

Birmingham City Council
Notes of the meeting of the Longbridge Ward Forum
8 September 2016 at 6.30pm
at The Hollymoor Centre, Manor Park Grove, B31 5ER

Present: Councillors Andy Cartwright and Carole Griffiths and Richard Burden M.P.

Glenn Smith, Senior District Engineer
Sharon Bennett, Education Services
Jas Didially, Education Services
Marie Hewitt, Highway Inspector, Amey
Ruth Bowles, Place Manager
Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

There were 50+ residents also in attendance

1. **Election of a Chair for 2016/17** – Councillor Andy Cartwright
2. **Notice of Recording** – Noted
3. **Apologies** – Councillor Cruise, Sergeant Khan
4. **Notes of Previous Meeting** - agreed
5. **Petition** – from residents objecting to the removal of the grass verge along the central reservation, Bristol Road South from Longbridge town to Hawkesley Mill to turn it into a meadow as part of the Longbridge Connectivity project. This would create an eye sore as it would not be properly maintained and would trap litter. There had been no consultation with residents.
Action: Councillor to submit petition to next City Council meeting.
Officer responsible for the scheme to attend next meeting to provide an update.

6. **THE MEADOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL – HIGHWAY/PARKING ISSUES**

Glenn Smith advised that £50k had been identified 2 years ago for TRO's on Bristol Road, School Close & Bodenham Road. £250k was also available, subject to the School Travel Plan and this had still not been released. There had been 2 consultations which had been reported to the last meeting in connection with verge protection, 20mph limits, guard rails etc. The design work had commenced but a petition of objection to the Kiss & Drop had been submitted so work was being undertaken with the school.

The meeting was advised by Sharon that the £200k was allocated to the project and as soon as the plans were available the money could be released. Glenn said the money was required before the plans could be started. **Sharon and Glenn undertook to meet outside the meeting to finalise funding.**

Residents then made the following comments;

1. There was no opposition to the idea of a 'Kiss & Drop' but it should be located at the main gates of the school off the Bristol Road. It was not safe for the children to be dropped off in Bodenham Road and the safety of the children should be the priority.

2. Traffic on the Bristol Road travelled at speeds in excess of 60mph but there was no signage or slow down notices. Hanging Lane was not suitable for HGV's but they were routed along the road and residents suffered noise nuisance and fumes.
3. The HGV sign on Hanging Lane was advisory and needed to be prohibitive.
4. Residents had been to several meetings and had heard about what could happen but were living with the nuisance on a daily basis and it was time for action. The school needed to act on the impact on residents of the kiss and drop and involve residents.
5. Children were running out of cars and a number of near misses had been witnessed
6. Cars were parked over drives, obstructed other vehicles, double parked, cars drove along the pavement and drivers were abusive and threatening. This was occurring morning and afternoon.
7. The school capacity should not have been increased without the provision of adequate parking as a large number of children attending came from outside the area.
8. Concern at the impact of the possible golf course development on the area in terms of traffic and increased numbers of children.
9. The use of the central reservation for parking was suggested
10. The use of the front of Reynolds & Reynolds was suggested
11. The use of the land at the police station was suggested
12. Prohibit cars around the school and use a school bus to bring the children.
13. There needed to be action with residents to stop the Kiss & Drop and lessen the impact on residents and businesses.
14. The issues referred to related to Bodenham Road and Hanging Lane. The problems in Hanging Lane were getting progressively worse and the traffic queues stretched along Tessall Lane.
15. No parking on the grass verge signs were requested For Hanging Lane.
16. There needed to be a line drawn under the discussions in the past and some positive action taken now and solutions found to the issues that were affecting resident's lives on a daily basis. It was suggested that a residents group be formed to work with the officers and take the action forward.

Actions:-

Glenn Smith, Senior District Engineer -

- **to look at the use of speed visors and to visit Hanging Lane to consider signage, in particular relating to HGV's.**
- **Use of land to the front of Reynolds and Reynolds as car parking space to be investigated as discussed at the previous meeting**
- **Chair to meet with Glenn to visit the 'kiss & drop' site to consider options**
- **Jas Didially to discuss the 'kiss & drop' situation with the school in view of new children starting school and the need for discussions with new parents about acceptable behaviour.**
- **Residents to organise a meeting to come up with solutions and to nominate resident representatives to meet at the school with the Head, Councillors, Jas Didially and Glenn Smith to find a way forward. Jas to liaise with Gemma.**

7. HIGHWAY ISSUES & UPDATE ON ROAD CHANGES

Marie Hewitt explained her role and provided Councillors with the carriageway planning programme.

Residents reported the following;

- Frankley Beeches Road – potholes. Particular danger to cyclists
- Mavis Road to Tessall Lane – pavement was in a very poor condition
- A sign was required outside The Factory to warn of the merge to single lane traffic

Richard Burden referred to a website – streetrepairs.co.uk – for reporting potholes.

8. UPDATE ON LONGBRIDGE REGENERATION

John Maillard made the following points in relation to the Longbridge Connectivity Scheme –

- Highway improvements, improvements to bus shelters & cycle way to start next March on phased basis with Longbridge Station improvements.
- Cofton Park – new sports facility/changing facilities being built and opening planned for October
- Longbridge Public Art Project - 22 October Light Festival, Town Centre – volunteers sought. Sculpture for A38 roundabout – alternative site/design sought as roundabout unsuitable due to underground sewers – artists would attend future meeting when details finalised.
- Defence medicine homes opening soon & pedestrian tunnel under A38.
- Healthy Living Project – working with schools to deliver a 3 year programme working with schools to promote healthy living. Further information would be provided in due course.
- Discussions were ongoing with St Modwens regarding the west wing side of the development but the road layout had to be finalised first. Part of the connectivity plan was to develop sustainable travel and free parking at the station should result in no road parking but measures were being considered to restrict inconsiderate parking. There would be consultation.

The Chair queried the situation with the Mini that had been displayed on the island and John undertook to discuss with him the possibility of replacing the car.

Residents raised the following points;

- Tessall Lane was suffering from inconsiderate parking and residents had been advised that the bottom part of the road was to be closed off. This was confirmed as an action for next year.
- Longbridge Lane as a one lane road had created problems and the timing on the traffic lights had added to the difficulties. Meeting advised that the timing on the lights had been changed but **John undertook to take those comments back to Amey.**
- Small businesses between Longbridge and Northfield (shops around Meadows School) were suffering as they were not receiving any assistance. John referred to a small business initiative programme and the BID and undertook to discuss issues

with the small businesses. **John undertook to make arrangements for the appropriate officer to visit and speak to those small businesses.**

9. RESIDENTS ISSUES

Residents raised the following issues;

a) Sedgebourne Way (off Hollymoor Way)

Reference made to railings that had been erected across the alleyway at Sedgebourne Way to prevent access but had been installed without permission from the Council. While some residents were in favour due to the improved security the fence brought, others were opposed to the access being blocked off as it created difficulties accessing the medical centre and bus stops on Tessall Lane.

Action:-

The Chair proposed that a site visit be arranged with residents and Frankley Parish Councillors to look at all aspects having regard to anti-social behaviour/crime issues and resident's access rights including disabled access. Councillor Bruce Pitt advised that the Parish Council was looking to set up a street watch and welcomed discussions to come up with a solution

b) Fridge dumped outside Hollymoor Centre

Action :- Chair to contact Waste Enforcement Team

c) North Worcester Golf Course Development

In response to requests for an update Richard Burden advised that a planning application had been submitted and the Council would in due course make a decision on its recommendation but it was acknowledged that the Council did not believe the land should be developed. Bloor Homes believed the Council had not acted reasonably and therefore if the Council refuse the application it was likely to go to appeal..

10. AUTHORITY TO ACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

Noted and agreed

Meeting ended at 9pm