

## DRUIDS HEATH & MONYHULL WARD MEETING NOTES

<b>WARD: Druids Heath &amp; Monyhull</b>	<b>DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024</b>
<b>VENUE: Monyhull Church, St Francis Drive B30 3PS</b>	<b>START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8.50pm</b>
<b>COUNCILLOR Julien Pritchard</b>	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES: 21</b>
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> <b>Sandra Green, Senior Travel Demand Manager, BCC</b> <b>Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager</b>  <b>Councillor Rob Grant, Kings Norton South also in attendance</b>	<b>Apologies from PCSO &amp; Mrs McKinney, Head Teacher, St Albans School</b>

### CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

1. A Bold Prosperous Druids Heath & Monyhull
2. A Bold Inclusive Druids Heath & Monyhull
3. A Bold Safe Druids Heath & Monyhull
4. A Bold Healthy Druids Heath & Monyhull
5. A Bold Green Druids Heath & Monyhull
6. A Bold Local Druids Heath & Monyhull

### MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

#### **1. Welcome & Notice of Recording**

Councillor Pritchard welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members of the public/press could take photographs of the meeting and record except where there were exempt or confidential matters.

#### **2. School Parking**

Councillor Pritchard said that school parking was an issue of concern raised repeatedly by residents especially in respect of St Albans School, Bells Farm School and Broadmeadow School. He had met with Head Teachers of the 3 schools together with the police sergeant, in an attempt to encourage

different modes of travel to/from school and to try to get more enforcement for illegal parking.

Sandra Green made the following main points –

- She worked with schools to encourage alternative ways of getting to/from school other than driving.
- There was a need for some car travel and most parents did not cause problems.
- There were several initiatives available to schools eg Mode Shift Stars, Park & Stride, WOW (Walk Once a Week) & physical measures eg bollards, double height kerbing to discourage dangerous parking.
- Car Free School Streets was a further initiative that closed the school road to most traffic at school picking up/dropping off times. This incurred a cost and needed to be marshalled by the school.

Residents then made the following comments –

- Walkers Heath Road – cars parked for school drop off/pick up, McDonalds, shops etc obstructing driveways etc. Requests to move cars were met with abuse. Residents had to time leaving/returning home around school parking.
- Private resident's car park situated at rear of properties on Walkers Heath Road often blocked by cars parked by parents. Litter thrown from the parked cars was also an issue. (Councillor Grant to take up)
- Residents concerned that parking restrictions outside Broadmeadow School would create more parking on Walkers Heath Road.
- Parking for St Albans School caused difficulties for residents re drives blocked, dangerous parking, dangerous driving, double parking, emergency service vehicles unable to access roads and abuse from parents/drivers when challenged.
- The use of Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre car park would help ease the situation, but parents were not willing to walk.
- It was acknowledged that it was a minority of parents that caused problems and there was a need to change the mindset of those involved.
- Spearhead Trust had installed bollards to prevent Bells Farm School car parking, but the bollards had been illegally removed and car parking in Bells Farm Close was causing chaos and preventing user/staff access to Bells Farmhouse. There was concern that emergency vehicles would have difficulty reaching the mainly elderly residents living there. The school had not been helpful to the situation.
- A teacher from Broadmeadow Junior School concurred regarding the views on inconsiderate parking/driving but assured the meeting that the school made every attempt to educate parents and a teacher was outside the school gates every morning to try to marshal traffic.
- Residents of Sherston Covert expressed concern that as bollards had been put around the green space, coupled with the amount of school parking, emergency vehicles would be unable to access the road.
- Residents felt that they needed to work together to find a solution & the following suggestions were made,

- regular police enforcement and issue of parking tickets, Broad Lane junction improvement to include measures to assist the parking situation, turn part of Broadmeadow School playing field into a car park (locked out of school time), use of Cocks Moors Woods, McDonalds, Horse Shoe pub car parks (although acknowledged McDonalds car park probably too small) for Park and Stride, use Brockworth Road lay by for parking, registration numbers of badly parked vehicles published in school newsletters as a deterrent, gate off Bells Farm Close.

Sandra commented that Car Free School Streets, was more difficult where the school was on a main road or bus route. Schools were working hard to re-educate parents/children and there was a longer-term plan – Vision Zero - looking at designing streets to be safer, currently under development by BCC. Dash cam footage could be sent to Next Base, a company working with WM Police, and action would be taken where appropriate and lists of schools actioning parking mitigations were provided to traffic wardens for random patrols.

Councillor Pritchard advised he and Sandra were talking to schools and engaging with parents/children through lessons. He would look at Park & Stride schemes for Broadmeadow & St Albans Schools and Car Free Streets for Bells Farm & St Albans schools although due to funding this would be in 2025. Residents welcomed this action and suggested incentive schemes to encourage use.

It was suggested that Clandon Close & part of Walkers Heath Road be considered as Car Free School Streets for Broadmeadow School.

Other issues were raised as follows –

- Parking on Bells Lane (after traffic lights/before bus stop) on pavement causing obstruction for pedestrians and also blocking the road. Double kerbing as a deterrent suggested.
- Keynell Covert – parking restricting deliveries getting to GP/health centre.
- Druids Heath redevelopment would exacerbate the situation when more houses were built.

**Councillor Pritchard thanked all for attending and for their input/suggestions and undertook to take forward the ideas discussed.**

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. Park & Stride schemes for Broadmeadow & St Albans schools & Car Free Street Schemes, Bayston Road for St Albans School & Bells Farm Close for Bells Farm School	1. Cllr Pritchard	1. On going
2. Clandon Close/part of Walkers Heath Road considered as Car Free School Street for Broadmeadow School	2. Sandra Green	2. On going
3. Continued discussion with local schools around problem parking. Arrange a meeting with Bells Farm School/residents/Spearhead Trust	3. Cllr Pritchard/Sandra Green	3. On going
4. Walkers Heath Road, private car park rear of newer houses, repeatedly blocked by parked cars.	4. Residents/Cllr Grant to look at reinstating fencing/erecting bollards.	