

LADYWOOD WARD MEETING NOTES

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| WARD: Ladywood | DATE: 16 July 2019 |
| VENUE: Nelson JI School, St Vincent Road | START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9.05pm |
| COUNCILLORS Kath Hartley & Sir Albert Bore | NOs OF ATTENDEES: 21 |
| OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Nigel Tammo, Transport & Connectivity, BCC Craig Richards & Tom Willetts, TfWM Dawn Page & Patrick Evans, Ladywood Leisure Centre Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager | |

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Progress on Metro & Sprint Works

Nigel Tammo, Craig Richards & Tom Willetts outlined the target dates for the Metro and the route and stops up to the Hagley Road. Works were progressing well and were a week ahead of schedule. The underpass had been closed and ahead of the next phase of works at end August/early September a package of mitigation measures were being explored. The work to take the metro route up to Sheepcote Street would continue into Spring 2020 when the roads/underpass would open to traffic followed by the remaining work up Broad Street. The main aspiration was to have the metro running up the Hagley Road in time for the CW Games and at the same time making preparations for the Sprint bus to compliment the metro and create a rapid transport system across the wider area. In response to questions the meeting was advised that when completed only trams, buses and taxis would be allowed through the underpass and there would be one lane each way. The Sprint buses were not electric but would be low emission vehicles and priority

measures would speed up their transit.

Craig undertook to forward information to be circulated to residents.

In response to further questions Nigel said that it was becoming impossible to widen junctions to accommodate traffic and therefore public transport needed to be made more attractive to lessen the numbers of cars. More details would be fed back to future meetings. Councillor Hartley referred to the air quality around the Hagley Road/Five Ways/Monument Road area and queried whether there were any measurements taken before and after the scheme. The meeting was advised that these could be shared when the project had been finalised. Councillor Hartley also expressed concern regarding displaced traffic along Reservoir Road.

Residents commented that the cost of public transport and the unreliability were the reasons people chose to use cars. Craig reported that TfWM were looking at key destinations for buses, metro & cycling and talking to businesses regarding essential cars users and schemes such as later start times, staggered hours etc to encourage people to use public transport as it was recognised that there needed to be an incentive.

With regard to cycling it was safer for cyclists to cycle away from the tram so other routes would be promoted that ran parallel to Broad Street.

Residents referred to deliveries to Broad Street by HGV's that blocked the road and the meeting was advised that discussions were underway with businesses to encourage use of smaller vehicles for city centre deliveries.

Councillor Hartley said that the names of the metro stops were due to be finalised and asked that any suggestions for the last stop on Hagley Road be forwarded to her.

2. TNT History Report on History of Ladywood Baths

Norman Bartlam through a presentation and photographs explained the history of Ladywood Baths and the campaign for a pool following the demolition of the original building in 1994.

3. New Ladywood Swimming Pool & Leisure Centre

Dawn Page explained she was the General Manager & Site Manager for Ladywood Pool and Patrick Evans had been the site manager for the build. Dawn outlined the facilities at the Centre and that the pool would be suitable for regional and national competitions with

spectator facilities and café. Free inductions would be available for gym membership and there would be classes, activities and swimming lessons for children & adults.

The Centre opened on 9 August and the facilities would be free to use on that day. There would also be children's activities and time slots could be booked on line. There were facilities and changing spaces for disabled users.

Through work with the Job Club and Suited for Success 30 previously unemployed people from Ladywood had been recruited to work across a range of positions at the Leisure Centre and there were still vacancies, details available for Ladywood Job Club or Job Centre Plus.

There was some discussion regarding the charges for use of the facilities and concern expressed by some residents regarding the cost. Dawn advised that Be Active & Passport to Leisure was available to residents and that the charging policy was not unique to the Ladywood Centre but was the same across the city. Some residents said that they had been told they could not use Passport to Leisure and Dawn undertook to make available the price list so it could be sent out to residents. Residents felt that the Be Active times were too restrictive and that consideration was being given to starting a petition. Dawn undertook to take residents details at the conclusion of the meeting and arrange to meet to discuss matters. She added that community feedback was welcomed and wanted to work with the local community and assist local groups etc. She was in discussion with the Junk Food Cafe regarding provision of a breakfast club after dance clubs etc.

A local resident said that as one of the most deprived areas, Ladywood should have cheaper prices and not be treated like the city centre. The facilities should offer more for young people given the rise in knife and gun crime therefore cheaper costs and more flexible opening times would be a benefit.

Councillor Bore briefly outlined the agreement between the city council and Serco following budget cuts threatened the closure of a number of swimming pools. The agreement with Serco had resulted in building new pools and refurbishing others. The costs and charges had to be the same for all new pools across the city and any profit made by Serco was shared with BCC. Councillor Bore in response to resident's questions suggested that residents speak to Dawn who had some flexibility around timetabling but stressed that other arrangements had been settled some time ago at which time there had been a period of consultation.

Dawn reiterated her offer to meet with any residents and said she hoped to also set up a customer forum to discuss issues with local people.

4. **Other Local Issues**

A local resident queried how residents became involved with and were consulted on projects and developments taking place in the ward as he felt residents were not involved enough and even when there was consultation there was no feedback to the community and then decisions were made.

Councillor Bore advised the meeting of the efforts made to involve residents in the Central Ladywood regeneration and that community engagement was part of the regeneration initiative. A steering group would be set up to involve residents as the project moved forward. Other residents referred to the significant amount of consultation/meetings etc that had been held about the building of the new swimming pool and that there had been a process for residents to be involved in all of the projects that occurred in the ward.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):