

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL
EDGBASTON WARD MEETING
2 FEBRUARY 2017
1900HRS
EDGBASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
WOODVIEW DRIVE
EDGBASTON
B15 2HU

MEETING NOTES

Present: - Councillors Deirdre Alden and Fergus Robinson

Officers: Ken Brown – Neighbourhood Development and Support Officer
Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team
Andy Middleton – Programme Manager, Birmingham Cycle Revolution

There were approx. 30 residents present.

Cllr D Alden in the Chair

1. NOTICE OF RECORDING

The Chairman advised that members of the press /public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

Residents were reminded that permission must be obtained from members of the public prior to taking photographs or recording individual comments.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Cllr Matt Bennett who had been unable to attend the meeting.

3. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/UPDATES

There were no announcements made.

4. BIRMINGHAM CYCLE REVOLUTION – INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION UPDATE

Following introductions, Andy Middleton, Programme Manager advised of the revisions to the proposed route along the A38 Bristol Street and Bristol Road, which ran through the ward. This included:-

- Cycle track from Hurst Street to Belgrave Interchange, segregated from traffic and pedestrians.
- Belgrave Interchange: dedicated cycle track through junction between Bristol Road and Bristol Street, improvements for pedestrians, a safer design for right turning traffic from the A38 onto the Middleway, as well as a general improvement of the capacity of the junctions.
- Wellington Road: alterations to existing signal crossing, creating separate facilities

for cyclists and pedestrians.

- Section A: Cycle track on the west side of Bristol Road, using some of the current footway space. Cyclists will be at different height to both traffic and pedestrians.
- Priory crossroads: addition of three pedestrian crossings and a continuous cycling track across Priory Road. Some turning movements will be banned, improving safety and efficiency of the junction.
- New signal controlled crossing to bring cyclists from the west side of the road to the central reservation.

Section B: Cycle track running within the tree lined central reservation, segregated from pedestrians and traffic.

- Pebble Mill Road: signalisation of the right turn from Bristol Road into Pebble Mill Road. Right turn from Pebble Mill Road banned.
- Eastern Road: two part cycle crossing of the gap in the central reservation.
- Edgbaston Park Road: minor junction alterations including a signal controlled crossing to bring cyclists from the central reservation to the west side of Bristol Road. Pedestrian facilities improved.
- Bournbrook Road/University South Gate: slight change to junction layout to accommodate cycle route. Route links with cycle facilities on Selly Oak New Road and the Selly Oak Green Travel District.

(Paper copies of the revised proposals and the roads included were circulated to residents at the meeting).

Consultation for the scheme would run from 13 February 2017 – 24 March 2017. A number of Public Events with Officer attendance had been arranged for:-

Tues 28 Feb, 2 – 6pm, University Station (by the Plaza)

Sat 4 March, 11am – 4pm, Cannon Hill Park (by the MAC)

Thurs 9 March, 11am – 3pm, Aston Webb Boulevard/Junction of Grange Road (by the Plaza)

Further dates and venues would be added to the timetable once they had been agreed.

Residents and Members broadly welcomed the revised proposals, which had taken on board a number of the concerns, comments and suggestions submitted.

Several residents expressed concerns that a small section of the proposed road layout along Bristol Road resembled that of a motorway, and requested that consideration was given to minor adjustments to the visual appearance.

Some concerns were also expressed regarding the dangerous habits and practices of “professional” or speeding cyclists; many continued to show very little care or regard to other road users, putting everyone at risk.

Several residents felt that a continuous hard surface would be detrimental to road safety and that a physical change to the surface along various parts of the cycle route would be an effective deterrent along with flashing/visible warning signs and

notices. Cyclists should also be actively discouraged from riding on pavements, thus reducing the risk of accidents/injury to pedestrians.

Several residents sought further clarity on the right hand turning movements by the Priority Crossroads, given that there were already several roads where no right turn was allowed, and that traffic congestion and rat runs would be pushed even further into residential roads. The location of the traffic lights and sequencing by Bristol and Priority Roads would also need to be reviewed.

Responding to residents' comments/concerns, Mr Middleton explained that achieving the right balance for all road users, including pedestrians remained a priority. Traffic surveys had been undertaken at different times of the day to monitor volume, congestion and general traffic movement.

Work was also ongoing with a number of cycling groups, clubs and organisations to promote /reiterate safer cycling practices. In addition, new cyclists acquiring bicycles through the Smarter Choice/Big Bike Initiative were required to undergo appropriate training, which included the importance of wearing hi-vis clothing and a cycle helmet.

Mr Middleton added that a more detailed plan of the scheme including the traffic flow would be on display at the public consultation events, which should help address some of the issues and concerns raised. Residents were actively encouraged to attend.

Members and residents thanked Andy Middleton for his attendance and update.

Action: All to Note

5. LOCAL INNOVATION FUND UPDATE

The Chairman briefly advised of the Local Innovation Fund of £48,000 made available to each ward to support/fund new or creative ideas and projects to suit the needs of the community.

Several meetings with community/voluntary organisations and partners had been held to see how the fund could be used. Following these meetings, the organisations had agreed to work together, and had submitted a proposal for the wider ward.

The proposal 'Edging forward Together (EFT), Community Hub & Network Awakes the Aspirations of a Generation' had been fully supported by Members, and would be submitted to the City Council's Cabinet Committee Local Leadership for approval.

Representatives from each organisation briefly outlined their role in helping to deliver the programme of activities detailed in the proposal.

Members commended the hard work of everyone involved in putting the proposal together for the benefit of the wider ward.

Action: All to Note

6. RESIDENTS ISSUES/MATTERS OF LOCAL CONCERN

The following concerns were raised:-

Clean Air Zones

Residents sought further information regarding possible Clean Air Zone proposals for commuter and/or the main arterial routes across the city.

The Chairman explained that consideration was still being given to how this would be implemented within the city following the findings from the Government consultation.

There were two types of Clean Air Zone, these being:-

- Non-charging Clean Air Zones: these would have a focus for action to improve air quality but do not include charging money for any type of vehicle to enter the zone.
- Charging Clean Air Zones –drivers would need to pay to enter these zones if their vehicle was of a type which emits too much pollution.

The exact location of the zone was not yet known, but was expected to cover at least part of the city centre, and the types of vehicles likely to be charged to enter had not yet been decided; all of which would have a knock-on/detrimental impact on traffic issues in the ward.

Residents felt that ‘park and ride’ facilities could be a way forward to ease traffic congestion in the ward, given its close proximity to the city centre and should be actively encouraged. However, it was widely acknowledged that land ownership was an issue within the ward, and owners would rather sell their land for housing development, which was more profitable.

The Chairman added that residents would continue to be kept informed as more information became available.

Roman Way Estate – Residents Parking Scheme

Several residents were unable to request parking/additional permits as this could only be done online. Consideration should be given to permits being held locally by the TMO, which would enable residents to purchase as required.

Action: Cllr Alden agreed to make enquiries with the relevant Highway Officers and Advise accordingly.

73 Bristol Road – concerns expressed regarding the recent application for a 9-bed HMO. Calthorpe Estates were currently looking into the matter.

Action: All to Note

Roman Way Estate – HMO Article 4 Direction

Local resident Mike Winkett sought a further update to the concerns raised at the ward meeting in September, and the subsequent meeting which took place with Planning Officers.

Action: Cllr Alden agreed to discuss the matter further with Mr Winkett following the meeting.

Thank You

Residents thanked Members for their help and support with the removal of graffiti from the areas identified.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None raised.

8. AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

Noted and Agreed that:-

In an urgent situation between meetings, the Chairman, jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm