

**LADYWOOD WARD MEETING
NOTES**

WARD: Ladywood	DATE: 13 February 2020
VENUE: Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent Street West B16 8	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9.05pm
COUNCILLORS Kath Hartley & Sir Albert Bore	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 27
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Jemma Callow & Gareth Wood, Brum Breathes Rebecca Hawthorne, Principal Travel Demand Management Officer Pat Whyte, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome

Councillor Hartley welcomed all to the meeting and advised of the Summer Ladywood Fun Day and that a planning meeting was being held on 26 February. Emails would be forwarded with details so that people could provide offers of help and ideas for the Fun Day. Suggestions of sources of funding would also be welcome.

Central Ladywood Regeneration – Councillor Hartley said that an update would be circulated shortly.

2. Clean Air Zone (CAZ) Update

Jemma Callow and Gareth Wood provided an update on the progress of the Clean Air Zone due to be put in place in the summer. Cameras were being installed that would recognise non-compliant vehicle registration details and enforce the CAZ. Categories of vehicles that would be subject to the CAZ charge were explained and it was stressed that only non-compliant vehicles would be charged eg petrol vehicles registered prior to 2006 and diesel vehicles prior to 2015. Payment could be made in advance, on-line or via phone. Exemptions to the charges were being applied eg those living and working within the CAZ and financial support towards public transport costs, scrappage scheme and business support.

Residents then asked a number of questions and the following responses were made;

- Pollution readings/testings had been in accordance with Public Health England and base line readings would provide markers as the CAZ progressed. Monitoring would be undertaken across Birmingham, including at Nelson School. Gemma undertook to take the contact details of the interested resident and provide a full response.
- The vehicle checker was a government approved checker. It was a new system and therefore there would be teething problems but it was continually being updated by the DVLA and any issue should be reported to the DVLA who would be able to rectify problems.
- Signs that had already been erected would be covered until the CAZ was live to avoid confusion
- Information regarding exemptions was available on the council's website and in the meantime anyone who believed they were eligible could register online.
- Consultation on parking provision across the city was ongoing until 21 February and residents were encouraged to send their comments/views/suggestions.
- Details of the £10m support package available to businesses would be presented to the WMCA and the council

would be working with that Authority

- The need for cycle provision was recognised in the wider transport strategy, along with public transport improvements and the money raised through the CAZ had to be allocated to transport related policies, including approx. £20k allocated to each ward
- Scrappage schemes would be allocated via approved garages and replacement vehicles did not have to be new but had to be CAZ compliant

Local residents expressed concern regarding the amount of traffic that would be re-directed onto the Ladywood Middleway, a road that was already heavily congested and created pollution affecting residents living in its vicinity. Additional traffic would only exacerbate the situation and also create on-street parking problems in the neighbourhood, making worse an issue. Coach parking in central Ladywood (Cambridge Street) was already a problem with drivers waiting to pick up passengers with engines idling for long periods of time and this could affect other areas as non-compliant vehicles tried to avoid the charges. Residents felt that a buffer zone should be created for those residents living on the edge of the CAZ and that a proportion of the money collected should be ring fenced to those specific communities. Those most affected were residents living in the inner city area who were generally the poorest residents unable to afford to change their vehicles and should therefore receive the greatest assistance. Councillor Bore advised that BCC had determined the impact of the CAZ and funding would be used to deal with that impact. He assured residents that the councillors were working with officers regarding displaced parking issues and would be discussing further, together with problems around coach parking. Councillor Hartley said that they would be having a walk about with the new Local Engineer.

3. Draft Birmingham Transport Plan Consultation

Rebecca Hawthorne outlined the draft Plan and explained the reasons behind the ideas.

Councillor Bore pointed out that the city the modelling of the draft Plan was based on was much smaller than Birmingham and this, he felt, created difficulties with the Plan. He added that the plan had implications for Ladywood residents. Rebecca confirmed that the ideas had been borrowed but would be adjusted to become suitable for Birmingham.

Residents expressed concern that this would affect Ladywood additionally to the CAZ. While the model might work in a smaller, flatter area as reflected in the presentation it was unsuitable for Birmingham and it was suggested that that use of the A38 be encouraged as a way to take traffic from the north to south of the city. The plan would not work unless public transport was greatly improved which would take time and over the next 20 years electric vehicles would ease existing problems. It was also noted that as the population got older walking & cycling was not an option. It was another scheme that would affect the poorest communities in the city.

Rebecca while agreeing about electric cars reducing pollution, stressed they would not ease congestion and projected congestion growth would bring the city to a standstill. There was investment in public transport and bus reliability would improve with less congestion and the impact on city centre neighbourhoods would be lessened. She added that this was a concept and responses to the draft plan would be reviewed before reporting to Cabinet in the autumn.

Concern was also expressed by residents regarding those travelling into the city from outside and displacement parking when coupled with the CAZ and the affect on rat-running through local roads. In particular Monument Road and Francis Road were affected by congestion on Hagley Road. The cost of public transport was prohibitive for many and buses were inconvenient for those with mobility issues. Rebecca undertook to take the concerns back.

Councillor Bore reiterated the frustration of local residents who were adversely affected by any proposals for the city

centre, starting with Paradise construction works causing residential roads parking issues, the introduction of the CAZ and now the draft Transport Plan which would add further to problems in Ladywood due to traffic being driven around the Ring Road.

Councillor Hartley highlighted the drop-in session to learn more about the proposals on 22 February 10am-1pm at the Council House.

4. Residents Updates

a) Chamberlain Gardens Paths

Concern was expressed regarding the material ie small pebbles used on the pathways around the park as it caused difficulties for people using mobility walking frames, prams and pushchairs and was uncomfortable for dogs being walked by their owners. This was affecting the enjoyment of the park by a section of the local community and action was requested to rectify the issue. Councillor Bore advised he had raised the issue in respect of the Park and the Reservoir as similar stones were due to be used on the pathways around the reservoir. He had been advised that the stones would be rolled into the surface around the Reservoir so that they became embedded therefore this needed to also happen at Chamberlain Gardens. Councillor Hartley undertook to take up the issue.

b) Road Works

Reference was made to the changes to the crossing in Monument Road, the impact it had on traffic which was causing drivers to make dangerous manoeuvres. The road was constantly being dug up by the services and there was no co-ordination with the re-surfacing. Rebecca undertook to email the councillors a response. Councillor Hartley undertook to also raise this with the Local Engineer and arrange a walk about.

c) Edgbaston Reservoir

Councillor Hartley said that a date had still not been arranged for a joint ward meeting to discuss the reservoir plans but she would advise residents as soon as a date was agreed.

Councillors (s) Signed:

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