

EDGBASTON WARD MEETING

Wednesday 19th June 2019

7.00pm – 8:15pm

EDGBASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, 40 WOODVIEW DRIVE

B15 2HU

COUNCILLORS: DEIRDRE ALDEN AND MATT BENNETT	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 20
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Team	GUEST SPEAKER: Bernard Hulland, Project Sponsor, West Midlands Rail Executive
APOLOGIES: Stuart Cross, Highway Steward, Amey	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<u>Cllr Deirdre Alden in the Chair</u> 1. Notice of Recording Residents were reminded that members of the press/public could record or take photographs of the meeting. 2. University Station – Redevelopment Proposals Following introductions, Bernard Hulland, West Midlands Rail Executive gave details of the proposals for a major rebuild of the current University Station prior to the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2022. Residents were advised that the redevelopment had been planned as the station was one of the busiest in the West Midlands and major redevelopment was needed to improve facilities for passengers/users. When the station first opened in 1978, it was used by approx. 750,000 passengers per annum; to date, there were in excess of 3.3million passengers per year following the expansion of the University of Birmingham, the ongoing development of University Hospital Birmingham as well as a major regeneration of the surrounding areas,	

including the Battery Retail Park.

The redevelopment of the station would coincide with the Commonwealth Games and support additional passenger use generated by the Games, however the improvements were much needed and long overdue. The funding partner agencies for the development included University of Birmingham, West Midlands Trains, West Midlands Combined Authority, Network Rail, Bham & Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, City Council and the Dept. for Transport (DfT).

The new station building would be located at the opposite end of the platform to the existing station; platforms would be connected by a wide footbridge which would also provide direct access from the station across the canal to the University campus. The existing station would also remain open and operational whilst the works were ongoing.

Responding to residents' questions, Bernard confirmed the station would be fully DDA compliant, with lifts to all floors and disabled toilets. Canopies would also be installed along all the platforms to fit around the existing overhead lines.

No parking provision would be provided at the station, which was a specific instruction from WMCA (West Midlands Combined Authority) however there would be time-limited drop off/pick up points, a taxi rank and shuttle bus facility to the University and Hospital.

Residents felt that secure cycle racks and bus access within the station should be considered and that a holistic approach was needed to ensure public transport was fully incorporated into any new/redevelopments as part of the Green Travel Plan. Direct access from the station to the hospital should also be considered along with the impact of increased parking on residential roads if no parking provision was provided.

Bernard agreed to take the points raised back to the WMCA and advised that several drop-in events would be held to display the plans in due course. Residents were actively encouraged to attend and to share any views/comments they had regarding the development.

Councillors and residents thanked Bernard for his attendance and information update.

3. Councillors News/Updates

Cllrs Alden and Bennett advised of the following:-

- Wellington Road: cycle path now fully completed, however the mitigation works had not progressed as planned. A meeting with

Transportation Officers had been arranged for Monday to discuss the issue. Marie Brown, local District Engineer would also be attending. Residents would be kept informed.

- Priority Independent School – a Planning Application had been submitted to create on-site car parking which would free up on-street parking and traffic congestion. Residents felt that an interim Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) should be considered whilst this was ongoing, particularly by the bend outside the school, which was quite dangerous. Cllrs agreed to discuss the issue with Marie Brown, local District Engineer.
- Hospital & University Traffic Management Masterplan- the consultation process for the TROs proposed had ended. Cllrs would be meeting Transportation Officers to look at the findings, which had included a number of strong objections from medical students.
- The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) – the implementation of the scheme had been delayed until July 2020 at the earliest. A number of issues still had to be finalised between the City Council and Central Government, including securing the necessary funding to implement the TROs. Residents would continue to be kept informed.
- Site visit earlier in the day with Stuart Cross, Amey Highway Steward. Several roads had been identified for urgent repairs to potholes/road surface – these included Hawthorne Road; Edgbaston Park Road, Church Road and Metchley Park Road. Several trees in Barlows Road were also leaning badly and would be re-staked.
- Metchley Park Road – clearer signage and directions to the hospital was needed as visitors were trying to access the hospital via No Entry. Marie Brown had agreed to investigate to see what could be done.

Residents were reminded to let Cllrs Alden or Bennett know of any further issues and concerns.

4. Residents News and Updates

The following updates were given:-

Edging Forward Together (Ward Local Innovation Fund)

Liz Dancey (Calthorpe Residents' Society) gave details of the ongoing work with helping to support and develop community groups and resident contacts through a wide range of activities in the ward. These included:-

- Hosting a community coffee morning on a monthly basis at the Quaker Meeting House for all residents in the ward
- Blue Plaque Walks (organised local walking groups) across the ward for residents of all ages to be launched on 27 June 2019
- Developing a 'Community Kit' to provide useful contact numbers, advice, support and sign-posting
- Organising community clean ups/litter picks across the ward to help keep the ward clean as well as it being a good way of building

and improving communication between residents/communities

- A Working Group had been set up to work with the City Council Conservation Officer in updating the Calthorpe Area Management Plan
- Art and Gardening Workshops/Classes had also been set up with the Botanical Gardens providing support for the development of a sensory garden for local people
- Gardening activities with staff and pupils at Chad Vale and Woodview Primary Schools, including growing plans in their onsite greenhouse and planting out the raised beds outside Edgbaston Community Centre.

Cllrs and residents commended Liz and the rest of the team for their ongoing work across all areas of the ward.

Other Issues

- Golf Club, Priory Road – collapsed wall still in need of rebuilding. Several issues needed to be resolved before work on rebuilding the wall could commence; these included obtaining permission to close Priory Road and ensuring the underground stream was appropriately protected.
- Edgbaston Park Road – wall by the Halls of Residence in need of urgent work to prevent it from collapse. Cllr Alden agreed to raise the matter with Marie Brown, District Engineer.
- Bourne Brook Walkway/Aston Webb Boulevard/Leasow Drive – poor state of disrepair and risk of flooding/ponding during heavy rain. Cllr Alden agreed to raise the matter with Sue Amey, District Parks Manager.

5. Petitions

None submitted.

6. Dates of Future Meetings

To be agreed as necessary.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm