

BARTLEY GREEN WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES

WARD: Bartley Green	DATE: Thursday 18 th May 2023
VENUE: Shenley Academy School, Shenley Lane, B29 4HE	START/FINISH TIMES: 7:00 pm – 8:10 pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Bruce Lines & Kerry Brewer	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 5
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Beverley Edmead – Community Governance Manager, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S): John Nicholson, Regional Facilities Manager for Shenley Academy

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Green Bartley Green
2. A Inclusive Bartley Green
3. A Safe Bartley Green

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome, Introductions & Notice of Recording

Councillor Lines & Councillor Brewer introduced themselves and welcomed residents for attending the ward forum meeting and advised that members of the press/public may be present, could record and take photographs of the meeting

2. Shenley Academy Local Updates

John, the Regional Facilities Manager at Shenley Academy, introduced himself to residents and his role in the school. He explained that the school opened its doors for community use 18 months ago and they have been working with a football club, Bournville Warriors, for the last 18 months. Bournville Warriors is a grassroots football club with boys and girls playing football and all come from within a 2/3 mile radius to Shenley Academy. Wayne Homer from Bournville Warriors explained that they were using 4/5 locations scattered around the city for training however it was a much better idea to bring them all together to train in one central location at Shenley Academy. There are currently around 250 children aged 3-18 registered with Bournville Warriors with 18 teams. They host community coaching sessions on the weekends for pre-teens and it is a positive experience as it keeps the

Community Governance Manager: Preety Sohpal
Preety.Sohpal@birmingham.gov.uk

youth off the streets, keeps them fit and healthy. On Mondays, they hold girls only football in the evenings and they also allow for children to just turn up and play and they don't have to be an exclusive member to do so.

Bournville Warriors have now completed their 2nd season, everyone is training and playing the same location and the local residents and wider community is happy with how the academy is being used.

The leisure centre/sports hall in the school was refurbished to hold football indoors as well as outdoors. The school uses these facilities in the day and Bournville Warriors use the facilities 4 nights a week and netball clubs use the facilities on the weekends.

Recently, the school had put in new gates for access to the building and new line markings on the car park so that it was more clear to see. They had developed their existing football pitches. This gave students a better experience with the use of the facilities of the school and a better experience for any community events that are to be held in the school.

Eventually the news had spread of Shenley Academy being open for community use. Just before the Commonwealth games they were approached by a netball league to hold events in the summer as their previous venue were unable to accommodate them. This worked perfectly for Shenley Academy as there were no football events running in the summer.

The netball leagues completed the summer and then requested to use Shenley academy for a longer period of time for their winter league however parking was an issue as due to a wet winter, they were unable to park on the grass as people cars were getting stuck as the grass became muddy. Shenley Academy housed 50 netball teams and naturally with this parking did become a problem in the winter months with the surrounding streets becoming full and residents were not happy with this. Shenley Academy did approach the local primary schools to use their car parks on the weekends so that the streets wouldn't be as full however the primary schools declined. The problem of street parking increased with people parking on grass verges, pavements and blocking residents driveways even though Shenley Academy had requested for this not to happen from the visitors. Residents complained to Shenley Academy repeatedly and eventually the PCSO's did get involved and were asked to visit on the weekends.

Eventually the parking problem did reduce as there was no more netball on Sundays however Shenley Academy did communicate to the netball teams that would need to change the way they operate in regards to the parking issue. Following this discussion, the netball leagues are moving their Sunday and winter leagues back to their previous venue therefore eliminating the parking problem all together and the surrounding streets will no longer be filled with cars on the weekends. John apologised to residents in the meeting and to those who complained directly to him on the parking problems and assured residents that they were not holding anymore winter netball leagues.

John explained that they would like to hold future community events but they understand that they need to be more prepared and have the infrastructure to hold the amount of cars for parking. John informed residents that there were only 5/6 weeks left of the netball leagues before they finished for the season and if there were any problems with parking issues again to let them know. However after this it will be the end of Shenley Academy holding netball leagues of that size for the foreseeable future.

Residents commented that if such events are to be held in the future at Shenley Academy, then better planning and organisation is required for hosting such events. Although there were complaints about the parking issues, they did comment that it was good to use to the school for community events.

3G Pitch Consultation

As part of the development of the sports facilities, Shenley Academy is working on a funding application for a 3G pitch. John presented the project proposal on the large screen to residents. The proposal includes;

- £1 million funding for the 3G pitch
- A large football pitch which can be used a one large pitch for one game or 4 small pitches to hold more games/training sessions
- A bunding behind the pitch to shield the houses backing on the school from noise and lighting
- An additional 100 car park spaces
- Reconfigure the existing leisure centre to changing rooms

John showed examples of other 3G pitches which already exist in Walsall and North Birmingham to give an idea to the residents of what it will look like once completed. A 3G pitch is useable all year round in all weathers as it would not be waterlogged in heavy rain resulting in no cancellations of playing and training. The 3G pitch will enable them to hold various different sports at one time with the 3G pitch being used and the indoor facilities. He also showed an example of the technology of the floodlights that reduce glare.

Residents commented on it being a very good concept and they liked the idea of children not being on the streets causing trouble in the area however they did stress the importance having organised parking and plenty of parking available. John explained that they have accommodated an additional 100 car park spaces in the proposal to hopefully address the parking issue to avoid this happening again in the future.

John explained that the facilities are open until 10pm at night in the weekdays and 9am-6pm on the weekends. Residents expressed concern of the noise levels, especially in the evenings on the weeknights however John explained that the design process would consider this.

John and Gary explained that this meeting was the start of a consultation process and they were looking to include the proposals in their next newsletter for the academy to make more people aware of it. He advised that the current rough timescales are to have the proposals submitted by January 2024 with a further 3-4 months for project approval. Construction would begin in the middle or at the end of 2024 and it may even be early 2025. However these were just rough estimates and it could be sooner or longer than anticipated.

John and Gary thanked everyone for listening and engaging in the discussion.

3. Local News & Updates from Councillors & Residents

Councillor Lines explained that the former football pitches on Long Nuke Road has been approved to build 65 new homes. The final decision will be made over the coming weeks and construction on this will begin in September/October 2023. The Councillors assured residents that they and officers will continue to communicate with residents updating them before any construction begins. The Councillors addressed that they are aware of the numerous potholes in the area and they are working to get them sorted working with Kier Highways.

Residents brought up the issue of fly tipping being particularly bad on Long Nuke Road and suggested to post leaflets to residents to educate them that fly tipping is an offence. They expressed concerns of nearly every corner in the area being filled with rubbish when they know that the waste services are coming to clear fly tipping in the area. Offenders are deliberately putting out rubbish on the streets knowing when waste services are coming knowing that it will be cleared although this is the incorrect method of removing of rubbish. They also explained to Councillors that there are a number of fridges scattered around the area. The Councillors advised that they are aware of this and the removal of fridges requires a different service therefore they are awaiting for this to be cleared as they have already addressed this.

A resident had a good news story of Milebrook Hall on Field Lane which has been open as a warm welcome space during the winter serving hot drinks and cake for the elderly. They are open 2 days a week with the help of a wonderful group of volunteers. The library was also due to close due to the lack of funding however with the help of a group of volunteers the library remained open.

John and Gary explained that they are looking to provide some sort of youth club activities, coffee mornings, mental health evenings, over 50's football clubs etc and were open to talking more with residents on any sorts of community events they would like to hold at the academy. Residents explained that Bartley Green was struggling for space and Shenley Academy can work with them to accommodate this.

The Councillors thanked all for attending.

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