

LONGBRIDGE & WEST HEATH WARD MEETING NOTES

WARD: Longbridge & West Heath	DATE: 17 June 2019
VENUE: St John the Baptist Church, Longbridge Lane B31 4JN	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 9pm
COUNCILLORS Debbie Clancy (Chair) & Brett O'Reilly	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 25
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Steve Dallaway, Matthew Morrison, Ron Williams - Housing Development Team Mike Hopkins, Principle Bournville College Stuart Cross, Amey Highway Steward Carmel Corrigan, Local Area Co-ordinator, Adult Social Care Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	Apology – Richard Burden M.P. , Sergeant Lamerton

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:

1. Reabrook Road Potential BMHT Scheme

Steve Dallaway and Matthew Morrison outlined the scheme comprising of 23, 2 bed houses. All homes would be managed by the City Council and would be offered to waiting list applicants. In response to questions the meeting was advised that each property would have a parking space, with visitors parking in addition. In view of the proximity to the station it was envisaged that residents would use the train and experience showed that residents in this size home usually only had one car. If issues did arise housing officers would look to enforcement as BCC needed to become more sustainable. Demolition of the office buildings would begin in December with completion of the new properties by September 2020. With regard to employment opportunities, conditions would be built into the contract including training & employment opportunities for young people in the factory where the units were built.

2. Police Update – deferred

3. Bournville College

Councillor O'Reilly declared an interest as an employee of South & City College.

Mike Hopkins stated he wished to open dialogue between the College and residents to ensure any issues could be dealt with such as the issues related to parking and student behaviour. He advised that when students left the campus out of college times they were not the responsibility of the college but if there was some assistance that could be offered or ways of bring students into the building out of hours this could be investigated.

Mike Hopkins referred to the facilities at the college that could be used for community meetings etc.

In response to complaints regarding litter the meeting was informed that litter picks were undertaken on a regular basis within the college boundary but some of the litter did not come from students. The college was trying to discourage students from smoking and Mike Hopkins undertook to remind staff regarding the use of the smoking area. He asked residents to advise him if staff were seen smoking outside the college grounds.

With regard to parking issues, residents said that problems still existed. The meeting was advised that the college had taken over land from St Modwen for parking provision and there were now sufficient spaces for all staff needing to park.

In response to questions regarding work with local schools Mike said that work was expanding and schools were using college facilities for work experience and the college provided 6th form places with more options and vocational studies for students. The college had support staff for all students and the range of subjects at A level was much larger than offered by schools & there was an opportunity to 'mix and match'. Visitors and future students were welcome to visit.

There was some discussion regarding bus travel to the college for students and the original plan for buses to go into the college. Mike Hopkins said he felt there were insufficient buses and would prefer that the buses did come into the college and would pursue additional stops. Councillor Clancy cautioned that elderly residents used the buses and any change would have to be well manged and suitable for all. Buses for students would need to be carefully managed.

There was further discussion regarding the lack of local employers and that links with The Factory had not been successful. There were

links with the Soho Road and Retail Bids and discussions were underway with Northfield BID. It was acknowledged that manufacturers were needed in the area to provide opportunities for young people studying those courses at college and that further discussion was needed with St Modwen and some incentive was necessary.

4. Local Area Co-ordinator West Heath, Adult Social Care

Carmel Corrigan explained her role and that it was hoped to have a post for each constituency to help make local communities stronger, offer advice, sign post and engage with any age range across adults. She currently covered the West Heath part of the ward only.

In response to questions the meeting was advised that;

- She would be working with various agencies to help people support themselves
- There was no referral system, forms to complete or eligibility criteria. Access based on address.
- There was no time frame – support offered to an individual would take as long as the necessary
- There was no fixed office, Carmel would be travelling around the area but could arrange drop in sessions at venues recommended by the community
- Details were in the process of being added to the council’s website and information leaflets would be circulated around the area.

In response to a query from Councillor O’Reilly the meeting was advised that there was a willingness to support Local Area Co-Ordinators for other areas across the city and discussions were ongoing.

Councillor Clancy queried confidentiality and how referrals could be made on behalf of an individual. Carmel advised that introductions could be made and she would then help support an individual to help themselves.

5. Ward Plan Priorities

Councillor Clancy referred to previous meetings where ward plan priorities had been discussed and that views had also been sought via B31 Voices. The responses from both sources had been collated and the following top 5 priorities identified;

- Parking

- Grass verge protection
- Street scene
- Community safety/policing
- Youth facility improvement

During the course of discussion the vulnerability of older people in the ward, given the age profile, was also considered a priority and it was agreed to add this into the plan. Parks and open spaces were also in need of protection and this was a priority that should also be considered.

With regard to parking more enforcement was needed as a solution to indiscriminate and inconsiderate parking.

To sum up Councillor O'Reilly said that the Plan was an evolving document and therefore Ageing Well could be added as a new priority and Parks and Public Open Spaces were relevant to all priorities. He suggested holding an annual conference to work with stakeholders and encourage them to make one pledge about how they would help with the wards priorities.

6. **Residents Issues**

a) Highway Issues

In response to concerns raised Stuart Cross undertook to

- Inspect potholes outside St Brigid's Primary School
- Visit Tessall Lane to look at cracked paving slabs & find out when inspection was due and report to councillors
- Report gulley in Robinsfield Drive and ensure an inspection of location was undertaken
- Inspect raised kerbs near Cofton Medical Centre
- Undertake a general walkabout and report back to councillors

b) Longbridge Lane/Coombes Lane/Grovelly Lane

Concern expressed about the safety of the junction as motorists were using middle lane to overtake traffic and therefore suggestion made that the middle lane be converted to 'right turn only'. Councillor Clancy said that she would feed that request in the

Longbridge Connectivity Works safety audit

c) Devon Way Developments

Lorries associated with the works were causing issues, mounting the pavement, dropping mud/debris on the road and taxis were parking in the lay by near to the station. Councillor Clancy undertook to investigate.

d) Buses near Sainsbury

In response to complaints regarding buses stopping Councillor Clancy said she had numerous conversations with National Express and they were aware of the issue but she would contact them again. Residents said that the situation had improved.

e) Longbridge Retirement Village Shared Space

Concern expressed that drivers were unaware this was a shared space when turning into M&S as there were no pedestrian crossings and this was unsafe for residents of the retirement village. Planters had been put in place as an emergency measure but it was still dangerous for drivers & pedestrians. Councillor Clancy suggested and it was agreed to invite representatives from St Modwen to the next meeting to discuss various issues around the developments.

f) BP Petrol Station- Councillor Clancy to take up removal of blue container.

Councillors (s) Signed:

Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):