

HARBORNE WARD FORUM MEETING NOTES**MONDAY 27th JANUARY 2020****6.30PM – 8.40PM****The Community Room, Harborne Pool & Fitness Centre
Lordswood Road, B17 9QS****COUNCILLOR:** Peter Fowler**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marie Brown – District Engineer

Karen Cheney – Head of Service, Neighbourhood Development & Support Unit (NDSU)

Andy Chidgey & Natalie Haberkö – Transportation Services, BCC

Beverly Edmead – Community Governance Team

Peter Edwards & Aftab Khan – Clean Air Zone Team (CAZ), BCC

Andrew Fuller – City Design Manager, Planning Dept, BCC

APOLOGIES

Cllr Jayne Francis for non-attendance due to another commitment in her role as Cabinet Member and Sgt Khalil, Local Police Team.

Attendees: Approx. 25

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:**Cllr Peter Fowler in the Chair****1. Notice of Recording**

Residents were advised that members of the press or public could record and/or take photographs of the meeting.

Following introductions, Cllr Fowler welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Local Updates

(i) Local Police Team and Street Watch

Sgt Khalil, PCSO Sam O'Dell and Sarah Hanson (Street Watch) had been unable to attend, however residents were advised by another volunteer that Street Watch continued to work well; the number of volunteers and patrols had increased which was good news. Details of the initiative continued to be posted on Twitter and the Harborne Ward Facebook page and residents interested in finding out more should contact Sarah or Sam via the contact details provided.

Residents were also advised of the Police Drop-In Surgery to be held at the Kenrick Centre, 11am – 1pm, Thurs 30th Jan.

(ii) Councillors News and Updates

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – plans to introduce this were currently on hold whilst discussions were ongoing to resolve the issues and concerns regarding the PSPO proposed for the city centre. In addition, the outcome of a High Court Case taken by Liberty against Bournemouth City Council regarding their plans for the introduction of PSPOs could have wider implications across the country. Cllr Fowler was due to meet Cllr Cotton, Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion, Community Safety & Equalities for an update and would advise residents accordingly.

Highways/Traffic Management Schemes

Knightlow Ave – proposed scheme had been scrapped following a significant number of objections

Parkhill Road Bridge – a number of concerns had been expressed regarding the temporary repairs /construction carried out and felt that urgent permanent repair was needed. Residents were advised that the temporary strengthening works carried out, which included installing steel frames to support the structure were expected to last up to 4-5 years whilst funding of approx. £380,000 was being sought for the permanent strengthening works needed. Residents felt that regular inspections of the timber frames were essential so that any other problems - particularly shrinkage could be identified and remedied swiftly.

Action: Marie Brown, District Engineer agreed to seek clarification from the officers involved and advise accordingly.

Parking Permits Scheme (QE Hospital and Birmingham University Scheme)

Following introductions Andy Chidgey, Transportation Services advised that a number of issues and concerns had been raised regarding the schemes proposed, all of which had taken some time to resolve. Not all of the schemes would go ahead due to insufficient funding, however the areas in very close proximity to the hospitals and university (identified as 3A and 3B (Greenfield Road and Metchley Road areas) would be taken forward subject to approval by the Cabinet Member.

Harborne Park, Quinton and Cross Farm Roads would also be included. Parking permits would be issued to residents living in the roads within the schemes, and additional permits made available to those with daily carers/support workers.

Concerns were expressed by residents regarding the lengthy process taken, lack of progress in moving the schemes forward and that a more coordinated approach was needed to tackling parking across the ward rather than the piecemeal and short-sighted approach taken by officers. Hospital and University parking still remained a major concern and would continue to be so unless this was properly addressed.

Kate Smart (Harborne BID) also expressed concerns that the BID had not been made aware or consulted on the scheme proposals. The officers agreed to circulate the findings and feedback from the consultation to interested residents and suggested that a specific meeting could be held with those residents who wanted to know more and agreed to meet separately with the BID to discuss the schemes. Cllr Fowler agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss parking issues if it was still required.

Ward Plan Update

Residents were reminded the Ward Plan was a working document to be reviewed on a regular basis by residents and Cllrs alike. It was suggested that consideration should be given to setting up local tasking groups to take the lead on how a few of the key priorities could be addressed and identify key partners to work with. Where trends had been identified across a number of wards, these would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member so that a strategic approach for tackling the issues could be considered and funding identified where appropriate. Several residents stressed that consideration must be given to involving young people/addressing youth issues to avoid an increase /possible involvement in anti-social behaviour and/or drug use. Following further discussion and a quick show of hands, the draft Ward Plan was agreed by residents and that regular updates would be given at ward meetings.

(iii) The Royalty Update

Andrew Fuller, City Design Manager, BCC briefly advised that the structural report commissioned by the owners had been completed and a wide range of options had been put forward regarding the future use for the building, all of which were being considered and explored, including a community asset request from Harborne Royalty Trust.

Site management issues and discussions with WMFS were ongoing and a further meeting with the owners and BCC Planning Officers had been arranged for 24th February. Cllrs would continue to be kept informed of developments.

(iv) Harborne BID Update (Business Improvement District)

Kate Smart, BID Manager briefly advised of a number of issues currently being looked at by the BID – these included traffic management and congestion around the High St; a review of street furniture and floral enhancements and displays for the summer. Discussions were also ongoing to see how sensory walks could be developed for visually impaired/disabled residents – residents interested in getting involved or learning more were encouraged to contact Kate following the meeting. Concerns had also been raised about advertising boards on the pavements outside respective business premises which often made it difficult for pedestrians to get past safely without going into the road. Discussions would be held with Cllrs and respective businesses to see how this could be better managed.

3. Birmingham Clean Air Zone (CAZ) Information Update

Following introductions, Peter Edwards and Aftab Khan, BCC Clean Air Zone Team briefly advised of the reasons for the introduction of the CAZ which would be going live in July and stressed that it was not a congestion charge and only non-compliant vehicles would be subject to the charge. The Clean Air Zone (CAZ) would cover all the roads within the A4540 Middleway Ring Road but the Middleway itself would not be included. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras installed around the CAZ would record images of all vehicles travelling into the CAZ and notices/fines issued to the vehicle owner where appropriate.

Petrol vehicles that were Euro 4 standard 2006 registration onwards or Euro 6 2015 onwards diesel vehicles would not be charged. It had been acknowledged that this could cause hardship for some residents and low earners within the zone and therefore some exemptions had been made. For example those with non-compliant vehicles living within the zone would receive an exemption of up to

2 years and those working and earning less than £30k would receive up to a year's exemption. Incentives for commuters including scrappage would also be on offer. Residents would be able to check if their vehicle was compliant once the Vehicle Checker Tool from Central Government was made available.

Responding to questions, officers advised that all disability adapted vehicles would automatically exempt from the charge; however if residents had specific concerns, a government helpline had been set up to provide advice and information. Appropriate signage would also be installed at all points around the CAZ to alert/remind drivers they would be entering the charging zone.

The following further comments were made by residents:-

- The cost of using public transport was very expensive and unlikely to persuade or encourage drivers to leave their cars. Safety on public transport, particularly at night was also a concern. Public transport in all forms must be sorted out if the shift in mode of travel was to be successful.
- The areas just outside the Clean Air Zone would become even more polluted as drivers tried to find parking spaces to leave their cars to avoid the daily charge. Traffic congestion around the Middleway would also increase and residents sought further clarity on how these would be addressed, especially as the health of residents in the areas just the Clean Air Zone would be compromised.
- How would the air flow, quality and pollution levels to the areas just outside the Clean Air Zone be monitored and addressed.
- The incentives for the vehicle scrappage scheme needed to be higher, especially where car owners had recently changed their vehicles only to learn that they were not compliant. In addition, many of those affected were low income earners and could not afford to replace/upgrade their vehicle.
- Cycling to and from work was not an option for many commuters, especially if showering/washing and security facilities for their bicycle was not provided by the employer.

Responding to the comments made, the officers advised that a number of measures were being considered to address the issues raised, including ring-fencing any revenue made from the CAZ to those areas immediately around the Middleway to provide residents only parking schemes, an improvement in sustainable travel and to help tackle any increase in air pollution. Full details would be available on the City Council website in due course.

Residents were also given details of the current Birmingham Transport Plan consultation which was currently being carried out and actively encouraged to take part. Details of the consultation could be found online via the Be Heard pages.

Cllr Fowler and residents thanked Peter and Aftab for their attendance and update.

4. Residents Issues

Drug dealing openly from cars continued to be a problem. Full details including video recordings had been passed on to the police for information and action.

5. Dates of Future Ward Meeting Dates

Mon 27th April

Mon 27th July } Venues to be confirmed

Mon 26th Oct

Mon 25th Jan 2021

Meeting closed at 8.32pm