

LADYWOOD WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Ladywood	DATE: 15 th December 2022
VENUE: Ladywood Health & Community Centre, St Vincent Street West B16 8RP	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.30pm
COUNCILLORS Kath Hartley & Albert Bore	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 4
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stephen Arnold, Head of Clean Air Zone Pat Whyte, Community Support & Development Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Welcome from Councillor Hartley, Chair.

It was noted that the boiler had broken and there was no heating in the Centre, therefore it was agreed to briefly consider the CAZ item agenda but present more fully at the next meeting and also defer other items to the next meeting.

2. Notice of Recording

Councillor Hartley advised that press/public can record and take photographs except where there were exempt or confidential matters

3. Birmingham's Clean Air Zone

Stephen Arnold provided an update on the introduction of the CAZ and highlighted the following main points –

- It was important to continue to listen to resident's views following the initial consultation to hear how the CAZ impacted lives and how the income generated could be best used
- Chief Medical Officers Annual Report focused on air pollution and effect on health
- The CAZ had been part of Government policy to lower Birmingham's air pollution and the system introduced had been the only way to do that
- Since the introduction of the CAZ, 99% of buses entering had become compliant and there had not been a reduction in the numbers of vehicles so the CAZ had not been a deterrent but had accelerated the levels of compliance. Levels of nitrogen dioxide had reduced by 14% between 2019 – 2021
- 50% of permits were issued to Ladywood residents
- In the New Year the Clean Air Fund would be launched and £20k for single member wards/£40k 2 member wards would be allocated to spend on projects that supported the CAZ. A menu of projects that money could be spent on would be published and wards could match fund to enhance projects
- In 2023 every school would be offered an air quality monitor

Residents then made the following comments and Stephen responded accordingly –

- Query concerning areas of exceedances. Meeting advised an annualised mean was taken across the CAZ to take into account times of day & seasons. Islington Row and Carrs Lane were hotspots

- If the number of compliant cars was increasing, then income generation would reduce. This was acknowledged and revenue was expected to reduce year on year up to 2026/7, then a further 2 years would be required to ensure the situation did not revert.
- Request made for information on health data and also impact from building works
- In response to comments on work being undertaken with the Canals & Rivers Trust to encourage use of the waterways, Councillor Hartley said she would forward details in connection with Crowd Funding, and it was suggested contact be made with Midland Sailing Club at the Edgbaston Reservoir

- Councillor Bore commented on taxi drivers adding the CAZ charge onto the fare. Stephen said he was not aware as taxi's ranking in the city centre absorbed the CAZ charge and there were specific grants for taxi/private hire drivers. There were a number of retirement age taxi drivers with non-compliant vehicles but management of this was a business decision and he undertook to raise with TOA.
- Councillor Bore queried use of the CAZ fund for double yellow lines in Osler Street to prevent coaches from parking and better manage coach parking in the area
- Councillor Hartley expressed concern that in the lead up to the implementation of the CAZ the impact on Ladywood ward had been studied as residents had, for years, suffered pollution, deferred city centre parking and other traffic issues. They and other inner-city wards had then become victims of the CAZ, especially as due to levels of deprivation residents were likely to own non-complaint cars so she queried why all wards were to receive the fund. More information on rat-running and impact on roads within and on the edges of the CAZ was required. The meeting was advised that a survey on controlled parking zones, roads in and around the CAZ and displacement was to be undertaken
- Councillor Bore stressed that the need to assess displacement and knock-on parking in residential roads

before looking at more CPZ. Parking on Middleway View estate by people working in the city centre was causing issues such as refuse vehicles being unable to negotiate residential roads.

- Councillor Hartley referred to work being undertaken with Sandwell Council on sustainable walking routes, cycle paths etc and the need to link crossing points etc in the Dudley Road development with the Icknield Port Loop development to increase connectivity. There was no funding linked to this, but use of S106/CIL funding must be explored
- Councillor Bore asked that before air monitors were located at schools, roads with most congestion morning and afternoon be ascertained and the monitors sited accordingly. Councillor Hartley asked for data from St Marks School to see if pollution had improved after the CAZ
- Councillor Bore made reference to resident exemptions and in particular to an issue faced by a resident who changed his vehicle and had renewed his resident parking permit but still received numerous CAZ fines. It took some time to resolve and it had demonstrated a lack of communication between the CAZ team and the parking permit team. Central Ladywood, Chamberlain Gardens, St Marks and Attwood Green all had residents parking schemes so prior to renewal it was imperative that both teams worked together, and he requested that Stephen attend a future meeting before second year exemptions closed to provide relevant information.

4. Chamberlain Gardens Park

Presentation by the Friends of Chamberlain Gardens Park, deferred to next meeting

5. Ladywood Constituency's Neighbourhood Network Scheme

Deferred to next meeting

6. AOB

Monument Road Traffic Issues – safety concerns expressed regarding speeding vehicles, congestion, obstructive parking and lack of enforcement. Pedestrian safety was put at risk trying to cross the road. Councillor Bore said speed strips had been put down in other roads and funding could be looked for to put similar in Monument Road.