking the pavement for some time, preventing any pedestrian access, have now been cleared. Thank you to PCSO Lindsay Brenton for all his help and support with this.

Trip rails repaired: after contacting BCC about several broken trip rails on Repington Way and Cumberland Walk I am pleased to say they have now been replaced with new trip rail sections.

More wheelie bins for Cumberland Walk: following complaints from residents I arranged for several new wheelie bins to be located at one end of Cumberland Walk which needed additional bins

Successful litter pick April 14th: I organised a community litter pick last week with the Sutton Coldfield Litter Action Group. A huge thank you to all the members of the Group and local residents who gave up their free time to help out as volunteers. Over 20 of us collected an amazing 40 bags of rubbish along Churchill Road and adjoining roads.

Successful Rectory Park Action Day Mach 3rd: this was organised by the Friends of Rectory Park and I joined members of the group, resident volunteers and members from the Sutton Coldfield Litter Action Group in a range of improvement activities. This included installing nine bird boxes, repairing two benches and picking nine bags of litter. We also carried out various works in and round the pond behind The Boot Inn – the pond was dredged, perimeter tidied, tree branches overhanging the pond cut back etc. Thank you to everyone who helped out on the day.

Successful Parkinson's Week promotion: local resident Dee Springett was keen to promote Parkinson's Week earlier this month and I was delighted when The Gracechurch Centre agreed to step in and allow Dee to put up her hand-made blue bows around the town centre to promote the charity.

2. On-going projects:

Some of the on-going projects in the ward include:

20mph project: the proposed 20mph localised zone around the traffic lights area at the junction of Reddicap Heath Road/Reddicap Hill/Hollyfield Road has been approved and a successful residents consultation exercise completed. I am now liaising with Highways Officers who will shortly be presenting a Full Business Case - subject to securing additional funding approval from elsewhere to cover a shortfall of approx. £3,500 as costs have increased

Newdigate Fields update/Friends of Falcon Lodge: works started at Newdigate Fields (in appalling weather!) two weeks ago and continues at pace. The project is expected to take 6-8 weeks (weather

permitting). Four large fruit trees have been planted in the corner by Falcon Lodge Chapel and the perimeter walkway is starting to take shape.

The Friend of Falcon Lodge Group has now been set up at Birmingham Open Spaces Forum. It has been established to maintain, protect and improve green spaces such as Newdigate Fields across the local area and I would urge residents who want to get involved to contact me in the first instance.

Falcon Lodge Allotments: the Town Rangers have commenced clearance works across the allotments to tidy up the perimeter of the two sites. The Town Council have also recently provided skips for the tidy-up project which comes in advance of the planned transfer of the Town's allotments from Birmingham to Sutton Coldfield. Other works are in the pipeline and I am liaising closely with both the Falcon Lodge Allotments and officers from the Town Council to discuss and agree long overdue improvements across the two sites

New bus shelter: I am still trying to convince TFWM to install a new bus shelter outside St Chads Church on Hollyfield Road to replace the old bench which is currently there out in the open and exposed to the weather. A local resident has organized a petition in support of this campaign which already has over 120 signatures. I am continuing to liaise with TFWM and WMCA on this following the rejection of my initial request.

New replacement bus shelter outside One Stop on Springfield Road (opposite The Anvil): following a complaint from a resident I am pleased to confirm that my request for a new shelter has been approved by TFWM. The existing shelter is very old and the perspex surrounding it has become obscure over time, making it difficult for drivers to see on-coming traffic coming from Springfield Road when pulling out of the shops area. I am currently chasing the installation date.

Damage to New Hall Cemetery graves from grass cutting: I have received several complaints from concerned and distressed residents about excessive grass cutting damaging graves at the Cemetery. I am currently liaising with Bereavement Services and residents on this matter which has also been raised with other local councillors.

Rough sleepers New Hall Valley: I have been liaising with Outreach teams who have offered alternative accommodation to two rough sleepers in recent weeks.

Garage gate projects: funding for five new gates and locks at five different locations on Fowler Road, Lindridge Road (x2) and Wyatt Road (x 2) has been approved following consultations with residents who rent garages and those living in neighbouring properties. Further letters will be going out to them this week. The gates are on order and I am currently chasing the delivery and installation dates.

Parking issues outside ASDA: despite the installation of bollards and double yellow lines a small number of drivers are still parking on the grass verge area opposite ASDA on Churchill Road. I am pushing for visits from Parking Enforcement Officers and may consider further preventative measures (eg double kerbing) although funding opportunities are now severely impacted by the financial crisis at BCC

New Hall Cemetery: last year's temporary one-way measures were re-implemented on Mother's Day and two days on Eid this month. These measures were considered to be successful as there were no reported traffic problems, unlike Mother's Day last year. The same measures are now planned on future busy days at the Cemetery later this year ie Father's Day, Eid again (x 2 days) and Xmas Eve.

Mount View walkabout: I recently organised and participated in a walkabout with Housing Officers at Mount View. Several concerns were raised by residents who joined us on the walkabout and these

issues are still being looked into by Officers. Other problems have since been resolved. Rubbish and flytipping remains an on-going repeat problem and I have arranged for BCC to carry out several flytipping removal visits since the walkabout.

Good Hope Hospital parking/meeting: I am attending a meeting at Good Hope Hospital with Cllr David Pears later this week to raise an increasingly large number of concerns from residents about parking issues caused by Hospital staff and visitors on surrounding roads and Rectory Park.

Next MHWC visit: the next ward visit from the Mobile Household Waste Centre (MHWC) trucks will take place on Weds June 26th at Falcon Lodge Crescent 7.30pm to 1pm. This service was previously called the MHRC (the Mobile Household *Recycling* Centre) but there will no longer be any recycling services provided and there will also be far fewer ward visits because of the financial crisis at BCC. This means the trucks will now dispose of all materials brought to them as general household waste, with no recycling.

Cllr Richard Parkin

Sutton Coldfield Reddicap Ward Meeting

22.4.24