

**Quinton Ward Forum Meeting  
Tuesday 15 November 2022  
7.00 – 9.00pm  
Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, Quinton  
Higgins Lane  
B32 1LL**

**COUNCILLORS:**

**Sam Forsyth and Lauren Rainbow**

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sue Amey – Districts Parks Manager, South

Marie Brown – Districts Engineer, South

Mel Coton, Community Support & Development Officer,  
Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit (NDSU)

Stuart Cross – Highways Steward, Kier Highway Services

Beverly Edmead, Community Governance Manager, Neighbourhood  
Development & Support Unit (NDSU)

**Observer**

Stacey Kettner – Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator, Quinton and  
Harborne Wards

**No of Attendees – approx. 35**

**CLlr Lauren Rainbow in the Chair**

## **1. Notice of Recording**

Residents were advised that members of the press/public were able to record and /or take photographs of the meeting.

## **2. Quinton Ward Action Plan 2022 – 2026**

Mel Coton, Community Support & Development Officer, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit (NDSU) briefly advised of the requirement to review/refresh the Ward Action Plan for the next four years (2022 – 2026).

The new Ward Action Plan template was split into six themes which were important topics for all wards across the city; however, there could be aspects of these topics where there was a differing need in the each of the 69 Wards.

The process of setting priorities, goals and actions outlined in the template, allowed wards to focus on the issues that mattered most and to find locally achievable solutions. The six themes aligned to the Council Plan were :-

**A Bold Inclusive Ward**

**A Bold Safe Ward**

**A Bold Healthy Ward**

**A Bold Green Ward**

**A Bold Local Ward**

Mel added that Wards did not have to identify a priority for each theme – between three and six priorities overall would allow residents, partners and Cllrs to work towards achieving an outcome. The Ward Action Plan was a flexible document, and the priorities could be revised/amended as needed over the next four years.

Copies of the previous priorities identified for the period 2018 – 2022 were circulated at the meeting as a reminder for discussion and inclusion in the Ward Action Plan 2022 – 2026 as residents' felt necessary.

### **Previous Priorities**

**Priority 1 – Pedestrian, Road Safety and Parking Issues** – residents felt many of concerns identified were incomplete and remained an issue. The enforcement of many of the issues was the responsibility of West Midlands Police; however, some were enforceable by the City Council if a relevant Traffic Regulation Order was in place. Also, co-operation and 'buy-in' from local service provisions – e.g. schools needed to help tackle a school parking issues/promote a safer way of travelling to school

**Priority 2 – Management of Crime and Disorder (Neighbourhood policing and Community Safety, ASB, Theft/Burglary, Speeding/Reckless riding/driving);** residents felt the issues identified were all still relevant and had become worse over the last few years.

**Priority 3a – Protection and Improvement of Ward Assets; Environmental Issues and Street Scene:** no change, all still relevant despite the ongoing efforts of several proactive residents/voluntary and community groups

**Priority 3b – Protection and Improvement of Ward Assets (Public Buildings, allotments, parks and green spaces), Community Inside Spaces:** as above

**Priority 3c – Protection and Improvement of Ward Assets (public buildings, allotments, parks and green spaces); Leisure: parks, green and open spaces – including management and maintenance** – all still relevant, however, some success had been achieved due to the hard work and ongoing commitments of several proactive residents, community and voluntary groups

**Priority 4 – Roads/Pavements/Lights/Trees** – Kier Highway Services had replaced the previous contractor Amey and taken over the management of the maintenance contract for the city's roads, highways and trees, working alongside the City Council Highways Dept.

**Priority 5 -Community Engagement and Cohesion (Community Development, Integrated Neighbourhood Working, Effective Ward Meetings, Community Support from local businesses/partner agencies);** more needed to be done[ 'buy -in' needed from partner agencies, service providers working at a local level.

**Priority 6 – Housing & Private Rented Sector (tracking of housing provision, availability and standards; monitoring and influencing developments;** relevant given the citywide increase in HMOs, Supported/Exempt Accommodation and the associated problems. Change in legislation being campaigned for by all MPs in Birmingham's 10 parliamentary constituencies.

**Priority 7 – Facilities for Young People, Elderly and/or disadvantaged people;** residents felt this should continue to be one of the main focus and priority for the ward; facilities and better opportunities to improve the lives and choices for young people in the ward was essential.

**Priorities 8 & 9 – Mobility Strategy and Sustainability:** should be considered in line with cleaner, greener issues.

In the discussion that followed, several residents stressed that more must be done to tackle speeding/dangerous driving; Speedwatch activities were very much dependent on the availability of the PSCOs and their shift patterns; speed humps and other traffic calming measures appeared to have little or no effect on car racers. A complete review and joined up approach to the problem needed to be considered if the issue was to be successfully tackled.

Residents added that young people/care of young people and the problems they faced in society today should be one of the main priorities for the Ward Action Plan. Concerns were expressed regarding the lack of young provision/facilities and support outside of the school structure, and especially so if they were excluded from school/not in further education or employment/apprenticeships. Many were at risk at being exploited and groomed, and drug use had significantly increased. Young people needed to be engaged and worked with to find out what was needed and provided with a safe space/community facility where numerous activities, training and mentoring could be provided and tailored to suit their needs, and to develop their creativity and life skills.

Cleaner, Greener Quinton/Parks and Open Spaces and Crime & Community Safety were also proposed as another main priorities for the Ward Action Plan.

#### **Proposed Overriding Priorities for Ward Plan 2022 -2026**

Young People/Effective Provision for Young People

Crime, Disorder and Community Safety – Effective measures for tackling them

Cleaner, Greener Quinton

Residents welcomed the proposed priorities, and added that more volunteers, especially the involvement and engagement of young people was very much needed to help take many of the issues and activities forward. Better use and support also need to be made of existing facilities like Quinborne and the new B32 CommUNITY Hub at Faraday Avenue, set up by local residents Kerry and Becky.

It was suggested that future Ward Forum Meetings should be based around the priorities identified in the Ward Action Plan

### **3. Councillors Updates**

Residents were advised of the following:-

Quinton Police Station – Levelling up Bid submitted to Central Government – a decision was expected to be made at the end of the year

The lack of police attendance/engagement at Ward Forum Meetings, and many residents were unaware of the dates of the PACT meetings arranged by the police. Cllrs had asked for regular 'Pop-Up Surgeries' to be considered, however there seemed to be some resistance to the request.

Mobile Household Recycling Centre (MHRC) was next in the ward on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Nov, at Jackson Way/Balden Road between 7am – 12pm. Residents encouraged to make good use of the visit.

#### **4. Other Local News and Updates**

##### **i) Community & Voluntary Groups**

###### **B32 CommUNITY Hub, Faraday Avenue**

Following introductions, Kerry and Becky briefly advised of the recent setting up of B32 CommUNITY Hub, a Community Interest Company (CIC); funding had been secured for the next 3 years and would be working closely with Haven to deliver much needed practical help, support and guidance to local people; especially those struggling with the current cost of living crisis and food poverty. One of the main priorities was to set up a Food Pantry Project and providing the help needed to support the whole family unit in a non-judgmental and practical way.

The Hub was based at the former Butcher's Shop; work was needed to renovate/upgrade the premises to make it fit for purpose – with plans for a multi-use community space; community café and kitchen facilities as well as the food pantry. They would also be partnering with the Allotments (Steve) who would be helping to provide some of the produce, and basic cooking lessons would also be offered once the premises was operational.

Kerry and Becky welcomed any support and practical help residents were able to offer with getting the Hub up and running.

Cllrs and residents welcomed the news and commended the hard work and achievements of Kerry and Becky in setting up the Hub.

##### **ii) Quinton Meadows Consultative Committee**

Copies of the report were circulated at the meeting. Peter Beck, Chair briefly advised of the need to have younger people on the Committee – discussions were ongoing with Council Officers to see if the Constitution could be changed to include this.

### **iii) Friends of Pitts Wood (FoPW)**

Copies of the report were circulated at the meeting. Claire Sandercock (Chair) briefly advised that the proposed transfer of the lease of Pitts Wood from the Academy back to the City Council would invalidate the existing FoPW's Constitution.

The involvement of young people was also very much needed – plans to visit local schools in the ward to encourage them to become more involved in this valuable local asset.

The Group would be meeting later in the week to discuss and determine the way forward for FoPW.

### **iv) Highfield Farm Recreation Ground**

Barry Husband, briefly updated on events at the Ground since July 2021, which started with a survey of users and what they would like to see. The installation of the MUGA (multi-use games area) had proved a great success, and other events included a Free Football Event over the May Bank Holiday weekend; a very successful family Sports and Fun Day facilitated by Barnado's.

Funding had also been secured from the Celebrating Communities Fund (CCF) by local residents Elliot Hirst and Barry Husband to help enhance the appearance of the Ground. Copies of the report were circulated at the meeting.

### **v) Quinton Allotments Raised Beds Project**

Stephen Williams gave a brief update on the raised beds project built at the allotments which had been funded through the Celebrating Communities Fund. He would also be working with Kerry and Becky to encourage greater use of the allotments, including growing their own crops. Discussions were also ongoing to open the Pavilion area for use as a warm/community space for Quinton residents.

### **Other Issues**

#### **- The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS)**

Responding to a request from Elliot for an update, Cllrs advised the matter was still ongoing and being dealt with by the City Solicitor as TAWS had not responded to repeated requests for a more detailed explanation of Local Innovation Fund (LIF) expenditure. Residents would continue to be kept informed.

#### **- Introduction of proposed car parking charges at Woodgate Valley Country Park**

Residents were advised of the current consultation to introduce car parking charges at Woodgate Valley and Sheldon Country Parks and Lickey Hills.

The consultation details could be found on the Council's Be Heard page and a drop-in session would be held at the Visitor Centre on 21 November between 7pm – 8.30pm. Residents encouraged to take part in the consultation and submit their views/comments before

the closing date On 4 December 2022.

Other consultations currently ongoing includes the one by Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) on future of the Number 10 Bus service. Details could also be found on the website. Residents encouraged to submit their views and comments.

**5. Dates and Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Tues 10 Jan, 7pm – tbc, suggested venue Christ Church Quinton, 773 Hagley Road West

Councillors Forsyth and Rainbow thanked residents for their attendance and active participation in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm