

WARD MEETING JUNE 19TH 2023

FUNDING:

Several ward funds have been confirmed by BCC and residents can contact me if they think of any ideas in the ward which can be considered for funding application:

- **Community Chest £10k** for general ward projects
- **Birmingham Breathes/Clean Air Zone £20k** for this year and next year only. Aimed at supporting projects to help improve air quality, for example:
 - cycle racks
 - school traffic exclusion plans
 - sustainable transport measures
 - parking restrictions
 - air quality monitors...and much more!

See these links:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/news/article/1342/brum_breathes_fund_launched_to_help_improve_air_quality_across_birmingham

<https://www.brumbreathes.co.uk/BrumBreathesFund>

- **Birmingham Celebrating Communities Fund £14,300** (one-off this year for each ward, Commonwealth Games legacy)

Grants will be available to run initiatives which deliver against one of three themes: **‘Getting Active’**, **‘Ready, Steady, Fun’** and **‘Celebrating Culture’** - which are described as follows:

- **Getting Active** – encouraging communities to get out and get active by participating in sports and recreational activities. The overriding aim should be to encourage residents, of all abilities and ages, to engage in physical activity and improve their health and wellbeing.
- **Ready, Steady, Fun** – delivering community projects to ensure a local area is Games ready (e.g. by improving communal space, and hosting community celebrations to develop active citizenship and reduce loneliness and social isolation).

- **Celebrating Culture** – developing community-led cultural events and initiatives that encourage intergenerational activities. Proposed schemes must harness the power of culture to bring people together, celebrate their identities, and the culture, heritage and stories of their communities.

This link shows how much each ward gets:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50116/commonwealth_games_2022/2361/celebrating_communities_funding_by_ward

All funding approvals have to be linked to the Ward Plan available to view online

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/27240/sutton_reddicap_ward_action_plan

MEETING 'FRIENDS OF FALCON LODGE' (NEW GROUP):

Compass have arranged a meeting for June 26th (a week today) at the Community Centre at 6pm. Looking for residents/volunteers who might want to help out in the local community or come up with ideas and suggestions to improve the local area.

Any ideas discussed could be presented to myself for possible ward funding.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS:

BCC Landscape team are currently sourcing quotes for three green initiatives:

- **Newdigate Fields** improvements (including easier access)
- **New Hall Valley** entrance improvements (Reddicap end at bottom of Reddicap Hill/Coleshill Road)
- Green improvements to grass area on **Wyatt Road** to deter cars from parking there

Draft plans have been drawn up. Costs are now being sourced. Funding will need to be found (possible use of old S106 funds circa £59k). Will need to go to consultation with residents before any approval.

NEWDIGATE FIELDS:

Family Fun Day is being organized by two residents (Tracey Adams and Stacy Williams); planned for the afternoon of Saturday July 15th BCC have kindly agreed to waive any fees for holding the event in Newdigate Fields. Organisers will

shortly be promoting the event following the recent success of the Coronation Fun Day held at Newdigate Fields on the Coronation Bank Holiday Monday (which attracted large numbers despite the awful wet weather!)

RECTORY PARK CYCLE HIRE:

I am liaising with WMCA, TFWM and the Town Council for the West Midlands cycle hire cycle rack to be moved from outside Good Hope to Rectory park. Conversations have (frustratingly) been going on since September but I am confident the cycle rack will be relocated to the Park very soon, fingers crossed.

RECTORY PARK POND IMPROVEMENTS:

Following concerns from residents and Friends of Rectory Park I am liaising with BCC to tidy up the pond (just behind the Boot Inn). This work will involve both the Rangers and a specialist team due to the nature of the location. Hoping that work can be done in the Autumn (outside of nesting season) – still tbc.

GARAGES:

Following recent walkabouts around the ward with the council Garages Team I have now identified five council garage locations in Falcon Lodge which would benefit from gates and padlocks. They are currently open to anyone to drive down, dump flytipping, carry out ASB out of sight.

I have been informed that the Garages department will fund these improvements – subject to resident consultation. More details, timings etc to follow when I hear more. Some of the garages at these locations are empty so added security may encourage some residents to take them up.

TOWN RANGERS:

Since the last meeting the Town Council's Town Rangers have been busy tidying up the ward eg removing graffiti on Ogle Drive (currently doing it for the third time in as many weeks), cutting back bushes on Reddicap Hill, tidying up the alleyway from Stone Avenue to Churchill Road shops etc.

If any resident comes across an area which they think would benefit from some Rangers tlc please contact me.

PUBLIC WASTE BINS:

All six bins around the shops on Churchill Road by the shops and bus stops – which were rusting and falling apart – have now been replaced and I have organized a new bin which has been installed outside New Hall Primary School.

Also on Churchill Road: moss has been removed from the guttering above the shops which was blocking the guttering when it rained.

SCHOOLS:

Fairfax will shortly be getting a defibrillator (courtesy of the Town Council) and Hollyfield Primary School will soon be joining New Hall Primary and be receiving an Air Quality Monitor.

I have also been working closely with both schools and BCC officers for several months and both schools have signed up to Modeshift Stars and are developing a school travel plan. Both schools are pushing forwards with this, which is great as it will hopefully release funding opportunities to support Car Free School Streets (New Hall) and 20mph zone (Hollyfield).

New Hall is a bit further down the road with this at the moment. They have received support from parents and local residents to turn Langley Hall Drive into a 'car free' zone at the start and end of the school day to reduce air pollution and improve the safety for young children. A pilot day is being planned, along with two consultation meetings with residents and parents next month.

The 20mph area outside Hollyfield Primary is in early discussion and I have raised outline proposals with Highways based on the number of regular speeding concerns I receive from parents taking their kids to school, and residents on the road. In the many Speedwatches I have conducted with the Police in the ward over the past two years Hollyfield Road is the worst road for speeding offences. There is already a mandatory 20mph zone outside Fairfax and John Willmott. My initial thoughts are to extend this zone along the other roads at the Pesto traffic lights ie Hollyfield Road, Hollyfield Road South and Reddicap Hill.

On July 8th I have arranged with Highways or three data strips to be installed for one week to measure traffic speed on Reddicap Heath Road (both ends) and the Walmley Road cut through by the dentists.

FALCON LODGE FLORALS:

I was delighted to see the *hanging baskets* going up after the Town Council agreed to my requests to brighten up Churchill Road and the shops area.

The Town Council have to use BCC contractors to put these up as BCC own the land, street furniture etc. Unfortunately, BCC haven't done a complete job (much to my frustration and the Town Council's). Another 20 hanging baskets are still be put up down Churchill Road (down to the playground area) and *flowers* will be put in tubs on the island area at the bottom of Carhampton Road. So more to come!

The *wildflower* meadow was supposed to have been extended but BCC forgot to do it and they also planted the wildflowers later than they should have done as they didn't order the seeds in time. So there will be a later wildflower display this year (late summer/early autumn), in common with other areas in the town.

CCTV:

I have been working with Council Safety Partnership Managers and the local Police over the past six months to install a temporary CCTV camera on Churchill Road. Consultation letters are going out to residents within 100m radius of the proposed camera sometime this week. Once (hopefully) approved the camera will be in situ for a minimum of 12 weeks.

OTHER DATES:

I have arranged another walkabout in Falcon Lodge with local Police on Monday June 26th (next week); next Speedwatch date TBC

I am looking to arrange a meeting with the Parks team and Romulus FC to explore ideas to make better use of Newdigate Fields for kids football activities/events

I hold my Advice Surgery every third Thursday of the month at St Chads Church at 6.30pm

Next Ward Meeting: Falcon Lodge Community Centre, Monday July 31st at 6.30pm

Cllr Richard Parkin