

EDGBASTON WARD MEETING

Wednesday 9th October 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	GUEST SPEAKER: Nigel Tammo - Transport & Connectivity, BCC Craig Richards – TfWM (Transport for West Midlands)
APOLOGIES: Liz Dancey and Jane Darnton, Local residents' representatives	
MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:	
<u>CLlr Deirdre Alden in the Chair</u> 1. Notice of Recording Residents were reminded that members of the press/public could record or take photographs of the meeting. 2. Metro Extension and Sprint Bus Route – Progress and Information Update Following introductions, Nigel Tammo, Transport & Connectivity Team, BCC and Craig Richards, TfWM gave details of the Midlands Metro Westside Extension which would bring the Metro services from Grand Central (outside the Station) to Centenary Square, Broad Street, Five Ways and Hagley Road – with the latter stages being in the ward. The project was being delivered in the following two phases:- Phase I – Metro services from Grand Central, Birmingham Town Hall to Centenary Square, with stops serving Victoria Square and the Paradise and Arena Central developments at the redeveloped Centenary Square. Work had been ongoing along Broad Street for some time; a trial test period was due to start from 14 th October and passenger services were expected to be operational from 8 th December	

onwards.

Phase 2 – Five Ways underpass had been closed to all traffic from 2 July; signage and diversions/alternative routes were in place for traffic, including the relocation of bus stops and services. The underpass would remain closed to traffic until the works were completed and the roundabout would continue to remain operational throughout the installation of the metro line. Land adjacent to Morrisons supermarket had also been acquired to allow for the metro terminus to be built. No car parking or park and ride facilities would be included. Work was expected to start in March 2020 and would mostly be done during the late evening/night- time to keep disruption to a minimum. Residents would be notified of each stage of the works accordingly. Bus services would be reinstated once all the development had been completed and the Metro service was fully operational; however National Express would continue to monitor and review its bus services across the city and respective routes to ensure they continued to operate efficiently and reliably.

Residents were further advised of the proposals for the Spring Bus development, which included an upgrade to the junctions at the Plough & Harrow and Monument Road to co-ordinate with/support the metro facilities and to make the junctions operate more efficiently.

Responding to residents' questions, officers advised that a number of traffic modelling and observation exercises had been carried out prior to any changes to traffic diversions and the start of development work. Discussions were still ongoing regarding traffic management /implications for the surrounding roads where traffic had been diverted/re-routed to, and that whilst managing traffic effectively remained a priority, greater efforts were needed to encourage commuters to make better use of public transport instead of making the journey by car. Several Sprint bus services across the city and wider West Midlands had also been proposed and officers on the respective project teams at TfWM and the City Council were working together to see how these could be developed and implemented. Further information regarding the proposals would be provided by the Sprint Team as the schemes progressed.

Councillors and residents thanked both officers for their attendance and information update.

3. Harborne Road Bus Route/Proposed Closure of Brook Road

Officers had organised 'A Drop In' consultation event at the White Swan Public House a few weeks ago. The options proposed were very unsatisfactory and officers were asked to reconsider them as there appeared to be little or no consideration or acknowledgment of the accident blackspot areas at the junctions of Augustus Road/Harborne Road and Brook Road/Harborne Road.

A zebra crossing and a raised speeding table had also been proposed for Harborne Road however its location was also unsuitable and

unlikely to be used by pedestrians. Residents also felt that the creation of a designated bus lane was inappropriate as there was insufficient road surface space to accommodate this along with the parked cars/on-street parking and traffic congestion in the surrounding roads. A suggestion of pedestrian crossing/lights at the junction of Harborne /Brook Roads would be a better option as it would enable drivers to turn safely from Brook Road into Harborne Road and help with traffic congestion. Both Cllrs Alden and Bennett had already expressed their concerns to officers regarding the proposed closure of Brook Road and had requested that this along with the other concerns and suggestions made by residents, including addressing the traffic issues in Nursery/Harborne Roads and consulting with the Councillors in neighbouring Harborne Ward were taken into account before any decisions were made.

In the absence of the officers working on the scheme, Nigel Tammo agreed to raise the concerns and issues expressed at the meeting with the officers and to advise Cllrs Alden and Bennett accordingly.

4. Councillors News/Updates

Cllr Alden advised that Woodview School would no longer be used as a Polling Station and that Community Centre would be used instead.

Residents were reminded to let Cllrs Alden or Bennett know of any issues and concerns.

5. Residents News and Updates

The following concerns were raised:-

Bristol Road Cycle Lane – appeared to be underused and a waste of public funds. Residents felt that the funding could have been better used elsewhere and that it would be useful if data was provided by officers regarding how much it was used on a daily basis.

Leaf Fall, Drains and Gulley Cleansing – most roads in the ward were in need of cleansing and had been reported to the Street Cleansing Team on numerous occasions as it was clear that it had become extremely difficult to get Amey to respond to any requests for cleansing. Carpenters Road was particularly bad and suggestions had been made that any cleansing should be done on Sundays when the road tended to be much quieter, and that consideration should be given to a more flexible working arrangement if the service requested was to be delivered.

Green Waste Collection – many residents had experienced three or more missed collections however they had difficulty obtaining their refund from the City Council. Cllrs Alden and Bennett advised of the ongoing problems with the Waste Collection Service, even though the industrial dispute had been settled and crews returned to work. These included staff shortages, an increase in sickness levels, old, faulty machinery and poor staff morale. An independent review of the service had been carried out and a number of options had been suggested – including outsourcing the service. However, it would take some time before the issues were fully resolved and residents could see improvements to the service.

6. Petitions

None submitted.

7. Dates of Future Meetings

To be agreed as necessary.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm