

BRANDWOOD & KINGS HEATH WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Brandwood & Kings Heath	DATE: 27 February 2019
VENUE: Kings Heath Community Centre, Heathfield Road B14 7DB	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm to 9.15pm
COUNCILLORS: Lisa Trickett & Mike Leddy	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 18
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Doug Lee, Development Planning Manager, BCC Keith Watson, Principal Development Planning Officer Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER: Paul Bishton, re: Kingsway Development Karen Creavin, Chief Executive, The Active Well Being Society

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Local Innovation Fund – Updates from Projects
 - a) Brandwood Bid Writer Project – Phil Grainger gave an update on the assistance given to groups applying for funding and also bringing groups together to share information. A funding day was being organised for 27 March at the Brandwood Centre to provide advice for groups on bid writing. Also looking at setting up ‘Friends of’ groups and creating a funding directory. John Jaffa to forward Phil list of groups in the area to add to the distribution list to receive information about funding.
 - b) Skills for Work Project – report circulated
 - c) Kings Heath Creative Spaces Project – Kate Goodall & Katy Stone outlined the progress to date with the project. Numerous contacts had been made and artists engaged, many of whom had not engaged with the community previously. A working group had been working on finding a venue for the hub and was currently in negotiations, the outcome of which would be known shortly. Volunteers has been developing the website/blog/links to get involved/receive information. Resident’s views were being sought on what they wanted to see from the space. In response to questions the meeting was advised that initially the hub would be a temporary space but from the response so far the goal was for a permanent space.

d) A435 Project – Helen Baglee circulated a report setting out the work of the project centred around the ‘Fighting for Air’ project. A connection had been made with Druids Heath & Monyhull Neighbourhood Forum and further contact needed to be made with Balsall Heath Forum. Background work with scientists, councillors and the Well Being service had been ongoing and a consultation in the neighbourhood around the Clean Air Zone was being planned. It was hoped to involve as many people as possible on traffic surveys and consultations. A local resident expressed the view that Brandwood was being made to feel separate to Kings Heath when the areas were both part of the same neighbourhood and now the same ward. Roads running off the High Street were affected but there was concern that the efforts were centred on the High Street. An undertaking was given to involve Brandwood Forum and the high street had been the starting point of the project due to the high pollution levels but the comments made were acknowledged. Councillor Trickett said she felt that clean air could be one of the ward priorities for the ward plan. There was some discussion regarding air monitoring equipment and Karen Creavin said that she had equipment that was used when roads were closed for events and that finding could be used to compare with monitoring done elsewhere. Consideration was being given to a May Day celebration with Druids Heath & Monyhull Neighbourhood Forum and this could be extended to a celebration of the ‘Heaths’

2. School Crossing Patrols

Councillor Trickett referred to a city council decision to only fund priority school crossings. Following this there had been considerable lobbying from Kings Heath Primary School and a challenge to the policy. A total review of school crossing patrols had been promised and funding made available for schools within the Safer Routes to Schools context and also looking at other options eg possibility of Woodthorpe School having a zebra crossing as this might be more appropriate – therefore the most appropriate solutions would be considered based on the rights of the child. Three schools in the ward had been offered as pilots.

3. Update on Local Developments

Doug Lee gave the following update from the last meeting;

- **Railway Station** – the planning application had not yet been submitted but was due in April. Concern expressed by residents regarding the knock on effect of parking for the station on residential streets. Also the effect of the CAZ on parking in areas on

the outskirts. Councillor Leddy asked about a number of emails that he had received with regard to the Camp Hill Chords and a perceived threat posed by a planning application in the Digbeth area. Doug Lee said this related to the opening of the Camp Hill line to passenger services and the proposed station at Kings Heath which was discussed at the last meeting. At the moment the initial proposed service would run every half hour into New Street Station. In the longer term it was proposed to run more frequent rail services into Moor Street Station. In order to do this two new short sections of railway are required on the approach to Moor Street Station (the 'Chords') and there is a concern that a current planning application in Digbeth may impact on the ability to do this. Although the Chords proposal has been around for some time and there is a reference supporting it in the Birmingham Development Plan, the business case and details of the proposal have not been advanced. Nevertheless officers are meeting transport bodies (TfWM, Network Rail etc) and the applicants to explore amendments to the scheme that address these concerns.

- **Regency Court Planning Application** – refused
- **Development Management in Birmingham Consultation** – details could be found on the Council's website
- **Urban Centres Framework** – the consultation had been extended to 18 March. While Kings Heath was not on the list a piece of work was being considered around the opportunities for Kings Heath in light of the train station/cinema site etc. Councillor Trickett said that she would be meeting with Richard Cowell prior to the end date.

Kingsway Cinema Development – Paul Bishton gave a brief update on the progress of the development, explaining that the delay had been caused by trying to balance introducing a community element to the development and the feasibility of the project. The project was at the end of the pre-application process and a public consultation would follow shortly. The building would consist of residential, ground floor retail and 1st floor community use. Negotiations had been for the whole site including car park/Ambassadors. Paul undertook to provide a more detailed update at a future meeting. Councillors and residents offered assistance with the consultation.

Actions: a) Doug Lee to investigate a local framework for Brandwood & Kings Heath

b) Keith Watson to engage with councillors and local community regarding a piece of work around opportunities for the High Street in connection with the new train station, Kingsway development etc

c) Paul Bishton to attend future meetings to provide updates on the Kingsway Cinema development

d) Mauverine to discuss with Paul students input into the consultation

4. Kings Heath Community Centre

Councillor Trickett referred to the work done by the Friends Of Kings Heath Community Centre group on the future of the centre and the open day that had been held to find out people's views and the Group had looked at how it could be taken forward for the community and run by the community. The Active Wellbeing Society had been approached for help and Karen Creavin suggested a street closure for a day and hold an event to get residents, businesses, people who do not usually use the centre involved. It was suggested having a 'Wishing Day' so people could put forward ideas for what they wish the centre could be/do. Volunteers to pull a group together to work on this were sought.

Residents said that communication was key so that people knew what was going on. It was suggested that the day link in with other planned street closures so that more than one event could be organised and that students be encouraged to attend and to do some work on the event.

Actions: Councillors & Kay to make enquiries about use of notice boards in All Saints Square to display information and to speak to shops about displaying posters etc.

5. Things of Concern, Things to Commend

- a) Springfield Road – residents expressed concern regarding the speed of traffic and queried how they could get 20mph flashing signs, similar to those installed in other roads. **Councillor Leddy said he would ask Sgt O'Keefe regarding a sign and also about setting up a Street Watch group.**
- b) Street Cleaning – concern about rubbish on the streets and in particular chewing gum on the pavements, although acknowledged that street cleaning had improved since Christmas. **Councillors Leddy & Trickett to meet with the BID about this issue.** Residents suggested encouraging the BID to encourage businesses to pick up litter from outside their own premises.
- c) Highbury Park – complaints regarding the rubbish and that bins were not emptied often enough. **Councillor Trickett to take up.**