

**LADYWOOD WARD FORUM**  
**TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7PM**  
**LADYWOOD HEALTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE, ST VINCENT STREET WEST**

Present:- Councillor Kath Hartley in the Chair, Councillor Sir Albert Bore & Councillor Carl Rice

Jacob Bonehill, Principal Planning Manager

Pat Whyte, Neighbourhood Support & Development Unit

Norman Bartlam, TNT News

Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager

Bob Churn & Iggy Smith, Landscape Practice Group

There were also approximately 30 residents in attendance

1. **Notice of Recordings** – noted

2. **Apologies** – none

3. **Notes of Last Meeting**

Notes were agreed as an accurate record.

4. **Petitions** – none submitted

5. **Ladywood TV News** –

Norman Bartlam showed a film of historic events in the Ladywood ward, focusing on Great Tindall Street and the area where the Baths had been situated together with a piece on the new swimming pool proposals. Residents who had used the old Baths shared their memories. Also featured was the anniversary of the death of Alfred Knight who had been awarded the Victoria Cross and the Made in Birmingham article regarding the movement of the Iron Man.

The Chair requested that this display be featured in the foyer of the new swimming pool as a historical reminder. She added that objections had been made to the proposed name for the new pool and that it should be named Ladywood Pool or similar. Residents agreed and also objected to the developers name for the Icknield Port Loop.

Jacob Bonehill confirmed that a name for the pool had not been agreed and colleagues were aware of local feeling.

**Action:- The Icknield Port Loop development should retain its name and the new swimming pool should be called Ladywood Baths and Leisure Centre. A display of the area as it once was to be displayed in the entrance to the Baths.**

6. **Local Innovation Fund**

a) Transforming Food Waste

Chris Vaughan outlined the proposal to transform food waste to compost. Summerfield Residents Association had recently won an Outstanding Award from the RHS for the City Hospital Green Houses and beds but had come to the attention of the judges for 2 innovations – returning food waste to compost and using the compost heat to heat the greenhouses and water, so that with the use of solar panels the green houses could be used all year round to grow vegetables. The introduction of a wormery was a further part of the project so that the fertiliser produced by the worms could be sold. The project was inexpensive, sustainable and environmentally friendly. The group could work with the City Council on food disposal to prevent food waste going into landfill. The sum of £13,200 had been requested from the LIF to help the group become self-sustaining and create jobs. In response to questions Chris advised that the group could work with a smaller amount of funding and had £900 from Veolia and a £400 grant. The proposal was welcomed by the meeting but it was stated that other communities also needed to do similar if a difference was to be made. The meeting was advised that the idea was to involve the whole community and sell plants/vegetables grown to the community at cost and encourage residents to grow their own. A new site had been agreed at City Hospital. Currently the hospital incinerated food waste but this could not continue and the new hospital would deal with waste differently. To clarify Chris advised that the project was currently operating from funding from an urban renewal grant. Local businesses, restaurants would pay for their food waste to be taken away and the money made would be ploughed back into the operation to make it self-financing.

b) Ladywood Rough Living Initiative

Councillor Bore outlined the proposal that had come from discussions at previous ward meetings as rough living had been seen as a ward priority. 90% of the city's homeless problems were centred around Ladywood and while a City Centre task force had been set up it did not focus beyond the city centre. There were a few projects covering the greater Ladywood area but action would be more successful if partners could be brought together. Reference was made to the way that the Moseley ward was dealing with rough sleepers and the Moseley Alternative Giving Fund that had been set up. Sally Potter from the Fund gave a brief explanation and Councillor Bore said that a similar initiative was at the heart of the LIF proposal. The Moseley Alternative Giving Campaign had been set up in response to the street drinkers that gathered in Moseley but a greater issue with rough sleepers, drug taking and begging had caused concern amongst residents who wanted to help. Money could be given to the campaign via tins distributed around the businesses in Moseley rather than directly to the rough sleeper. The volunteers working for the campaign and local residents sat on a panel to allocate the money collected in small

grants and linked people with support workers. Fund raising was also being undertaken to fund a warden who would have local knowledge and create links. Councillor Bore said that the Rough Sleeper Task Force had looked at the proposal and felt it would complement what they were doing and therefore they could assist and coherence across the area could be achieved. The impact of rough sleeping impacted on residents and therefore while the work of the City Centre Task Force was welcomed the problem did not stop at the City Centre and therefore there was a need for action in the wider residential Ladywood area.

It was noted that there was little help available for people coming out of prison to prevent them returning and there was a need for training, life skills support etc for this group. Input from the Probation Service into this proposal would therefore be valuable. The Ladywood Project provided help and support to the homeless in Ladywood.

In response to a question the meeting was advised that the project was requesting £48,000 from the LIF as the project needed start up assistance but other bids would be made for funding once the project was established.

The Chair said that both proposals would be considered by Councillors.

## **7. Edgbaston Reservoir Master Plan**

Jacob Bonehill reported on the next steps for the Edgbaston Reservoir. A joint project had been set up with Sport England, Canals & Rivers Trust & GSLEP to look at the future of the reservoir. Consultants had been appointed to develop a vision with stakeholders. It was stressed that no plans had been signed off and there would be formal consultation in the New Year. The following ideas had been put forward;

- Increase land based sporting facilities
- Increase bio-diversity
- Increase facilities for water sports
- Increase usage of reservoir with changing facilities, refreshment outlet
- Play equipment
- Open water swimming
- Develop Tower Ballroom as café, bar, restaurant
- Refurbish the Lodge buildings

It was noted that funding was required to undertake any of the ideas but the Icknield Port Loop development and Commonwealth legacy could provide that. There was also a possibility of part of the Tower Ballroom site away from the reservoir being used for residential development to fund capital improvements as money had to be found to ensure the reservoir would be looked after and sustained. However the strength of local feeling against that idea was appreciated and it was again stressed that no plans had been decided. Funding as a result of local development had been

secured to see some investment in the reservoir over the next 12 months but not enough for all of the facilities that could be provided.

The Chair referred to a meeting with local stakeholders and that a number of ideas had come from the workshops. Councillor Rice said all past studies had been found and forwarded to the city council so historical knowledge was available.

Jacob stated that the key was sustainability and that while the studies were useful there was no money attached and that was the reason housing had been suggested.

Residents stated that the development of the reservoir into a commercial site was not acceptable and that it was an asset for the whole of Birmingham and not just Ladywood. Police needed to be involved to ensure designs 'designed out crime'.

There was a large dog walking community that used the reservoir so it was important that the group's views were captured. Rangers should be part of the vision to ensure the site was properly managed and cared for.

#### **8. Next Phase Of Chamberlain Gardens**

Bob Churn presented the next phase of Chamberlain Gardens Park advising that the sizeable amount of funding to enable the plans for the park to be developed had come from the Monument Road scheme. An historic report of the park had been pulled together with Norman Bartlam as local people had wanted to see a historical theme to the development of the park and a tree survey had also been undertaken. The 2013 consultation had been re-visited and ideas discussed with the Friends Of Group. The meeting was reminded that in 2014 an outdoor gym had been installed in the park and at that time a design for the pagoda had been commissioned and this was still planned when money was available.

The main comment received in respect of the park was that it did not hold together as a park as people tended to walk through it therefore the plan contained a circular path and a loop path from one end of the park to the other. It was also hoped to have a community orchard, create a picnic area and refurbish the pergola. In response to a question the meeting was advised that it was planned to reinstate the Trust land.

The Chair commented that from the plan all of the different aspects were as a result of the consultation and the key was the order in which they were installed which was based on the availability of funding. The idea of a marked route around the park for a ½ mile run/walk had been previously identified.

Residents made the following comments;

- There was a query over the extent of the consultation and who had been involved.
- The Friends of Chamberlain Gardens was a small group but residents who had been elected to the group had not been invited to meetings for some 2 years and therefore the extent of the consultation with this group was queried
- The tennis court was in a state of total disrepair and a request was made for it to be improved. Possible input from the Lawn Tennis Association

- Provision was needed for people to be able to play football
- The re-instatement of the plot used as a car park for contractors had not been started
- The park was unkempt – bins not emptied, broken street lights, weeds growing from the tarmac and fallen trees

Bob Churn explained that the £100k funding from the Monument Road development was planned to reinstate the Trust land and then undertake the other plans as funding allowed. Resident's views were being taken into account and comments made had been noted.

Councillor Sir Albert Bore said that this was the vision for the park and urged that the plans be widely circulated among the community, in schools etc so that residents could send in their views. Bob Churn undertook to circulate the plans and include on Be Heard.

**9. Residents Issues Concerns –**

- a) Issues raised prior to the meeting – the Chair undertook to respond directly to Rita Moffat
- b) Skipton Road – the bollard on the cycle path had been removed and cars were parking making it difficult to walk on the footpath. The Chair undertook to pursue.

**10. Authority to Chair & Officers - agreed**

Meeting ended at 9.20pm