

BOURNBROOK & SELLY PARK WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Bournbrook & Selly Park	DATE: Tuesday 27 th February 2024
VENUE: Christ Church Selly Park, Pershore Road, B29 7PS	START/FINISH TIMES: 7:00 pm – 20:20 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Karen McCarthy	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 19
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:
<i>Current Ward Plan in progress</i>

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:
<p>1. Welcome & Notice of Recording</p> <p>Councillor McCarthy welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies – Councillor Jones, Housing Officer</p> <p>2. Birmingham City Council Budget Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10% council tax increase in the year 2024-2025 and a further 10% increase in the year 2025-2026. Significant amount of residents across the city will receive support with the council tax increase • Consultations will be live soon on the closures of a number libraries closing across the city • Refuse collection has been proposed to be collected fortnightly. This may or may not happen across the entire city however more information will be provided soon once agreed. Some areas in Birmingham are being piloted with fortnightly collection • Unfortunately, there has been a 50% reduction in Art's and Culture funding in the year 2024-2025 and a 100% reduction the following year • With Children's and Adults, everything has been looked at that wasn't statutory and the city council will be providing targeted interventions to keep away from gangs, violence etc. Birmingham Children's Trust is working with the city council to prevent the number of children going into care

- Home school transport is statutory for under 4's, however 16+ is not statutory therefore there will be changes in this service and discussions are still on going.

Resident Questions/Concerns

- Will libraries be closing completely & what will happen to the archives? – Central Library in the city centre will be staying therefore archives will go here. 10-11 community libraries are proposed to be closed but will be looked at on individual basis to keep open. Some are already run by volunteers and those may remain open. The libraries likely to close are the ones with low footfall. The Councillor advised that once consultation are open, to raise all queries and concerns through this.
- The budget that has been announced, makes Birmingham unviable for the next 3 years. If Oracle is not operating correctly, how is Birmingham city Council auditing correctly and making savings? – Members of the audit committee are working with James Brackley on this. Commissioners are overseeing all finances and must approve any spending. The sale of museums is not true and the Councillor advised all to not believe everything that is read in the media.
- The reduction in the maintenance budget is shocking. Rainfall is huge problem, particularly in this ward. Millions of pounds have been spent on flood maintenance and is now being cut? – The Councillor took onboard the point raised and will look into this
- Will the budget remain for Neighbourhood Forums? – Still in discussion if this is staying or not. The Councillor advised that they will follow this up and have a response soon hopefully
- The cut to the Art's and Culture sector are devastating and will affect large organisations down to communities. This will also affect tourism due to no cultural events taking place – A lot of people feel strongly about this including council officers. Difficult decisions have to be made to achieve the required savings. Many more difficult decisions are to come
- Are the Career Service & Youth Service statutory services & will these be affected? – Career service is statutory however the Youth service is not. Proposals are yet to be made in this sector however there is a high likelihood of there being cuts in Youth services

3. Urgent Local Issues

- Proposed double yellow lines on the Severn Park Estate and Mayfield Avenue, is there an update on this? As residents are getting blocked in their drives, especially since the Post Office opened. – This will be followed up with Shafqat.

4. Exempt Accommodation - Housing

Unfortunately, the Housing Officer could not make the ward forum however Councillor McCarthy had some updates for the residents.

- Residents requested a special meeting for the ward to discuss issues specific to Exempt Accommodation.
- The cutbacks on commissioned housing are not confirmed and there was a council meeting today to reprocure communal housing. Further meetings will be taking place.
- The Councillor advised residents to make a complaint to the exempt housing team or to assume that it may be a HMO with no licence. You can check online if a HMO has licence or not.
- Residents expressed their concerns that more and more exempt properties are not being dealt with. The residents are trying to arrange a working meeting with various stakeholders involved. Drug dealing has been linked to various properties which are exempt housing. Logs have been made and reported to the police however no action is being taken. Pockets of areas are hard hit at the same times on the same days every week. Many other illegal activities are taking place in exempt HMO's.
- Since Kensington Hotel closed down, the lights are still on in some rooms which are visible outside. The Councillor advised they will look into this.

5. Planning Applications

- A car wash on the corner of St. Johns is to be built. The existing building will be knocked down with a new car wash to be opened with a 24/7 Greggs. The corner will be redeveloped with 3 self service bays. The previous garage was sold and bought by a large chain. The current car wash is very noisy and with another will this will add to the noise.
- The proposed changes to the new LIDL have now gone through.
- Alumno are coming to the next week's open meeting with the residents regarding Dopple Lane student accommodation. The architects, construction workers and management team are all to attend.

AOB:

- A resident has been working for a number of years to get a bus shelter opposite Eastern Road/Bristol Road. National Express did respond that there is not enough footfall to the bus stop to be able to put a bus shelter in. A crossing is also needed as students from the local school are dangerously crossing the road to get to the bus stop. The Councillor advised they will speak to the Cabinet Member for Transport to discuss this matter.
- The issue of the fly tipping piling up next to the scrap yard on Pershore Road continues to be a problem. Residents report the rubbish to be around 20ft high now. The houses on Ten Acres Drive look straight on to the rubbish and is very unpleasant. The Councillor advised that they will look into this.
- There are no parking signs up on Raddlebarn Road however drivers continue to park there and are taking no notice of the signs. Due to the lack of parking enforcements officers, it is difficult to enforce the notices.
- An abandoned car appears to be left in certain roads around the ward for a number of weeks and moved around time to time. Residents suspect this car may be used for drug storage. Residents have the car registration and other details and The Councillor advised that she will take these details and look into this matter further.
- Residents reported that the refuse collection for recycling, some crews are throwing all paper, cardboards, glass jars etc into one area in the trucks. Although we are told to separate the two, they are not being kept separate when being emptied. Only certain crews are responsible for this and The Councillor will escalate this matter further.
- The Mobile Household Recycling Centres will not be cut completely but there will be changes to the service. More information to follow about this as and when known.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Look into saving the archives from libraries that will be closing down	1. Cllr McCarthy	1. Provide update at next ward forum
2. Follow up on the impact of the reduction of the maintenance budget	2. Cllr McCarthy	2. Provide update at next ward forum
3. Provide an update on what youth services will be affected as a result of the budget cuts	3. Cllr McCarthy	3. Provide update at next ward forum
4. Speak to the police and crime commissioner regarding the drug related crimes reported by residents in The Avenues	4. Cllr McCarthy	4. N/A
5. Look into the fly tipping spot next to the scrapyard on the Pershore Road	5. Cllr McCarthy	5. Provide update at next ward forum
6. Look into the reported car currently parked on Kensington Road that is being moved around the area and potentially being used for drug storage	6. Cllr McCarthy	6. N/A