

## LADYWOOD WARD MEETING - NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Ladywood	<b>DATE:</b> 20 October 2022
<b>VENUE:</b> Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent Street West, B16 8RP	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 8.50pm
<b>COUNCILLORS</b> Kath Hartley & Albert Bore	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 10
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Sergeant Forder, West Midlands Police Rebecca Farr & Simon Delahunty-Forrest, BCC Regeneration Cameron Duncan, Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

#### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Councillor Hartley welcomed all to the meeting and thanked residents for their attendance. She advised that the press/public could record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

#### 2. TNT News Report

Norman Bartlam showed a TNT news report focusing on the Commonwealth Games and featuring an article on the successful gymnast Joe Fraser who had lived and gone to school in Ladywood. There was also a historic look at the Indoor Arena used for CWG events. Copies of the latest Brew n Bugle were made available.

### **3. Local Police Update**

Sergeant Christian Forder introduced himself as the new police sergeant for the Ladywood area and advised that one of the main areas of focus for the team was enforcement around drug dealing around Lea Bank and other areas. Force wide priorities centred on burglaries, robberies, gang and youth violence and vehicle crime.

Residents then raised the following issues and Sergeant Forder responded –

- St Vincent Street West – concerns raised about safety due to the poor street lighting and number of ‘dark spots’ going towards Spring Hill.
- Increased incidents of car crime around Lee Bank island and Holloway Head. Sergeant Forder advised he was in communication with car park owners who were aware of the issues and needed to take action.
- Recent crime at local nursery and extreme concern expressed that a resident who had reported important information had not been contacted by the police and had been told to return items found to the nursery. Sergeant Forder agreed that this had not been good service but assured the meeting that a report had been provided to the response team that attended and officers from the local team had visited the nursery to provide reassurance and prevention advice. He undertook to follow up the points raised
- In response to queries regarding staffing the meeting was advised that new staff were being recruited but the numbers were for the country as a whole and for all teams throughout the forces. New staff to neighbourhood teams were not expected for 12-24 months. Neighbourhood teams were called upon to cover for the response teams daily.
- For non-emergency issues the team could be contacted on [ladywood@westmidlands.police.uk](mailto:ladywood@westmidlands.police.uk)
- Requests were made for the reinstatement of the Police Tasking meetings and Sergeant Forder undertook to investigate and to endeavour to arrange for the team to make more foot patrols around Ladywood.

#### 4. **Revised Edgbaston Reservoir Master Plan**

Rebecca Farr and Simon Delahunty-Forrest presented the Edgbaston Reservoir Master Plan and advised that it had been presented to Cabinet Committee last week and a decision would be made following scrutiny committee consideration.

The Master Plan area was outlined, and it was noted that it would form part of the local plan and was material in decision making. There had been consultation on the Plan and as a result of comments received changes had been made to reflect the views of the community, users and stakeholders. The homes on the Tower Ballroom site remained with some commercial use but would be set back further from the waters edge that originally planned and the walkway widened with added greenery to provide a buffer. Images of the development were shown to the meeting.

In response to questions –

- There would be 35% affordable housing and options between the council, housing associations and developers were being looked at but it was acknowledged that schemes had to do better at delivering affordable homes.
- The amount of non-residential property had been reduced in light of comments and interest in café facilities etc was flexible to link to the reservoir
- Use of the Lodge and extension to provide greater community use was within the Plan but there were no specific details
- The Reservoir would be accessible
- The need for some car parking was recognised and this had been updated to say the car park (Reservoir Road) would be re-opened and upgraded. Currently working with the police, councillors and parks to ensure there were no issues when opened.
- Concerns recognised regarding the generation of increased traffic created by the new homes and therefore the possibility of a transport hub had been included
- Concerns regarding insufficient infrastructure recognised and impact would be considered within the planning process including monitoring of school places
- The Master Plan built on the Icknield Port Loop scheme and supported a path from the dam to the Loop. The dam would not be compromised, and the Canals & Rivers Trust and Urban Splash were working on this.
- The site of TS Vernon would be retained as per their planning application with houses to the rear

- The conditions around the planning application for the new homes would be very clear that natural wildlife had to be protected.
- With regard to the Icknield Port Loop development there was a public meeting being arranged for November with Urban Splash to update residents and councillors would circulate details in due course. Officers had been requested to install another controlled crossing on Icknield Port Road to assist with traffic speeds and crossing points to link walking routes

Residents expressed concern regarding parking for events and that cars parking in residential roads, litter and noise nuisance caused chaos in the area. Councillor Bore added that coach parking on Osler Street was a particular issue and he had requested officers look to a solution with parking restrictions and speed bumps. Councillor Hartley added that S106 from the new housing development should be used for road improvements around the entire area, with residents parking schemes and improvements to Osler Street park.

In response to queries regarding Mount Pleasant social club the meeting was advised that planning consent for its demolition would make it suitable for housing development and there was detail in the Master Plan about what would be appropriate.

Councillor Hartley commented on the need to create a stable community and therefore not encourage new properties to be bought to let and therefore causing a transient population.

## **5. AOB**

**Neighbourhood Action Co-Ordinator** – Cameron Duncan introduced himself as the new Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for the Ladywood and Soho & Jewellery Quarter wards and explained his role which was to work with the community to look at – the environment (street scene, parks, Public Open Spaces etc), Community Safety/ASB and Quality of Life. He would be arranging meetings with community groups, service providers and residents.