

BOURNVILLE & COTTERIDGE WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Bournville & Cotteridge	DATE: Wednesday 10 th May 2023
VENUE: Dame Elizabeth Hall, Firbank Close, B30 1UA	START/FINISH TIMES: 7:00 pm – 8:45 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Liz Clements & Fred Grindrod	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 8
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager, Rachel West – Community Support & Development Officer	VISITING SPEAKER(S): Elaine Li – Bournville Village Trust, Sergeant Kasey Corbett & PCSO Paul Blackwood – Neighbourhood Police Team

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:
<i>Current Ward Plan in progress</i>

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:
<p>1. Welcome & Notice of Recording</p> <p>Councillor Clements & Councillor Grindrod welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting. All persons present introduced themselves to everyone.</p> <p>2. Bournville Neighbourhood Police Team</p> <p>Sergeant Corbett and PCSO Blackwood introduced themselves to the residents and gave an update of local crime figures. The figures were from 15th April until now. There have been;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 6 burglaries ➤ 9 motor thefts ➤ 9 thefts from motor vehicles <p>Motor thefts are on the rise as the offenders are stealing the motor vehicles and taking them apart in the “chop shops” where the cars then become untraceable. The police have been tackling motor thefts heavily and recently had an operation which was successful as they were able to seize many cars. They explained that domestic abuse cases are also on the rise and have made many attempts at arresting the offenders.</p> <p>Most recently there was an arrest of a regular shoplifter known in the area by many who was convicted for 11 charges and he was investigated. He was a regular shoplifter in the locations of the Watford Road shops and in Stirchley. Another shoplifter was convicted in the area as when he was confronted by the</p>

shopkeeper, he had bit his face off. This offender was also caught and is currently in prison.

Stirchley Baths has been reported many times recently for ASB from youths in the area therefore the police have increased their patrols. Shop lifters have been reported in Cotteridge, Midson Hall Road has been targeted heavily for burglaries. To tackle these crimes there has been a new operation put in place by the police of non-uniform police officers patrolling the area at times when the crime is reported.

The police opened the floor to questions from the residents. The following issues were brought up to the police by the residents;

- A resident reported many incidents of people speeding down Bristol Road and bad driving of weaving in and out of traffic. The resident requested for recording equipment to be placed on the Bristol Road to catch and prosecute speeding drivers and to make this something permanent for the long term. The police advised that this is something they are working on and will be running a speeding operation on the Bristol Road as there have been many reports of speeding drivers.
- Councillor Clements has brought up the issue of the speed camera budget being cancelled to tackle speeding on Cartnam Road, Middleton Road and Fordhouse Lane. The councillor advised that she is looking to get the resources to be able to get this up and running in the near future. The police advised that they did have an enforcement van parked on Cartnam Road and this resulted in 12 vehicles being seized due to having no license. Many people were also fined for speeding and shared an offender who was driving 50mph in a 20mph zone.
- A resident asked if the car thefts were linked to each other and if it was the same group of people working together across a wider area. The police explained that as far as they are aware this is not the case and offenders are just trying car doors to see if they are unlocked and checking if front doors of the houses are unlocked to gain entry to be able to seize the car keys. With many cars now being keyless, offenders are using key scanning equipment to scan the front of houses to pick up the keys to unlock cars and get away with them. The police advised all residents to invest in a signal blocking pouch to place their keys if they have a keyless entry car to prevent their cars from being stolen in this way.
- A resident brought up the issue of protesters outside Robert Clinic on Station Road. Councillor Clements advised that there is a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in place and fines were given out to protestors who were in breach of this. The PSPO for Robert Clinic on Station Road can be viewed here > [Station Road B30 Public Space Protection Order AF .pdf](#)
- Feedback was shared regarding Station Road to increase the Geographic area of the PSPO however there are legal challenges surrounding this due to the Campaign Group.
- A resident brought up the issue of drug dealing on Kingfisher Way by the garages. The police advised that there are officers patrolling the road at various times. Residents questioned if they noted the registration plates of the cars who are involved in drug dealing on this road, if they report this to the police can they be caught? The police advised that they can use this as a lead to visit the registered house address of the car however the cars involved who are the offenders often use cloned plates so if the police did investigate the registration plates it would lead nowhere due to it not

being registered to the offenders address.

- The police advised that there are neighbourhood watch groups in the ward. There is a system in place where all volunteers who are involved, the police can send out a communication message on a platform which is accessible to all those involved. Residents can sign up to neighbourhood watch and note down any suspicious activity in the area/or on a street and can be reported to the police. However, the police advised that there has not been much interest from local residents in the ward to be a part of this and encouraged residents at the ward meeting to be a part of this.

3. Bournville Village Trust (BVT)

Elaine Li from BVT introduced herself as the Community Development & Involvement Manager from BVT. She explained that they operate in local church groups and meet once every 6 weeks. Last winter they had set up various “Warm Hubs” in community centres and churches to allow residents, especially the elderly, to come along have a hot drink and be in a warm space with other residents to have a chat and to be able to save on their heating bills at home due to the cost of living crisis. However, she did explain that the turn out for this was not as high as expected and this may have been due to not marketing and promoting in the correct area’s to attract the target market. Therefore they have had an idea to hold training sessions in churches and in local groups to train on the use and marketing on social media and to ask residents of the ward if they prefer social media marketing or leaflets and posters on noticeboards.

BVT held a neighbourhood advice session in April in Weoley and will replicate this during the summer in the Bournville and Cotteridge ward however the date for this is yet to be confirmed. They offer advice on various topics such as dealing with the cost of living crisis with water bills working with Severn Trent, energy bills and gardening. She explained that posters for the advice session will be put up locally and on social media. The event is open to everyone and anyone from outside the ward can attend.

Councillor Clements advised that they are also benefits clinic run by the job centre time to time where they try to give advice on housing, job seeking, what benefits can be claimed, advising people of NHS employment and apprenticeships that are being run.

Elaine explained that the BVT Money Matters team do have food banks and they can provide a list of these food banks upon request by emailing communityadmin@bvt.org.uk by telephone on 0300 333 6540.

Councillor Clements explained that Christian Life Church used to give food parcels but was unsure if this was something that was still offered. Councillor Clements explained she would find out.

Residents expressed their concerns of the noticeboards not being updated for any notices of the events and information that Elaine had mentioned. Elaine explained that BVT have 24 noticeboards in the area and they are updated on the 1st of every month. She explained that local groups can reach out to BVT to

use these noticeboards for any information they'd like to advertise.

4. Bournville Place for People (BPP)

A consultation was put in to redesign of a number of roads to create safer calmer streets, reduce congestion and pollution and to increase the cycling infrastructure. Ahead of the meeting Aoife O'Toole from BPP had emailed the Councillors to state that there was a delay on the consultation due to staff sickness. The materials for the consultations were not yet ready and would circulate on the 30th May. Residents expressed that they were unhappy with this and asked what the next process would be. Councillor Clements explained that once the consultation materials had been circulated, the engineering company would then have to do the design and request for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) before going to another consultation. Due to the key officer being on sickness leave there was a total delay of around 6 weeks at the moment. The Councillors explained that there may be an update at the next ward forum meeting where residents would have some more information surrounding this.

Residents expressed their dissatisfaction with the whole process and the delays. The Councillors explained that there is a lack of staff to execute the projects and the recent cut backs have affected the projects. They explained the process cannot be rushed and must be at a steady pace so that due diligence can be done and to avoid any mistakes and wrong doings. They reassured the residents that it is moving forward but at a slower pace than anticipated. They explained that safety measures have been put in on Selly Oak Road by the schools and they are continuing to encourage parents/children to cycle, walk or catch the bus to school.

5. AOB

A range of topics/issues were discussed and put to the Councillors for their advice.

- A resident brought up the issue of the bus to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital not running from Cotteridge anymore but the 76 still runs but doesn't pass through Cotteridge or Hawksley anymore. The Councillors explained this was because it was commercially viable to do so and the bus route was shut down from 1st January 2023. The resident explained that the 11 bus should run to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The Councillors explained that a similar situation had happened with the number 27 bus and that route was only retained due to heavy campaigning from the regular commuters of this bus route.
- A resident raised the issue of the number 11 bus stop to be moved due to the placement of it. They explained that it was an effective place when the hospital was there however not as effective anymore and raised that the sign for Selly Oak Hospital was still visible and that this needs to be removed. Councillor Clements requested for images of this to be sent to her so this can be removed.
- A resident brought up the issue of pavement parking and street signs being knocked down. The police stated that they cannot enforce pavement parking unless it is obstructing the pavement completely or a double buggy/wheelchair cannot go past the car on the pavement. The residents gave a

list of roads where pavement parking is particularly bad and the roads named were, Bournville Lane, Mulberry Road and Beaumont Road. Councillor Grindrod explained that the street signs that are knocked down by parked cars are recycled. The police said they would monitor the named roads to check for any illegal parking happening where pavements are completely obstructed.

6. Ward Plan

Councillor Clements explained that the Ward Plan was briefly discussed at the previous ward forum meeting in December and she'd briefly read out the priorities from the previous plan. She explained that the new ward plan would link to the corporate and strategic plan of the council. She read out that they can choose up to 6 priorities and this years ward plan would be more in the style of an action plan and to include project that already support the listed priorities.

She explained that local centres on Katey Road and Maceview Road can be included in the ward plan to promote local prosperity. She would be looking to include local volunteering groups to keep Bournville tidy and to get local business involved to aid with this. The Councillors explained that there used to be a toilet opposite Beaumont Park that is no longer in use and there is land around it which is currently wasted. They also explained they'd like to improve high streets and would be looking to use the Shared Prosperity Fund to achieve this.

They explained that the ward plans are live documents that can be changed continuously but they must include SMART priorities that are achievable. The priorities can be merged with each other and there would be some overlap. Councillor Clements explained that they'd want to use their current relationships with local community centres, build on these relationships and use the community centres to hold training sessions for the youth for jobs and education to improve the future prospects for the youth of the ward. They'd also like to include more service's for the over 50's, teenagers and promote and increase the number of neighbourhood watch groups. They'd like to include the local of Friends of groups in the ward plan to promote what they do to and to give them access to the multiple funding opportunities available.

The Councillors explained they would like to include safety including road safety in the new ward plan and for everyone to see speeding as anti social behaviour (ASB). They explained how they would like to work more closely with local schools to reduce the amount of people driving to schools, reducing speed limits where required, implementing speed cameras in area's where speeding is common, working with the schools and local community to reduce litter through education and the various litter picking groups in the ward.

They also want to promote health and well being in the ward plan by having more dementia friendly groups and communicated effectively. To encourage physical activity, walking, cycling and going more 'green'. They also want to make football clubs more accessible for people who cannot commit to play on

teams for a period of time and having a more drop in session. Mental health is something the councillors also want to focus on in the ward plan to encourage more positive mental health and creating awareness. They would like to work more closely with voluntary organisations who work with mental health and with GP's.

They also discussed with residents they'd like to see going green included in the new ward plan. They want to respond to the changing climate by collectively, as a ward, reducing our carbon footprint. To encourage walking, cycling, public transport which can be achieved with the relevant funds available. To encourage schools/residents to have solar panels to be more energy efficient and encouraging residents to obtain an Energy Performance Certificate for their properties to understand how energy efficient their homes currently are and how they can improve this.

They also want to include local projects into the ward plan to promote this and work on them together. An example given of this by Councillor Clements was the Bournville Village Council, which a parish council, to create willingness to work together as a community. To build stronger relationships with the local community centres to discuss about holding more community events more regularly for youth clubs, childcare, over 50's groups and community garden events.

The councillors would like to hold a special ward meeting to focus on the priorities discussed in more detail for everyone to have their input into the ward plan at some point in the summer. This is yet TBC and will be circulated once agreed.

The Councillors thanked all residents for attending.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To find out if Christian Life Church still offer food parcels 2. To provide a detailed updated on the BPP consult 3. Residents requested for 11 bus stop to be moved and Selly Oak hospital sign to be removed. Residents were advised to send photographs of this to the Councillors so the request can be forwarded to Transport for the West Midlands 4. To arrange next ward meeting for July to discuss ward plan and funding 5. To develop 6 ward priorities to be discussed at next ward meeting 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cllr Clements/Cllr Grindrod 2. Cllr Clements/Cllr Grindrod 3. Cllr Clements/Cllr Grindrod 4. Preety/ Cllr Clements/Cllr Grindrod 5. Cllr Clements/Cllr Grindrod 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide update at next ward meeting 2. Provide update at next ward meeting 3. N/A 4. N/A 5. Provide update at next ward meeting