

NECHELLS WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Nechells	DATE: 21 st March 2024
VENUE: The POD, Oliver Street B7 4NX	START/FINISH TIMES: 6.30pm – 7.30pm
COUNCILLOR Lee Marsham	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 4
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Joe Green, Travel Demand Manager Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Cleaner Nechells
2. A Safer Nechells
3. A Greener Nechells
4. A Healthier & Better Connected Nechells

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

Councillor Marsham welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the public/press could record and take photographs of the meeting unless there were exempt or confidential items.

2. Birmingham Transport Plan & Road Harm Reduction Strategy

Joe Green, with the aid of a power point presentation, explained the principals of the Birmingham Transport Plan. While the financial challenges facing the city council impacted on aspects of work, the Travel Plan was funded via external funding and therefore was not affected by budget restriction. The BTP would benefit the city, reduce the negative impact of transport on the environment and contribute to Net Zero targets. The Delivery Plan moved away from mode-based schemes and looked at space and place, underpinned by communication and consultation with the community and local involvement. In respect of Nechells, Councillor Marsham said that as there was no local centre or High Street the key would be access to neighbouring

centres.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that funding for schemes over the next 3 years included Dudley Road Improvement Scheme, public transport schemes, Active Travel Fund for smaller projects and a Healthy Street Fund (replacing local transport budget). It was stressed that none of the funding was coming from the council's general fund.

Road Harm Reduction Strategy

Joe outlined projects included and advised this replaced the Road Safety Strategy and moved away from accident counts to a view of safer streets overall – Vision Zero. The strategy would be delivered with the police and West Midlands Road Safety Group. There was a consultation for residents currently open on Be Heard, closing date 5th April –

<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/economy/roadharmreduction/>

Residents made the following points –

- Supermarkets in the city centre had closed and as there were no local supermarkets, residents needed good public transport access to neighbouring shopping centres.
- A large proportion of households in Nechells did not own a car.
- The bus service to Star City was poor, forcing people to drive. The number 66 service only offered a single decker bus that was frequently late and there were no digital bus stops. Nechells Parkway to Star City would benefit from a bus route.
- Trains to the QE Hospital and university station required better publication.
- Since the removal of the cycle lanes, few people cycled or walked from Nechells to the city centre. There was no proper cycle route.
- Barrack Street was a particularly noisy road with double parking by motorists avoiding the CAZ charge, including university staff. Residents could not park near their homes; deliveries were missed as delivery vans could not stop. It was suggested making roads one-way to manage the situation.
- Wing Yip island was an accident hot-spot and required a solution
- Car Free Streets around schools was a priority as while parents did walk their children to school, parking in and around school roads by people using the area to park, made it unsafe.

Councillor Marsham said that bus companies did not provide sufficient information regarding bus timetables. Nechells residents had to cross the middle ring road to travel on foot, which was not safe and was heavily polluted therefore bus services were important. He was working with HS2 to develop a

road safety scheme to improve pedestrian safety around Duddeston Station. Nechells had a high accident rate and there was a need for road safety schemes across the ward, prioritising school roads, followed by Melvina & Duddeston Manor Roads.

3. Councillor Updates/ Local Updates/Residents Issues

Councillor Marsham advised

- of a petition regarding Nechells Parkway road works
- 40 trees had been planted and a competition for children to encourage watering was underway.