

## SUTTON VESEY WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Sutton Vesey	<b>DATE:</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2023
<b>VENUE:</b> Wylde Green URC Church Hall, corner of Britwell Rd and Highbridge Rd, B73 5SW	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> <b>18:45 – 19:00:</b> Sow Vesey <b>19:00 – 19:30:</b> Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum AGM <b>19:30 – 20:55:</b> Sutton Vesey Ward Forum Meeting
<b>COUNCILLOR/S:</b> Rob Pocock and Kath Scott	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 32
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Mel Coton (BCC), Karl Randall (BCC), Keith Smith (Kier)	<b>VISITING SPEAKER(S):</b> John Porter (Local resident and former Parks Manager), Ray Beech, Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum

<b>CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Litter, clean streets, and bin collections</li> <li>2. Grass Verges (management and maintenance)</li> <li>3. Parks and Open Spaces (management and maintenance)</li> <li>4. Improve roads, pavements, lights, and trees</li> <li>5. Parking problems</li> <li>6. Speeding and Road Safety</li> <li>7. Neighbourhood policing and crime prevention</li> <li>8. Community Libraries</li> <li>9. Local Shopping Centres</li> <li>10. Stronger Community Development</li> <li>11. Community Planning</li> <li>12. Supporting Schools</li> <li>13. Supporting young people</li> <li>14. Older people's care</li> <li>15. Public Health</li> </ol>

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## **MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:**

### **Sow Vesey – John Porter (Local resident and former Parks Manager)**

- John provided an overview of previous work in the ward and suggestions regarding how the green agenda could move forward.
- There are biodiversity grants available that local groups can apply for.
- There are a number of voluntary 'Friends of' groups looking after sites across the ward. More volunteers are needed.
- John suggested creating a 'Green Group' to support action and jointly access funding.
- **Action:** Sow Vesey meeting to be arranged in the new year with all 'Friends of' groups to be invited.
  - To look at short/ medium/ long-term goals
  - Understand what funding is available to apply for

### **Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum (BNF) AGM – Ray Beech (Chair)**

- Ray advised the forum that he is no longer able to continue as Chair due to relocation outside of the Boldmere boundary.
- Ray provided an overview of how the BNF began and the key achievements to date.
- BNF started a long time ago and first worked on getting the lights down by the shops.
- Through Proceeds of Crime funding, two benches were installed on Boldmere Road.
- Discussions around installing more play areas and refurbishing of play equipment at Town Gate started a long time ago and are still ongoing.
- BNF has helped Friends of Mossy Bank with extra bollards, Friends of the Spinney with publicity and helped Hope Food with donations.
- Lots of new trees have been planted. BNF ensured that trees are replaced where they have been taken down.
- Ray explained that the main purpose of the forum is communicating with residents. There used to be two pages in Vesey Pages with BNF updates but this stopped during Covid.
- Resident raised the out-of-date information on the digital signage in Age UK. Ray explained that it needs someone that could update digital publicity in Age UK window. Gentleman offered to support with the IT/digital advertising.
- **Action:** Ray to take gentleman's details at end of the meeting to see if that could be moved forward.
- The BNF has received a substantial amount of money from grants so far for projects in Boldmere. No further grants available from BCC due to cuts.
- Forum business: The BNF has a committee of ten. This is now down to seven as chair has to step down and two further have resigned.
- **Request:** Ray asked if anyone would like to join the committee as a couple more people are needed. The role is not onerous. All members get on well and meetings take place as and when needed.

- John Porter suggested that next year could be a 'Green' year for BNF, focussing on green projects.
- Ray explained BNF can only work within the constitution. Cllr Scott added that groups would have to work alongside the forum as BNF is more about communicating, and the green group would need to be more about delivering.
- There was a conversation around joining up to Boldmere Futures CIC. There is a membership scheme. The constitution says it is a £1 membership fee, however it is not easy to find out how you can become a member.
- **Action:** Cllr Pocock will try to reconnect the community with the membership of the CIC. Get that message out to the community with info of different groups and how they can engage.
- Ray thanked everyone for the work in the past and hopes things move from strength to strength in the future with the new committee.
- There was a unanimous vote of thanks to Ray for all his work and support in the area.
- The work of the forum was unanimously supported.

#### **Sutton Vesey Ward Forum Meeting – Cllr Rob Pocock and Cllr Kath Scott**

#### **Item 3: Traffic and Highways – Karl Randall, Local Highways Manager and Item 4: Road and Pavements – Keith Smith, Highways Steward for Kier Highways**

- Karl advised there is a £20k minor transport measure for the ward and at present, the allocation is continuing to be spent.
- Karl gave an overview of work in the ward. This included:
  - Give way markings on Honely Drive
  - Enhancing give ways signs at Antrobus Road/ Highbridge Rd following minor collisions
  - Drop kerbs for accessibility purposes on Ivy Road
  - Variable speed sign is broken on Stonehouse Rd. There are approx. 60 of these signs in Sutton. They are a non-maintained asset (agreement with Kier) It is not economically viable to repair the sign and so looking to replace it. Following discussions with Cllrs and Police, there are plans to trial a new option. Similar trial on Station Rd.
- The work adds up to approx. £19,100 – the remaining funds are used by the team at their discretion for disabled markings.
- Progressing with zebra crossing on Monmouth Drive. There were in excess of 400 responses in support. Town council have come forward with the funding as it was something BCC was unable to fund. It was a justified work but not high enough priority and so SCTC have provided the funds at a cost of approx. £41k. Everything is going the right direction and the crossing should be place next year. Speed monitoring has been in place with

speed changes and bollards. Now that the road is 30mph and tube tests have confirmed that the speed is under 35mph, the crossing can be implemented.

- Planning application on Boldmere road for old church hall which Little Ripley have bought. There will be a meeting with directors for Little Ripley to put comments forward and discuss what highways measures can be put in place. Outside the proposed nursery there could be a possibility of 20mph. Karl is looking into that.
- Cllr Pocock: There are proposals for all of Monmouth Drive to be 30mph as part of the citywide scheme. Part of the govt proposals linked to HS2 funds/provision.
- Q: Are there accident figures for reducing the speed?  
A: Normally the team would look at collision history, volume of traffic, lighting etc and come to a conclusion as to next steps.
- Q: Speed on Monmouth drive is excessive – Why is Walmley village 20mph and Boldmere high street is not 20mph?  
A: BCC has recognised the need to go to 20mph. Pilot area is south and east of the city (not Karl's areas) the latest area to be under consideration is the west – Soho, Handsworth etc. It might be extended to Erdington and Sutton eventually if the funds are available and it will take a long time to come. Working with Cllrs on a Brum Breathes bid for an area-wide 20mph scheme, which would be £40k/year for two years in Vesey. The average speeds have come down but there will always be exceptions.
- Clean air zone charges: That money comes back towards across the city.
- Q: What was the rationale for the speed change on Chester Rd?  
A: There are different initiatives to consider. Through Safer Routes to School (now two different schemes) One issue identified by the school was speeding. A 30mph scheme was considered, and then following a fatality the scheme was approved to reduce the speed limit.
- **Action:** Ward plan: We will hold a speeding summit with map to look at hotspots across the ward to see what can be done with resources available. Need Karl available for that discussion.
- Q: Average speed for Monmouth – does that include when everything grinds to halt? A: We take the 85th percentile – average with the bottom and top taken off to get a true record. Residents consulted as to where the tubes are best placed.
- Q: Are you open to taking suggestions for the roads for the next budget? A: The successor of ward minor transport measures is even more money but for 5 years. Requests are always welcomed and discussed.
- Q: There is a dangerous disabled bay on Redacre Way. Always vehicles parked on both sides and visibility is difficult.  
A: Yellow lines for that junction are on the list. Need several sites to be done at the same time for more value for money.
- Q: Can we get disabled bays by Age Concern?

A: We can consult on that. Its currently a white advisory disabled space. A yellow legal and enforceable space is more expensive. There is enforcement but it's about prioritising where teams go.

- Q: How can residents contact Karl's team?

**Action:** Karl to advise best way for residents to contact the team.

- Concerns raised regarding children needing to cross from Spinney to Mossy Bank. Can the speed be tackled on Antrobus Rd?

A: There are 104 wardens currently across the city. Recruitment is a challenge. No new places are getting crossing wardens.

- **Action:** Investigate the issues on Antrobus Rd (Spinney to Mossy Bank) see if there is a crossing point/refuge that might be affordable.
- Thanks noted for the work in Banners Gate regarding the disabled access and drop kerbs.
- Other concerns raised:
  - Speeds on Monmouth Drive: can be 70mph+
  - Suggestion of roundabout
  - Racing on college from Chester Road to Maxstoke
  - Congestion along the stretch up to Beggars Bush and Princess Alice. The lights are timed and synchronised at Princess Alice.
  - The road surface is poor – especially for cyclists and it is really narrow.
  - Is there any speeding information regarding Antrobus Rd
- Cllr Pocock: These issues need a strategic plan, and act in a coordinated way across the ward, so that impact from one scheme doesn't move into another area.
- **Action:** Antrobus Road Speed Survey
- **Action:** Kier to visit the Spiney with Cllrs to check the paths
- Cllr P: Chester Road outside Governors Trust – Simple pavement repair that has been there for a long time. It has been revisited and the patch to be repaired is now larger.  
**Action:** Keith to raise the request in and check status
- Concern raised regarding potholes between Maxstoke and Boldmere Road. Time of the year for potholes.

#### **Item 5: Celebrating Communities Local Grants**

- Updates from five local community groups that have received Commonwealth Games legacy funds 2023-24
- Ten applications for £22.5k split between five groups

- BNF: Bought an elephant using the funds and applied for additional funds to paint it
- Boldmere open lake swimming: funding going through the lakes £508 safety equipment/ life boats/ storage. Ongoing as to which part of the lake is safest to be used, establishing access/ safety. Ready for the summer
- Yearn2Be: Running a four-week community festival – food, culture, dance/fitness – four different events
- Friends of Wylde Green station
- Friends of the Spinney: Application for bins to help tidy up the area.
- Attendees of Ward Forum Meeting voted unanimously in favour of the fund allocations.
- Ray Beech thanked for his work.
- Sea Scouts are seeking funding to rebuild the HQ and make it more community friendly.
  - ¾ way through planning. Triple capacity for children to join cadets
  - Detail of the design is on the BCC planning website
  - Planning application is in but challenges because its within the National Monument etc
  - When the process is at delivery stage, suggest having representative back to discuss next steps further
- Friends of the Spinney now has a noticeboard – had new people join due to information on the noticeboard.
- Mossy Bank also had CCF money last year. The history boards are ready to be installed in conjunction with the school. A testament to the social history of the area
- Q: Have Mossy Bank installed the solar bricks?  
A: The bricks have been bought
- **Action:** Bricks need to be installed Cllrs to chase this with BCC
- **Action:** Graffiti passageway between Antrobus Rd and Coleshill Rd. Concerned about the lack of action. To be raised with BCC

#### **Item 6: Community Updates**

- Eco Sutton: After 6 years have managed to present to the SCTC figures around air quality and shown that it is worse than the WHO recommendations. Very much would like to support active travel initiatives.
- Banners Gate Forum: No funding received from BCC for a few years. No longer circulate newsletter to all residents. Gatepost – can get local info from website. Don't have to live in Banners Gate – it also contains Boldmere and wider Sutton news. All advertisements are free.
- More info: [bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com](http://bannersgateneighbourhoodforum.com)

- Suggestion that the BG newsletter info could go on to the Age Concern sign. RB suggested all
- Friends of the Spinney: Now have the bins. Tress were cut down without any consultation with the groups. Currently very quiet as its winter, but planning is ongoing.
- Q: Neighbourhood Action Coordination Programme (NAC) – is this still going ahead?
- It is a non-stat role – a nice to have and currently up for discussion.
- The budget is being set with greater intensity. Working Group are fighting to keep the NAC programme
- **Action:** Meet in Jan – have a general discussion about the budget and talk about what this means for the ward. Cllrs to provide a briefing to residents for the year ahead.
- Public Consultation will open and cllrs can help get residents views back

**Item 8: Future meetings**

- Provisionally: 18th Jan 2024 at URC Britwell Rd
- Agenda item: pavement parking

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Sow Vesey meeting to be arranged in the new year with all 'Friends of' groups to be invited.	John Porter/ Councillors	
2. Ray to take gentleman's details at end of the meeting to see if that could be moved forward.	Ray Beech	
3. Reconnect the community with the membership of the CIC	Cllr Pocock	
4. Hold a speeding summit with map to look at hotspots across the ward to see what can be done with resources available.	Councillors/ Karl Randall	
5. Advise best way for residents to contact the team.	Karl Randall	
6. Investigate the issues on Antrobus Rd (Spinney to Mossy Bank) see if there is a crossing point/refuge	Councillors/ Karl Randle	

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that might be affordable.		
7. Antrobus Road Speed Survey	Councillors/ Karl Randall	
8. Kier to visit the Spiney with Cllrs to check the paths	Councillors/ Keith Smith	
9. Keith to raise the pavement repair request in and check status	Keith Smith	
10. Solar bricks need to be installed Cllrs to chase this with BCC	Councillors	
11. Lack of action regarding graffiti between Antrobus Road and Colehill Road to be raised with BCC	Councillors	
12. General discussion about the budget and talk about what this means for the ward. Cllrs to provide a briefing to residents for the year ahead.	Councillors	

<b>AOB:</b>
NA