

SPARKBROOK & BALSALL HEATH WARD FORUM MEETING – ACTION NOTES RECORDING

WARD: Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath	DATE: Thursday 12 th December 2024
VENUE/ VIRTUAL: Sparkbrook Health & Community Centre, Grantham Road B11 1LU	START/FINISH TIMES: 7pm – 8:51pm
COUNCILLOR/S: Shabrana Hussain & Saima Ahmed	NOs OF ATTENDEES: 12
OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Tof Islam – Neighbourhood Action Coordinator, Preety Sohpal – Community Governance Manager	VISITING SPEAKER(S):

CURRENT WARD ACTION PLAN PRIORITIES:

Ward plan in progress.

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING INCLUDING LOCAL CONCERNS:

1. Welcome & Notice of Recording

The Councillor welcomed all to the meeting and advised that members for the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

Apologies – Garry Dalton.

2. Environment & Transport Neighbourhoods Fund (ETNF)

- The ETNF is a local pot of money for transport items. If wards have already used some or all of their Brum Breathes Fund, then this is deducted from the ETNF. There is a £80,000 allocation for this ward with this fund, £20,000 per councillor, per ward.
- Issues of parking discussed in the ward. Open to suggestions from residents on what solutions they would like to see with the use of the ETNF.
- Birchfield Crescent residents were present from Moseley ward and have been talks of a joint scheme with Moseley. Modal filter on Birchfield Crescent as the road is split between two wards therefore funding required from both wards. Since Ladypool Rd became one way, the traffic now

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comes down Birchfield Crescent and the 2 new cash and carry's have created immense traffic along with the school nearby and a park. Reports of speeding down the road and cars get stuck as there are no places to pass and traffic begins to build on both ends. Believe a modal filter will assist. Aim of modal filter to reduce the volume traffic on this road. Residents commented that speeding and volume is an issue. Residents commented that speeding will continue if there is no enforcement which happen often on many roads on the area. Reason for increase of traffic has been people trying to come into the city centre since the CAZ was implemented. Shops of Ladypool Rd cannot unload their goods as there is nowhere to park and the road is often blocked up. Reports of double parking on the road during the night and emergency services cannot pass down the road. During the day parents with pushchairs and wheelchair users cannot get down the pavement due to the amount of cars mounted on the pavements.

- Majority of the roads in the ward are 20 mph zones yet people still speed. People park inconsiderably and creates blind corners to pull out of roads and is impossible to see pulling out of many junctions in the ward.

Some ideas and suggestions from the residents discussed were:

- Incident on Hickman Road where people are turning in too fast into Grantham Rd. Some residents called for traffic calming measures on Grantham Road as people speed down the road. A busy route due to the health centre, community centre and local nearby schools.
- Can enhance the ward by creating safe green spaces where people can rest and feel safe.
- Many of the locations discussed are nearby schools and parks. Some options should be explored to keep schools safe. Crossing on Enderton Rd, children are in dangerous situations crossing these roads as people are parking on corners. Even the lollipop lady cannot safely help children to cross the roads. Conway Road - People are parking on the corners surrounding the school and restricts visibility to drive safely and cross the roads. Medley Cote Road zig zag shops outside the two shops. There are railings on all four corners.
- Cycle lanes on Ladypool Rd which were put in during covid, no consultation was done and the situation with the traffic has been made worse.
- One way on Sampson Road – This road is used as a short cut however the traffic will be pushed out to surrounding wards.
- Can we invest in local parks? Ackers Park, the park on Stoney Lane – Tof – traffic calming measures can be expensive. Can have a greater impact on the green spaces within the ward as there are already established friends of groups for parks. Can look to get benches, flowers, educational nature trails etc. Opportunities are there as green spaces will be used by more people. Resident – what do we prioritise? The safety of the pedestrians and children or green spaces?
- Is maintenance included in the contracts of the upkeep of whatever scheme is implemented? – cllrs to find out from Garry
- Incident outside Olive School where an incident occurred as a child crossed the zebra crossing therefore may want to partner with that ward – Reddings Lane.

- Cllrs – Parking is a major issue in the ward. Would like to speak to all the car users in the ward and why they park inconsiderably on the roads. Would like all to be ticketed. All parking fines issued, the money raised from fines do not go to Birmingham Local Authority, they go to central government. The Police crime commissioner, Simon Foster, is trying to work on all money raised by fines to come back into Birmingham Local Authority. Resident commented there are volumes of double parking on Stoney Lane outside the plumbers. There are parking restrictions but no enforcement. – Councillor advised that there is a West Midlands Police link where such incidents can be reported and the police are using the images and registrations to prosecute those who are parking illegally. You can report such incidents on the following link > [Operation Snap | West Midlands Police](#)
- Are the schools policing parking on double yellows? – Some are but not much information on it.
- Can we use some of the money to use for research purposes to check air pollution or volume of traffic etc? – cllr to find out from Garry Dalton.
- Can we go through previous minutes of the meetings and pick up issues that have been brought up repeatedly and issues brought up directly to the cllr?
- Can we hold an informal meeting to discuss the proposals? – Preety to find out from NDSU
- Can an email be sent out to residents of the top issues on the list, give residents a time frame to respond and if no response to continue and potentially bring this to a meeting?
- March meeting will focus on waste transformation to explain the changes coming. Preety will check Cllr Majid Mahmood availability before setting next ward forum sometime in February, before the month of Ramadan begins.
- Residents would like to see a cost breakdown of the costs for use of ETNF funds

3. Revision of the Ward Action Plan

- The ward plan has been submitted and will be live on the website in the coming weeks.
- The ward action plan a working document and priorities will continue to change and document will be updated as and when needed.
- Will be talking to key stakeholders and there are external partners cllrs would like to get involved however awaiting approvals from the companies. Had a workshop with NHS to hear what they want to say and what they are planning to do. Immunisations are very low for 0-5 year olds. Education is also needed to educate parents on the importance of the immunisations. More awareness is needed to be raised. Workshops are needed at the health centre and to educate in the schools too.

4. AOB

- 28th January 2025 going to full council – Shaping Birmingham. Will be in the public domain on the 21st January 2025. If not happy with what has been raised in the document, please let the cllr know via email so this can be brought up by the cllr in the full council meeting.
- Police – WM now, an event at Christ Church 30th Nov giving out crime prevention devices. Will be doing other locations throughout 2025 and looking to do something potentially at this venue.
- Balsall Heath Farm Xmas open day – Sunday 22nd December 2024, 12pm-4pm, visit Santas grotto, cash only, £6 ticket per person entrance and all money raised supports the farm.
- Warm spaces hub – St Pauls Balsall Heath every Tuesday 12.30pm-2pm term time only.
- Free public transport after 7pm in Bham for the month of December
- Thank you for leaflets from the cllr delivered to residents to explain what the green lidded bins are. Blue lid bin is for cans and bottles and black bin for rubbish. Communication has been poor from the council to explain the waste transformation and what should be put in what bin. New bins were placed outside the houses with no instructions. There will be 4 bins from Spring onwards, one for plastics, one for cardboard and paper, one for household rubbish and one for food recycling.
- Ask Cllr Majid Mahmood to create videos of how to recycle, what goes in what bin, what happens to the rubbish when it gets taken away?

Councillor Hussain thanked all for attending and sharing their views and concerns.

ACTIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS MADE	WHO	BY WHEN
1. To find out from Garry Dalton if maintenance is included in the contracts of whatever scheme is implemented with the ETNF	1. Cllr Hussain/Cllr Ahmed	1. Provide update at the next ward forum meeting.
2. Can the ETNF be used for research purpose to monitor air quality and/or volumes of traffic	2. Cllr Hussain/Cllr Ahmed	2. Provide update the next ward forum meeting.
3. To go through previous minutes of the meetings and pick up issues that have been brought up repeatedly and issues brought up directly to the cllr	3. Cllr Hussain/Cllr Ahmed	3. N/A

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4. Can another meeting be held to discuss the ETNF proposals?	4. Preety/NDSU	4. N/A
5. Check Cllr Majid Mahmood availability for February to attend next ward forum to give update on the waste transformation for 2025	5. Preety	5. N/A
6. To request a cost breakdown of the ETNF schemes	6. Cllr Hussain/Cllr Ahmed	6. Provide update at next ward forum meeting.
7. Request a video from Cllr Majid Mahmood on what waste goes into which bin and what happens to the rubbish once taken away	7. Cllr Hussain/Cllr Ahmed	7. Provide update at next ward forum meeting.