

ALLENS CROSS WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Allens Cross	DATE: 9 February 2023
VENUE: Shenley Lane Community & Sports Centre, Shenley Lane B29 4HZ	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.40pm
COUNCILLOR Jack Deakin	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 26
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mel Coton, Community Development & Support Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome from Councillor Deakin

2. Notice of Recording

Councillor Deakin advised that members of the public/press may record/take photographs except where there were exempt or confidential items

3. What is a Ward Meeting?

Councillor Deakin explained that he would be holding ward meetings in different parts of the ward to give residents

the opportunity to discuss different local issues and asked for suggestions for future agenda. Residents asked for more involvement from BVT and attendance from the local police sergeant.

4. Bournville Village Trust Estate Traffic and Speeding update from Councillor Deakin and local Neighbourhood Watch representative

Councillor Deakin explained that in view of local concern regarding traffic issues on Long Mynd Road he had undertaken a walkabout with the Cabinet Member for Transport and the local Neighbourhood Speed Watch group to consider the problems and discuss possible solutions. Using the ward highway budget, it was proposed to fund a speed activated sign on Meadow Brook Road to warn motorists to slow down/ collect data and to have lane destination arrows & signage from Long Mynd Road to the dual carriageway to prevent drivers taking the wrong turning.

A representative from Speed Watch reported on the numerous traffic issues on the estate, especially around Long Mynd Road/Spiceland Road. Traffic volume had increased considerably, creating rat running, noise nuisance and increased pollution on residential streets that were not designed for so much traffic. Consequently cars were parked on the pavements to avoid them being damaged but due to the numbers of vans and lorries now using the roads, parked cars were often subject to broken wing mirrors etc and a car had left the road and gone through the garden of a house on the corner of the road on 3 occasions. The traffic works on Sir Herbert Austin Way had increased traffic through the estate and the numbers of cars using the local roads had remained. More new houses were being built in the area adding to the numbers of cars, making it dangerous for pedestrians to cross the roads, especially at school times. There had been a number of accidents involving cars coming out of Long Mynd Road onto the dual-carriageway, but progress was being made with Councillor Deakin and road safety proposals.

Councillor Deakin said that the minor road safety measures referred to earlier in the meeting were part of a longer-term plan and resident's ideas were welcome.

Residents said that the main issues were –

- pavement parking as pedestrians with pushchairs/walkers etc were forced to walk in the road and it was unsafe to cross the road between vehicles.
- It was suggested that households be leafleted reminding not to park on the pavement and that BVT be asked to look at parking of works vehicles.
- Speeding was also an issue on Long Mynd Road, Meadow Brook Road and adjoining roads therefore any deterrent would be welcome.
- Volume and through traffic were an issue as the roads were not designed for traffic other than those living on the estate. If the volume of traffic was less there would be no need to park on the pavement.
- Weight limits on local roads
- Better enforcement
- Blocking off roads to prevent rat running being mindful of displacement
- Make Merritts Hill one way
- Safer Routes to Schools & make entire length of Shenley Lane 30mph

Councillor Deakin undertook to look into the suggestions made adding that BCC was looking at taking ownership of parking enforcement to enable ticketing for pavement parking that was currently the responsibility of the police. BCC was also looking at a permanent solution to stem the traffic flow through the BVT estate, but it could mean that residents had to take different routes if using cars in order to make the area safer to walk around/cross roads etc.

Any proposals would be fully consulted upon. Places for People schemes were reliant on government funding and a bid would have to be made. Residents needed to help formulate a scheme and reference was made to Kings Heath and schemes used in London but this was the start of the conversation and more discussion would be required.

5. Ward Plan Discussion

Councillor Deakin explained the ward planning process and referred to the sheet circulated, asking residents to identify their top 3 priorities in the ward that could be incorporated into the plan. From those suggestions, discussions with community groups and residents, Councillor Deakin undertook to formulate a ward plan to bring back for further comment and discussion

6. Questions and comments to Councillor Deakin

- a) Allens Cross Working Mens Club, Merritts Brook Lane** - thanks extended to Councillor Deakin for his efforts in clearing the fly tipping and hoarding.
- b) Fly tipping Bell Holloway** – Councillor Deakin said that the refuse vehicles now had technology to enable fly tipping to be reported and asked that areas with particular problems be reported to him so that he could lobby for cameras in hot spot areas.
- c) Clean Air Zone Funding** – in response to query regarding allocated funding the meeting was advised that it had been devolved to wards and a consultation would be run on ideas for spend.

7. Councillor Updates

Councillor Deakin advised

- Advice surgeries were held every Friday 11am -2.30pm at Allens Cross Community Centre & 2 Saturdays per month
- Litter picks – any group wishing to start a litter pick to contact Councillor Deakin
- Food Pantry – Allens Cross Community Centre, every Friday & Saturday 12.30pm – 2pm
- Working with Cabinet Members re domestic abuse, contact Councillor Deakin for help or support