

SUTTON REDDICAP WARD MEETING 9.10.23
FALCON LODGE COMMUNITY CENTRE
CLLR RICHARD PARKIN MEETING NOTES

COMMUNITY CHEST FUNDING APPLICATION:

This Ward meeting to raise and note a proposal to allocate funding support from the £10,000 Community Chest fund for the Sutton Reddicap ward, details as follows:

- Request from: Friends of Rectory Park
- Value requested: £3,000
- Proposed project: Labour and materials to reinforce the retaining timber sleeper wall of the Memorial Garden in Rectory Park
- Ward Priority this project aligns with:
Priority 4: To invest in open spaces to protect, maintain and enhance the local environment
Priority 6: To engage with the local community in identifying areas of concern, and then take action and make decisions that improve the daily lives of residents

GENERAL REDDICAP WARD ROUND UP:

In addition to the usual day to day issues in the ward and addressing the individual concerns of residents these are updates on some of the on-going general projects in the ward since the previous Ward Meeting on July 31st:

Brum Breathes Projects:

The two schemes being considered for these funds were the **Newdigate Fields Community Project** and **20mph zone around the Pesto traffic lights** (ie Reddicap Heath Road/top of Reddicap Hill/Hollyfield Road/Hollyfield Road South/Walmley Road cut through)

I have received the following written update from Lana Forrester, the Operations Manager of the Clean Air Zone in light of BCC effectively going bankrupt:

"In light of the recent announcement regarding the halting of all new non-essential spend we are awaiting further details of any additional processes that may need to be followed in relation to the release of grants from the Brum Breathes Fund. In addition there may be broader implications for schemes that are delivered through BCC staff/teams and therefore additional funding, which is not from the Brum Breathes Fund.

I completely understand your desire to move these projects forward however, I would also hope that you understand the need to ensure we are operating within the new spending controls.

As soon as we have any further details in relation to this we will be in contact to provide you with an update."

Newdigate Fields Community Project:

Consultation has now ended. Feedback has been largely positive and I am liaising with BCC Officers with regards to next steps. Approx 80% of this project was going to be funded from old S106 monies, with the balance coming from Brum Breathes. I am suggesting to BCC that if the S106 monies are ringfenced (which I believe to be the case) that the bulk of this project should still proceed.

The application for Newdigate Fields has not been submitted yet as we were awaiting the consultation results. I now need to clarify the viability of the funding routes as this will dictate the next steps in the application process.

I am also delighted to see that some residents are discussing setting up a *Friends of Falcon Lodge Group* which would encompass Newdigate Fields and I am keen to keep the momentum going.

20mph zone:

Application was submitted a couple of months ago based on plans drawn up by Highways Officers. The application is now unfortunately on hold due to the financial crisis at BCC.

There is also a question mark over whether or not costs for 30-year maintenance of signage needs to be added to the application. If this is required then the Brum Breathes funding pot will not be sufficient to finance the project.

Disappointingly, I only found out about the 30-year maintenance question after the application details had been finalised and submitted. Highways Officers have since been trying to get feedback from senior management for around two months on this without success. And now, in the meantime, BCC has gone bankrupt so all of this is now in limbo.

If maintenance costs do need to be factored in this will impact on many ward schemes (including this one) which are being proposed by councillors across the city, should the Spend Board give the green light for Brum Breathes to continue.

Schools:

New Hall Primary School has now gone 'live' with the Car Free School Streets Scheme which means Langley Hall Drive is now closed to traffic at the start and end of the school day with the aim of reducing air pollution and making it easier and safer for parents a children to walk and cycle to school.

I am intending to liaise with PCSO Zoe Bishop re the Junior PCSO scheme which is being introduced at primary schools in the town.

I am also liaising with BCC Travel Demand Officers and Highways Officers re parking on yellow lines on roads around local schools. In the meantime, the Town Council has confirmed it will be funding four visits from Parking Enforcement to all primary schools in the town (two AM an two PM) between now and January 2024.

Parking measures:**Lindridge Road:**

Yellow lines have now been painted and signs put up to prevent weekday parking on sections of the road (8am to 4pm). Just waiting for the TRO to be legally signed off so the measures become enforceable.

ASDA:

After months of chasing – and with the welcome support of Highways Officers – ASDA have now paid BCC. As a result, the yellow lines around the store will be painted correctly/completed and the necessary legal steps taken to ensure they become enforceable.

Hardstanding areas for wheelie bins:

Since the previous Ward Meeting six new hardstanding areas have been installed across Falcon Lodge removing the need for residents to leave out black bin bags on the street every week, with the subsequent litter problems.

The new areas are Woodington Road (two), Goodeve Walk (2), Wyatt Road and Wilson Drive. All wheelie bins are in place with the exception of Woodington Road where they are on order.

This brings to a total of 13 the number of hardstanding areas which have been installed since I was elected as councillor in May last year and means every resident in every flat in Falcon Lodge now has access to a wheelie bin. This was one of my commitments when I stood as councillor to help tidy up the local area.

Lindridge Road:

The 178-home Taylor Wimpey development – Lindridge Chase has unfortunately been approved despite my objections and objections raised by residents and the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. But I am still trying to find out from the council why they dropped their initial request for around half a million pounds in S106 funds to help support secondary schools in the ward from the impact of the development. I have written to the Cabinet member several times asking for an explanation and have still not received a reply.

A planning application for a 76-bed care home has been proposed on the site of Brockhurst Farm. I am studying the plans but have concerns over the parking provision, the speed limit of the road (60mph), the impact of extra traffic on Lindridge Road which is already experiencing traffic/parking problems mainly caused by the expansion of New Hall Cemetery, no nearby pavements, and the aesthetics of the building which to me looks like it will be an eyesore and may not be in keeping with the wider Langley development. Last week the Planning Committee at the Town Council objected to the development on the grounds of scale, massing, impact on highways and overall poor design quality. The deadline for residents to respond is October 19th.

I have arranged a meeting with Highways, Travel officers and Bereavement Services for tomorrow Tuesday October 10th to discuss solutions to the traffic problems on Lindridge Road caused by New Hall Cemetery visitors. Two possible courses of action are an Events Management Plan or a Travel Plan but any potential solution will be impacted by the financial crisis at BCC.

I have also asked for improved security fencing for the perimeter of the cemetery and am liaising with Bereavement Services who have requested additional fencing. However, this too will be impacted by the financial crisis at BCC.

I am liaising with BCC and Western Power re cutting back the overgrown hedges on the cemetery perimeter which lie below overhead power lines (and are Western Power's responsibility to maintain).

CCTV:

After eight months of discussions at my request (on behalf of residents) a temporary CCTC camera has now been installed on Churchill Road, outside the dessert shop, to deter ASB and illegal activities and hopefully make residents feel safer.

Flytipping:

This is still an on-going problem across the ward and wider city but I have recently helped to ensure the removal of flytipping at Mount View (several times) and Woodington Road. Other recent flytipping reports are being investigated at Newdigate Fields.

The council's MHRC trucks will be visiting Mount View on November 29th (7am to 12 noon) to take away any rubbish or unwanted items which residents want to bring to them. I have asked for this information to be put on leaflets which Housing Officers are intending to deliver to all Mount View residents warning them against causing flytipping which is occurring almost daily by Redway Court and Copsehill Court, in particular.

Mount View:

A new bigger and more effective gate has been installed at the recreation area.

Last month I arranged for walkabout with residents and the local Housing Officer and we identified a number of issues which are being addressed including blocked drains, flytipping, street light glare, broken communal entrance door, grass/bush cutting, leaf clearance, relocation of bins etc

Whynot Garage application:

I campaigned with residents to ensure that the application to convert a strip of land into a car sales area was rejected. Thank you to all the residents who were involved and everyone who objected. I understand that the number of objections (including those on the petition organised by residents) was well over 50. Along with my objection, the Town Council and other residents BCC were left in no doubt about the strength of local feeling against these proposals.

Berryfields Road:

Resurfacing work on the whole length of the road has been approved and was due to start on October 4th. However, this has now been delayed until potentially October 25th, but this has still to be confirmed. The delays are the direct result of the financial crisis at BCC. I am liaising with Kier and will provide updates when the works start date is confirmed.

This is hugely frustrating as I have been pushing for this work to be done for 18 months, only to find that that the project has now been delayed only a few weeks after it was signed off.

Garages:

Successful consultations ended recently on plans I have been working on with the BCC Garage Team to install gates and locks at five garage sites in Falcon Lodge (Lindridge Road x 2, Wyatt Road x 2 and Fowler Road). The Garage Team is now submitting a request to the Spend Board to approve the Fowler Road scheme first to see if it gets approved, before potentially then submitting a similar request for the other four sites. Unfortunately, I am concerned the garage plans will now be rejected because of the financial crisis at BCC.

Other projects which may unfortunately be impacted by the BCC crisis include:

Rectory Park pond maintenance work: previously approved and now being chased
Chadwick Road trip rail: previously approved and now being chased

Other maintenance works which *should still be carried out* include:

Some pothole repairs Woodington Rd
Pavement repairs Chadwick Rd

Successful works complete since previous ward meeting:

- New flat signs installed on Stone Avenue, Goodeve Walk and Coleshill Road
- Manhole cover repaired in the middle of Churchill Road
- Pothole repairs completed on Rectory Park Avenue, Carhampton Road, Duncumb Road, Reddicap Hill and the junction of Springfield Road/Lindridge Road
- Broken wooden trip rail on Repington Way now replaced
- Broken wooden trip rail outside John Willmott Scholl now replaced
- Broken wooden trip rail around the green space area between 42 and 58 Wyatt Road now replaced, stopping cars from driving across the grass area
- Stone Avenue bush removed (was hiding flytipping etc)
- Town Ranger (Town Council) cut back bushes on Carhampton Road and cut through to Bracken Drive
- £12,300 approved via Celebrating Communities fund for Rectory Amateur Boxing Club, Community Centre and Falcon Lodge Pantry
- Alleyway off Falcon Lodge Crescent leading to the garages now cut back and cleared
- Allotments entrances cut back and tidied up by the Town Rangers (Town Council)

- Graffiti removed from the outside wall of the Boxing Club in Rectory Park
- New litter bin installed at entrance to Newdigate Fields

I organised a successful **community litter pick** in August with residents and members of the Sutton Coldfield Litter Action Group. Around 20 volunteers picked 30 bags of rubbish and other assorted items from local roads and the brook alongside Churchill Road

Town Council updates:

- Police station letters have been exchanged between the Town Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner re the planned closure of the police station. The Town Council remains steadfast in its objection to the plans to close the station
- New Gracechurch Centre owners have been announced which will hopefully help to kickstart the regeneration of the town centre
- An updated Town Council devolution deal framework has been presented to BCC along with 13 specific transfer requests including (in Reddicap): Newdigate Fields, Rectory Park and the green 'corridor' running down Churchill Road from Fairfax Road to Falcon Lodge Crescent
- Many residents are understandably calling for a review of the local governance structure following BCC financial disaster.

Next Ward Meeting TBC

Monthly Advice Surgeries: third Thursday of every month St Chads Church on Hollyfield Road
6.30pm to 7.30pm. Next Advice Surgery Thursday October 19th

Cllr Richard Parkin
Sutton Reddicap
9.10.23