

LADYWOOD WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Ladywood	DATE: 14 May 2019
VENUE: St John & St Peters Church, Darnley Road B16	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9.15pm
COUNCILLORS: Kath Hartley & Councillor Sir Albert Bore	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 50+
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Sergeant Laura Allen, West Midlands Police Craig Rowbottam, Planning & Development Alice Jones, Planning & Development Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Police Update

Sergeant Allen reported that in respect of the anti-social behaviour in the Reservoir car park and surrounding area the gate to the car park had been locked and would remain so. Following anti-social issues a 24 hour Dispersal Notice was put in place, discussions were held with the councillors and it was agreed to close the car park to vehicles for a year. This was not a quick fix and residents were asked to be patient as longer term solutions were sought. It appeared that some of the issues had dissipated.

Residents requested some traffic management in the roads around the reservoir to assist with visitors who did not know where to park as they could not get into the car park and so were parking in residential roads. Leslie Road, Daisy Road & Osler Road were particularly affected and cars were being parked on the double yellow lines, speeding and playing loud music. Councillor Hartley said the parking issues had been referred to parking enforcement. Sergeant Allen said the PCSO's would patrol and enforce where necessary. She also explained Operation Park Safe and undertook to arrange a meeting to explain the process.

Residents largely agreed that the closure of the car park and the resultant reduction in criminality had improved the quality of the

reservoir as a facility but residents were suffering from indiscriminate parking. It was suggested that the car park near to the Tower Ballroom be opened but it was explained there was no barrier to that car park.

Councillor Hartley said that all these issue could be fed into the consultation.

2. Edgbaston Reservoir Draft Masterplan

Craig Rowbottam and Alice Jones, with the aid of a power point presentation presented the plans for Edgbaston Reservoir, setting out the history of the reservoir and the timeline for the proposals.

It was stressed that the development of Osler Street Park was in the master plan as an option but no decision had been made and no developer identified. Resident's views were therefore important to shape/change the plan.

Drop in sessions were being organised during June to give residents an opportunity to study the plans in more detail and to ask further questions.

Residents then asked the following questions/made the following comments;

- Urgent request made to protect Osler Street Park in its present form. It was an excellent, family friendly park that was well used by 40/50 local people after school, over the weekend, for football matches etc and local children had nowhere else to play. Sgt Allen said the police supported the retention of Osler Street Park & MUGA.
- Query around the land use for the land and buildings on Icknield Port that backed onto the weir.
- The future of the Sea Cadets? Craig advised the Sea Cadets had submitted a planning application to demolish existing building & replace. They had their own funding and BCC was keen to see them stay.
- Broad support for the principle of the Master Plan however concern about the numbers it was envisaged would be attracted to the new 'destination' as too many would affect the environment and it would no longer be a quiet haven.
- The area around the reservoir would need careful management to sustain the reservoir
- The reservoir was relatively small and the proposed new development would encroach on the nature and wildlife.
- The replacement of the sailing club building was welcomed but retention of the club at the Reservoir was vital.
- The area was not well connected – bus stops were not near enough, it was not safe to walk at night and getting to the reservoir without a car was difficult, therefore some thought should be given to this as well as the plan for the actual reservoir.

- There was significant local heritage in the area which should be reflected in the Plan
- Were there different design options available that would be part of the consultation?
- Concern expressed re the effect on the surrounding residential properties
- The future of the Lodge was queried
- Open water swimming was also a sport that should be considered for the reservoir
- The plans would impact detrimentally on parking in the area and this was already a problem which would be further affected by the introduction of the Clean Air Zone. There was a city wide parking document that should be taken into account during the development of the Master Plan.
- Creation of the reservoir as a 'destination centre' meant more traffic and this would create an accessibility issue given the access to the reservoir. Suggestion – use the car park on Osler Street for residential parking and build in an underground car park for residents and visitors. Not all land needed to be developed – Tower car park could be used as a natural amphitheatre.
- The community was a key stakeholder in the reservoir and therefore its view should hold more weight than that of the developers.
- Perrott's Folly – suggested there was a covenant on the ground floor to retain for community use/asset therefore an undertaking was sought that this would be retained and not used for residential development.
- TAWS – welcomed the opportunity to work with officers. The reservoir was about health & well-being and a place for running, cycling etc therefore storage & toilet facilities would be welcomed.

In response to some of the comments/questions, Craig made the following points;

- The points made about Osler Street Park had been noted.
- Points made regarding visitor numbers affecting the nature of the reservoir had been taken on board – there had been discussions with ecologists and Natural England would be consulted.
- The management plan for the reservoir would be updated and subject to a separate process.
- It was hoped to have a co-ordinated approach to water sports
- A car parking plan was needed and would be addressed when numbers were considered

- The strategic parking document had not yet been written but planning & development officers were involved.
- The intention was to retain the Lodge and link the heritage buildings
- Connectivity – looking at walking/cycling and open to conversations.
- Community was key to the Master Plan and residents were urged to send in their comments and take part in the consultation. There was also a need to work in partnership with local groups.
- The covenant on Perrott's Folly was being investigated.

3. City Centre Public Space Protection Order

Councillor Bore gave an update explaining changes to the City Centre PSPO to include the Jewellery Quarter, Lee Bank and Sherlock Street areas. The central Ladywood estate had however been omitted from the Order and this gave rise to concerns regarding displacement. Earlier in the year the PSPO for the west of the city had been delayed to enable the city centre PSPO to be created therefore it was hoped that there would be consultation on the west and it would include central Ladywood.

Councillor Bore explained the purpose of a PSPO and that the final sanction after warnings & notices was prosecution. The police, PCSO's and council officers could issue notices.

Residents commented that the order would only be useful if properly enforced and that in view of the recent stabbing incident action for central Ladywood was needed urgently. Councillor Bore said that the police were dealing with the incident in St Vincent Street West and that the new PSPO would enable more people to enforce it but it had been made clear to the police that monitoring was essential.

Some residents expressed concern about the impact of the order on the homeless and that this was criminalising those people that should be offered help and support. The activities that the PSPO sought to address could be dealt with under existing police powers.

Councillor Bore said that the order would not be used in isolation but would trigger intervention and Councillor Hartley stressed that an offence had to be committed before action was taken under the order.

4. Other Issues

a) Traffic Issues to west of the Middleway

b) Closure of Underpass, Five Ways Island - concern expressed regarding the detrimental effect on the area

c) Plough & Harrow Traffic Lights Sequence – traffic lights changed too quickly, action needed to address

d) Ladywood Fun Day – 20 July 12- 4pm, field by Gilby Road & Jo Cox Memorial Family BBQ – 22 June Unitarian Church, Five Ways.

Councillor Hartley advised there would be a consultation stand at both events to provide information and sign up volunteers to be part of a steering group in connection with the Central Ladywood Regeneration.

5. Next Meeting – meeting to be arranged in July – main item i) Sprint Bus & Metro Works, Five Ways

Items requested by residents - ii) HMO's and an update on the consultation iii) Rubbish

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):