

BARTLEY GREEN WARD FORUM MEETING

Thursday 13th October 2022

7.00pm – 8.30pm

Holloway Hall

Holloway

B31 1TT

COUNCILLORS: Kerry Brewer and Bruce Lines

NO. OF ATTENDEES: 5

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Mel Coton – Community Support & Development Officer

Beverly Edmead - Community Governance Team

Robbie Lea- Trengrouse – Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator

Bartley Green and Weoley & Selly Oak Wards

APOLOGIES

Sue Amey, Districts Parks Manager – accident at work

Officers from GreenSquare Accord Housing Association

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllrs Brewer and Lines welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a special welcome was given to Cllr Kerry Brewer who was attending her first meeting as Ward Councillor following the Local Elections in May 2022.

Cllr Bruce Lines in the Chair

2. Notice of Recording

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

Residents were reminded of the zero-tolerance approach to all forms of unacceptable behaviour and/or abuse introduced in all Community

Halls and Centres. Signage was displayed at all centres and a copy of the policy was available on request.

3. Senneley's Park Improvements and Woodgate Valley Visitors Centre Update

Apologies had been submitted by Sue Amey, Districts Parks Manager South earlier in the day following an accident whilst out on site, so a full update regarding the improvements would have to be deferred to a future meeting when Sue was available.

Progress had been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and currently, a schedule of works and timescales was not available, which was disappointing, especially as residents were in favour of the improvements which included a pavilion and improvements/drainage to the football pitches and changing rooms. There were no plans to increase parking provision, which was disappointing as this would push parking onto residential roads

In the meantime, the Visitors Centre in Woodgate Valley had now reopened – albeit on reduced hours as two or more Rangers had to be onsite. There were also problems with the heating and hot water system – hopefully, these had been resolved, however a clear timetable and details of events was still to be displayed. Residents would continue to be kept informed and actively encouraged to visit/use the Visitors Centre as increased usage/footfall would clearly show there was a need to retain and enhance the facility.

4. Clent Way Improvements Update (if available)

Deferred to the next/future meeting as officers from Greensquare Accord Housing Association had submitted apologies for non - attendance.

5. Ward Action Plan 2022 – 2026

Cllr Brewer advised of the requirement to review/refresh the Ward Action Plan for 2018-2022, and to see if priorities identified for that period were still relevant and should be taken forward and included for the Ward Action Plan for 2022 – 2026.

Consultation would be carried out with residents, community and voluntary groups, service providers and local businesses as well as the Bartley Green Local Partnership Group to see what they felt was needed/should be included and was achievable - the priorities and Ward Action Plan should be very much resident/community led.

Robbie Lea- Trengrouse , Neighbourhood Action Co-ordinator (NAC) along with Kerry Jones, The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) briefly advised of their respective roles and the help and support that was available to the local community, which included initiatives and activities

to reduce social isolation, improve mental health and physical fitness to providing financial help and support to community/voluntary groups providing activities as well as looking to tackle issues and concerns identified in the Ward Action Plan.

Cllr Brewer added that all methods of contact and communication – including the wide range of social media would be used to ensure that all sections of the community was given the opportunity to contribute/participate

6. Local Updates.

i) Ward Councillors

Cllr Brewer was currently putting together a list of free activities available in the ward for residents.

Warm spaces were also being identified to ensure that residents who may be unable to heat their homes had somewhere to visit during the day. Basic cooking, financial management/budgeting skills were also being developed to help residents cope with the current economic crisis, and how to obtain the support, help and/or guidance needed from the agencies working in the ward.

Local schools would also be asked to get involved – as they did before the Covid-19 pandemic and to restart some of the inter-generational activities that was very successful and helped to build up trust in the community between younger and older residents.

ii) Residents/Local Groups

Friend of Senneley's Park had recently secure £600 from the National Lottery fund to provide litter bins in the Park. More volunteers were also needed to help support the Group and Rangers with the ongoing work and general maintenance in Senneley's Park.

Unfortunately, some of the oak trees had been subjected to wanton damage and vandalism, however security measures had since been put in place.

Cllr Lines commended the commitment and ongoing hard work of the Friends of Group in helping to keep the Park clean, tidy and beautifully maintained.

There were no further updates.

Councillor Brewer and Lines thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm