

EDGBASTON WARD MEETING
TUESDAY 9th APRIL 2019
7.00pm – 9.00pm
EDGBASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE, 40 WOODVIEW DRIVE
B15 2HU

COUNCILLORS: DEIRDRE ALDEN AND MATT BENNETT	NOs OF ATTENDEES: APPROX 30
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: BEVERLY EDMEAD, COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE TEAM MARIE BROWN – DISTRICT ENGINEER ANDY BROWN – PUBLIC HEALTH, BCC GARRY PEAL – EVENTS COMMISSIONING MANAGER, BCC DUNCAN VERNON – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PUBLIC HEALTH, BCC	
WARD PRIORITIES: IDENTIFIED AND AGREED	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome and Introductions Following introductions, Cllrs Alden and Bennett welcomed residents and officers to the meeting. 2. Notice of Recording Residents were reminded that members of the press/public could record or take photographs of the meeting. 3. The Velo Birmingham & Midland Cycling Event Following introductions, Garry Peal, Events Commissioning Manager gave details of the Velo Birmingham & Midland Cycling Event due to 	

take place on Sunday 12th May 2019; this was a major cycling charity event, funded by Events Company (CMS), and enabled cyclists of all abilities to take part. Six Local Authority areas were involved with the event, including Birmingham and nearby Sandwell and Dudley MBCs. Several roads in the ward would be closed and a number of parking restrictions within and around the ward from just after midnight on Sunday 12th May until 7pm. The original route had been subjected to several changes on the advice and recommendation of Highways England as a result of the ongoing highway improvements on the M5. Hagley and Wolverhampton Roads were the alternative diversion routes from the motorway in the event of an accident, so these could not be included in the cycle route as originally proposed. Notification of the changes to the route had been put through the letterbox of those residents affected along with detail of the emergency contact number which would be 'live' on the day of the event.

Responding to residents questions and concerns, Garry Peal advised that:-

- Emergency Services would continue to have priority to access any part of the route
- Approx. 17,500 riders had signed up to take part in the event. It was expected that the elite/faster riders would complete the route in roughly 3.5hrs; slower riders would be expected to complete most of the course within 7hrs as the road closures would be lifted after that time. Cyclists still on the route would be expected to ride in live traffic.
- The first wave of cyclists would set off at 6.30am, and then at 5 minutes intervals until the last wave had been dispatched.
- There was no use of local police time/resources during the event; specialist security officers would be used/employed by the events company
- Only cyclists registered for the event could take part.
- The lengthy time for the road closures was the only way to prevent (sections of) the route from being sabotaged, which had happened in previous events and was incredibly dangerous for the cyclists taking part.
- Following discussions with the church leaders at St George's Church, Highfield/Calthorpe Road, access arrangements had been made to allow the parishioners to attend their Sunday Services as normal.

Whilst generally welcoming the event, Cllrs and residents advised that the arrangements for future events must take into account and that residents' concerns regarding using residential roads as part of the cycle route and greater steps must be taken to minimise the disruption to neighbourhoods as much as possible.

Cllrs and residents thanked Garry Peal for his attendance and update.

4. Pritchatt's Road Development – Information Update

CLlr Alden briefly advised that the first Planning Application submitted by the University for student accommodation of approx. 500 flats and a multi-storey car park had been refused by the Planning Department; however the proposals had been amended and the application was expected to be resubmitted in due course. The proposals were currently on display between 4-7pm in the Staff House on the campus.

Residents were encouraged to view the proposals and to submit any concerns/objections to the application as soon as possible.

5. Birmingham Public Health Green Paper Consultation

Following introductions, Duncan Vernon, Public Health, BCC advised of the Birmingham Public Health Green Paper consultation currently taking place until 18th May 2019. The Green Paper sets out the proposed Public Health priorities for the next four years, based on data collected from the 2011 Census and information on the areas of need in the city over the last few years.

The four priorities were:-

- Child Health – including reducing infant mortality; tackling childhood obesity; supporting the mental and physical health of the most vulnerable children
- Working Age Adults – including addressing the cumulative impact of unhealthy behaviours such as tobacco control, substance misuse and physical inactivity
- Ageing Well – including reducing isolation, developing community assets, providing system wide information, advice and support to enable self- management
- Healthy Environment – including improving air quality; increasing the health gains of new developments and transport schemes; Health protection assurance and response including screening, immunisation and communicable diseases. Tackling the inequalities in health, air pollution and life expectancy associated with residents living in the most deprived areas of the city was also one of the key concerns that needed to be addressed.

Supporting mental and physical health of the most vulnerable children and adults of all ages was also a key feature in all four priorities. Details of the Green Paper consultation could be found on the City Council's Be Heard website and comments could also be submitted to HealthyBum@birmingham.gov.uk

Copies of Edgbaston ward specific statistics were circulated to residents at the meeting along with paper copies of the consultation

document.

During discussion, the following comments and concerns were made by residents:-

- Disappointment at the lack of reduction in infant mortality rates despite information, advice and support being made available.
- Concerns about childhood obesity levels and general child health across the city had been ongoing for a number of years, however there seemed to be very little improvement and in some areas of the city, obesity levels at all ages had significantly increased despite the advice and guidance available. Other parts of the country appeared to have taken steps to address this issue, and further learning should be sought on how this had been done. Consideration should also be given to introducing the 'Daily Mile in Schools Initiative' - this would aim to encourage children of all ages to run or jog outdoors for 15 mins every day. The Daily Mile was not Sport or PE, but health and wellbeing through physical activity and was a simple and straightforward initiative that had been acknowledged for reducing childhood obesity and was recognised within the UK Government's 2018 Childhood Obesity Strategy.
- Links to affluence/poverty levels and the increase in obesity; the 8.5% childhood obesity level in Reception age children (4-5yrs) in the ward was a particular concern. Residents sought further clarity on how this was measured as the ward had a high number of private/fee paying schools which was attended by children from across the city and other neighbouring local authority areas.
- Ultra-fine particles from aeroplanes and stationary vehicles with their engine running contributed significantly to poor air quality and increased levels of air pollution. A more robust and proactive approach must be taken to tackle this, including working alongside Birmingham Airport to help determine and agree more suitable flightpaths away from residential areas.

Responding to the issues raised, Duncan Vernon advised that discussions were ongoing with a number of key partner agencies at a strategic level to discuss, advise, shape and help influence future decisions. This included working with Planning Officers to see how the number of fast food/takeaway outlets in local centres and neighbourhoods could be restricted and that these outlets were currently being looked at as part of the wider obesity strategy. A Health-Watch scheme was also one of the activities being considered as part of the build up to and legacy of the Commonwealth Games; this would include encouraging daily exercise of at least 10 minutes daily and training for local 'Health Champions' to signpost/direct residents to appropriate services.

Public Health Officers had not been included in the recent consultation carried out by Birmingham Airport regarding the changes to the flightpaths, however arrangements would be made at a strategic level to ensure that Public Health were included in discussions with the Airport, Clean Air Zone (CAZ), the Metro extension, HS2 and other proposed changes to traffic management/movement across the city.

Duncan further advised that all private/fee paying schools had been actively encouraged to contribute to the data and statistics analysed

by Public Health, however it was not known at this stage how many had contributed.

6. Ward Plan – Ideas and Suggestions

Residents were advised that each ward was required to identify and prioritise their areas of concern so that a Ward Action Plan could be developed and worked on to see how these priorities could be addressed over the next 3 or so years (until 2022).

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that the priorities identified for the last ward plan (completed in 2017) should continue as the concerns and issues remained the same – these being:

- Parking/Traffic Management
- Clean and Green
- Conservation and the Environment.

7. Residents News/Updates/Local Concerns

The following updates were given:-

Edging Forward Together (Ward Local Innovation Fund)

Liz Dancey (Calthorpe Residents' Society) gave details of the ongoing work with helping to support and develop community groups and resident contacts through a wide range of activities in the ward. These included:-

- Hosting a community coffee morning on a monthly basis at the Quaker Meeting House for all residents in the ward
- Blue Plaque Walks (organised local walking groups) across the ward for residents of all ages
- Developing a 'Community Kit' to provide useful contact numbers, advice, support and sign-posting
- Organising community clean ups/litter picks across the ward to help keep the ward clean as well as it being a good way of building and improving communication between residents/communities

Cllrs and residents commended Liz and the rest of the team for their ongoing work across all areas of the ward.

Parking Concerns and Consultation

- Consultation was due to commence at the end of April on the Cricket match day parking issues; hot spot areas included Pavington Drive, Pritchards Road, Odell Place and Farquahar Road.

- Drop-In Events for the Hospital and University Traffic Management Masterplan which also affected neighbouring Selly Oak and Harborne Wards were due to be held at the Martineau Gardens on Friday 17th May and Edgbaston Community Centre on Thursday 23rd May.

Residents were actively encouraged to contribute to the consultation process.

Bus Services/Metro Extension

- Drop-In Event at the Plough & Harrow Public House, 4-7pm had been arranged for residents/service users to learn more about the changes to the bus services/traffic movement along Hagley Road following the extension of the Metro network from New Street and the introduction of the Sprint Buses. The underpass at Five Ways was due to close to traffic in June to allow for the works to commence. A number of bus stops had also been suspended and bus services re-routed whilst the work was ongoing.
- Other changes included the introduction of a bus only lane on Hagley Road; changes to the bus lane in Harborne Lane, which would see the bus lane only times introduced from 4pm – 7pm. A bus lane for Calthorpe Road had also been proposed.
- St James Rd/Calthorpe Rd – officers had agreed to look again at the traffic lights proposed for this junction following concerns raised regarding traffic congestion which would have a significant impact on the traffic flow around Five Ways.

Other Issues

- Bristol Street – ongoing traffic management concerns following the ongoing works to build the cycle lane during live traffic. The work and planning was poorly managed, with little or no thought appeared to be given to residents living in the immediate area as well as commuters travelling through one of the city's busiest commuter areas.
- Former Battery Site – work was due to commence on site from w/c 15th April.
- No further update on the proposed development at the Botanical Gardens

8. Petitions

None submitted.

9. Dates of Future Meetings

To be agreed as necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

