

WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Bartley Green	DATE: Thursday 27 th February 2020
VENUE: Bartley Green Library, Adams Hill, B32 3QG	START/FINISH TIMES: 7.30pm – 9.10pm
COUNCILLORS: Bruce Lines and John Lines	NO. OF ATTENDEES: 10
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Marie Brown – District Engineer Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team Professor Ian Fairchild Carl Taylor – Assistant Director, Accord Housing Trust	
WARD PRIORITIES:	
Already identified	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING	
CLlr John Lines in the Chair	
1. Notice of Recording Residents were advised that members of the press or public may record and take photographs of the meeting.	
2. Apologies – submitted on behalf of WMFS, Bartley Green Neighbourhood Police Team, WMP and Sue Amey, District Parks Manager, Edgbaston, Northfield and Selly Oak Districts.	
3. Local News Update and Updates:- i) Library & Community Hub	

Bartley Green Library & Community Hub Update

The building was now open for 2 days each week; all local schools were now using the premises on a regular rota basis and discussions were still ongoing regarding funding for the disabled access.

Residents' views and suggestions were still needed on how the building should be used and the types of activities they would like to see; a newsletter and questionnaire would be delivered to each household with information about the Hub and to seek their views on how it should move forward.

Residents interested in learning more about the Hub were encouraged to speak to Kerry Brewer following the meeting.

ii) Senneley's Park Upgrade & Improvements

Sue Amey, District Parks Manager had been unable to attend the meeting; however she had been in regular contact with both Cllrs to advise of any further progress regarding the upgrade and improvements.

S106 monies of £804,735 had been ring-fenced for the improvements and new proposals had been drawn up based on the funding available. These included 2 changing rooms instead of 4; a Community Room; separate Store room; office, kitchen and shower facilities. However there was still a shortfall in funding of approx. £20,000, but this should be secured with further S106 funding from the Monmouth Road housing development nearby, along with funding reallocated from another S106 agreement in another part of the wider district.

Following further discussion, residents welcomed the proposals and stressed the urgency in turning them into reality so that the health and fitness of young people in the ward could be improved once the football pitches were back in use.

Further updates would continue to be given as the improvements moved forward.

iii) Long Nuke and Monmouth Roads Housing Developments

Cllrs had been successful in securing 30% of the properties for affordable social housing. The planned through road was also discarded.

iv) Moors Lane Ground Maintenance

A response to the concerns raised had been received from the Housing Manager, however the explanation offered was disappointing and unsatisfactory. Cllrs would continue to pursue the matter.

4. Broadhidily Wood – Glacial Erratic Boulder Stone Relocation, Woodgate Valley

Following introductions, Prof Ian Fairchild briefly explained of his ongoing work with the Heritage Trust regarding geographical landscapes in

urban areas caused by the Ice Age, and how useful it would be to house these specimens and to bring their history to life for people to learn more about.

There were several Glacial Erratic Boulder Stones locally and lottery funding would be sought to relocate them to Woodgate Valley Country Park by the Visitor Centre if Councillors and residents were in agreement. Discussions were also ongoing with officers from the City Council's Landscape Practice Group (LPG) to see how this could be done and also to set out a history trail of the Stones. Birmingham University Museum was also involved with the project.

Councillors and residents welcomed and supported the proposal, and suggested that a commemorate plaque with details of the history of the boulder stones should also be included.

It was agreed that a further update on progress would be given in 12 months' time.

Everyone thanked Prof Ian Fairchild for his attendance and presentation.

5. Clent Way Improvements

Following introductions, Carl Taylor, Assistant Director, Accord Housing Trust gave a brief update of the improvements to the flats and outside areas in Clent Way.

These included a series of meetings and events with all residents in the flats to discuss and agree what they felt should be done; roofing, additional parking and heating were the three main improvements identified. The old disused garage blocks identified for demolition to build the 12 properties for sale, with the proceeds used to carry out the works to the flats and new garages built elsewhere on the site to accommodate the need for extra parking.

Responding to questions regarding the delays to the scheme, Mr Taylor explained that seeking residents' views and taking the time to discuss and agree the proposals was essential before a Planning Application could be submitted. The works should commence in May, subject to planning approval and expected to be completed within 15 months. Internal improvements to the kitchens in the flats had already started as these did not require consent.

Cllrs welcomed the update and that the improvements had been well overdue and very much needed for the residents living on the estate.

6. Petitions

None submitted.

Cllr B Lines advised that the response received to the petition submitted regarding the illegal traveller encampment had been disappointed and did not address or take into account residents worries and concerns. Residents were reminded to remain vigilant and to continue to report all concerns and not to use the services of travellers offering to do roofing or tarmacking works.

7. Residents News/Issues and Concerns

- The gradual decline of the parade of shops in Woodgate Valley. A more proactive approach was needed to encouraging independent traders to help rejuvenate the parade.
- Update on the petition submitted regarding the vacant land used for dumping opposite the library
- Velo Cycle Event due to take place in June. Residents felt the event did not justify the disruption and inconvenience to the city and those living closest to the cycle route. Cllrs had expressed their disapproval to the event organisers and suggested that alternative routes should be considered every year if the event was to continue. A petition for the route to be reconsidered was suggested and that it should be held at the Library/Community Hub for residents to sign.
- Bromsley Road – bus shelter needed for very well used bus route. Obstructive parking was also a concern and the grass verges ruined.
- Genners Lane – ongoing problems with obstructive parking caused mainly by the new bus terminus by Genners Lane/Genners Approach and Cromwell Lane junction, which had led to a number of accidents and near misses.

Action: District Engineer to investigate and to contact National Express/TfWM and advise accordingly

- Holloway – carriage resurfacing completed however speed cushions not yet reinstated.

Action: District Engineer to investigate and contact Amey accordingly.

8. Date of Next Meeting

To be arranged as necessary.

ACTION	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Senneley's Park Improvements Update – further update on the planned improvements	District Parks Manager/Parks Dept.	Ongoing

to be provided for a future meeting		
2. Policing Concerns in the ward to be raised at the Police & Crime Panel meeting. Local policing team to be invited to attend future ward meetings	Cllr J Lines	Ongoing
	Governance Team	Ongoing
3. Highway issues/road surfaces – Clapgate Lane, Lye Close Lane were in urgent need of attention.	Problems with Amey Contract still to be resolved; urgent work only being carried out	Ongoing