

BILLESLEY WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Billesley	DATE: Tuesday 18 th July 2023
VENUE/ VIRTUAL: Billesley Fire Station, Brook Lane, B13 0DH	START/FINISH TIMES: 6:00pm – 7:20pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Katherine Iroh & Philip Davis	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager, Bill Pegg – Senior Enforcement Officer	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Safe Billesley
2. A Green Billesley

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Iroh & Councillor Davis welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting. They announced that the third item on the agenda had been cancelled due to staff sickness however the topic would still be discussed.

2. Local Updates from Councillors

Councillor Iroh explained that from the £20,000 Highways budget,

- a sum of money will be used to put up bollards/a barrier on Slade Lane.
- Traffic Regulation Order down to Swanshurst Park is under consideration
- Warstock Lane is due to be resurfaced in August and Trittiford Road has been resurfaced recently. Brook Lane in discussion

3. Ward Plan

- ***Priority No.1 - Tackling anti-social behaviour and improving community safety***

- CCTV will be restored on Ravenshill Road, with new CCTV to be funded on Braceby Avenue
- Ravenshill Road unauthorised dump now under Planning and Enforcement investigation

Priority No.3 – Improving parks & allotments

The residents commented that the parks are in terrible condition, especially since the travellers broke on to two sites and left a high amount of litter and human waste. Bill Pegg, a Senior Enforcement Officer from Birmingham City Council, deals with travellers and serving eviction notice's to them. He explained that there are two sites in the city that the travellers can use however one is currently closed. He explained that there are not enough sites for travellers and they are in talks to try and open some more sites. However he said that when consultations are done for new sites to be opened, residents to object as they don't want traveller sites opened. He advised residents to contact the police, the council and him directly on **07766924925** when they see travellers entering a site that is not authorised for them to use and to report any illegal activity taking police directly to the police. He explained that the process to evict travellers from a non-transit site is, report to the council/Bill directly, an eviction notice is served as soon as possible. Once the eviction notice has been served, they must wait 2 full days and if the site is still not cleared, the council then involves the baliffs and police to evict them. 90% of all evictions do result in the police and baliffs getting involved.

A resident called for more preventative measures to be put in place to the entrance of parks to stop travellers from entering however the Councillors explained that this also stops any maintenance being done to the park as vehicles required such as the lawn mowers are unable to get into the park. A resident also commented that preventative measures such as putting in more secure gates and bollards is a waste of council money as the travellers would break this down. The police is unable to prosecute anyone for breaking and entering as there is no evidence or witnesses to identify who breaks the entrance. The Councillors explained they did meet with the park ranger to talk about putting preventative measures to stop travellers getting on to the park however they agreed with the residents and agreed this is a waste of council money.

Members of the Friends of Swanshurst Park who attended the meeting, explained that they were left to clean the mess that was left behind from the travellers alongside the assistance of the council team who cleared up and the police. The Councillors explained that the police don't prioritise stopping travellers getting onto the parks as its reported due to the nature of the crime and due to the police force shortage in the area. Residents commented that burglaries were on the increase while the travellers were situated in the local parks. Councillor Davis told residents to report such issues directly to the police dialling 999 and for ongoing issues relating to travellers, there is a specific number where this issue can be logged. The

number is **101 – 823 6250** and emailed into **Springfield@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**. As there is currently a transition of which police team covers Swanshurst Park falls into, residents should email all traveller related issues to the Springfield team and once the transition is complete to direct all reports to **Billesley@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk**. Councillor Davis explained that he would update residents on when the transition would be complete at the next ward forum meeting.

4. **2023-2024 Ward Funding**

Neighbourhood Action Coordinator Small Grants Funding

The Councillors spoke about the NAC small grants allocation and where these had been awarded. Please see appendices one for more information about the NAC funding.

Beyond Birmingham Celebrating Communities Funding

The Councillors explained that the aim of this funding is:

- **Getting Active** – encouraging communities to get out and get active by participating in sports and recreational activities. The overriding aim should be to encourage residents, of all abilities and ages, to engage in physical activity and improve their health and wellbeing.
- **Ready, Steady, Fun – Connecting Communities** – delivering community projects such as improving communal space, and hosting community celebrations to develop active citizenship and reduce loneliness and social isolation.
- **Celebrating Culture - Supporting communities to showcase the culture of their local area** – developing community-led cultural events and initiatives that encourage intergenerational activities. Proposed

The Councillors thanked all residents for the bids that were put in for this funding and shared the list of where money had been allocated and the aim of the projects:

- **Full Gospel Tabernacle** - £10,00 awarded – 5 holiday fun days throughout August open to the community in Billesley hosting a wide range of activities, information and food.
- **Moseley Rugby Community Foundation** (“Have A God” sports festival) - £5,000 awarded – A new beach volleyball court was gifted by the Commonwealth Games. The funding will be for coaching time, equipment and marking.
- **The Valley Riverside Project** – £1,240 awarded – This funding will be used for tai-chi sessions already happening on the common and the funding is to extend this.
- **Billesley Bin Baggers** – £5000 awarded – This funding will be used for 12 painting events to engage local community and school children to decorate and improve vandalised telecoms boxes around the Billesley area. The activities will engage local street artists, community groups and schools to improve the space and deter vandalism

A resident questioned how the Full Gospel Tabernacle would be marketed. A member of the Full Gospel Tabernacle Church answered that they use social media, especially Facebook, a lot to market and through the use of posters. They used social media to market an event that occurred last year at the Church which resulted in 400 families attending and was an overall successful event. They informed residents that they also have a clothes bank on site which is accessible during Church events.

5. Future Ward Forum Meeting Date

The next ward forum date is Wednesday 25th October 2023 location to be confirmed.

AOB:

1. A consultation to keep the ticket office at the train station is now live until the 26th July. Comments must be submitted by 26th July to ticketoffice.wmt@transportfocus.org.uk.
2. A resident suggested an idea to have some plants on the roundabout at the end of Brook Lane to make it look pretty and for planters/baskets to be put along the railing on Brook Lane. Councillor Davis suggested that the Brum Breathes funding can be used for this. A resident gave an example of in Mosley where an initial fund of £3000 was given for planters and flowers along the roads in the area and eventually it became a self-funded project as local florists donated flowers for this project. Some residents suggested that volunteer groups can go ahead and plant anyway without any funding.
3. A resident commented on the buses struggling to get through Stoney Lane due to inconsiderate parking. The Councillors commented that they will be speaking to the Cabinet leader for transport and Councillor Locke to get something done about this by getting civil enforcement involved to prosecute drivers parking illegally. Residents also mentioned the traffic on Kings Heath Road getting worse.
4. Swanshurst School and a number of other schools in the area have been in talks with the Councillors to reduce traffic and encourage parents to walk their children to school. They suggested that they may use the Brum Breathes funding to put in double yellow lines around the schools.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. To find out when Swanshurt Park will be under the Billesley Police Team 2. Speak to Cabinet Leader for Transport regarding the issue of buses not getting up Stoney Lane and discuss ideas around putting double yellows around schools	1. Councillors 2. Councillors	1. Provide update at next ward meeting 2. Provide update at next ward meeting

Appendices One

Neighbourhood Action Coordination Small Grant Fund

Background

This year there is a grant pot of £10k available for community projects in both Billesley & Brandwood and Kings Heath wards, which is administered by the Neighbourhood Development Support Unit, Birmingham City Council as part of the Neighbourhood Action Co-ordination Projects happening across 20 wards in the city in 2023.

Projects must fit one or more of the following themes:

- **Environment** (e.g.) projects to tackle fly tipping or litter, or designed to improve greenspaces
- **Community Safety** (e.g.) projects that aim to prevent neighbourhood nuisance such as vandalism or street drinking or promote community cohesion
- **Quality of Life** (e.g.) projects that develop local community activities and improve local pride
- Any project that matches a **priority identified in their local ward plan**.

Local citizen, Cllr and stakeholder panels have been put together to assess the applications.

Grants awarded for Billesley ward so far include:

- **Wheeler Lane Technology College** (money awarded from Billesley and Brandwood and KH wards)
Funding for Kings Heath Fest! a celebration event for our multi-generational and diverse community of Kings Heath and surrounding areas in Brandwood, Kings Heath & Billesley wards.
- **Friends of Trittiford Mill Pool and Park**
Funding to enhance Trittiford through wildlife and habit, tree and pond identification and wayfinding signage and provide more reasons for local primary schools to use the park for educational purposes.
- **Billesley Primary School**
Funding to start the conversion of their old caretaker's cottage into a community hub. The grant will enable structural improvement to the building to create a wheelchair-accessible entrance for to welcome all the community.

➤ **Friends of Billesley Common (Valley Riverside Project)**

Funding to build capacity for local volunteers and improve the environs, boosting Billesley Common for use by the whole Community. The funding will pay for litter picking equipment, bird boxes, bat boxes and a new metal bench.

➤ **PlayGround**

Funding to run some family workshops at Greenaleigh Community Garden.

➤ **Wacky Café – Full Gospel Tabernacle** (money awarded from Billesley and Brandwood and KH wards)

Kitchen refurbishment for community café

➤ **FAB Friends and Badminton group (with Muslim Sports Foundation as sponsor)**

Funding to start up more women's only badminton sessions for Billesley residents to address isolation and increase physical activity levels in the community.