

Notes of Joint PCs Village Centre Working Group held on 25th November 2019

Present: Richard Drake (RD), Kay Howles (KH), Liz Macdonald (LM), Marion Keeley (MK), Andrew Burrow (ASB), Terry Hughes (TH), Lorraine Horlor (LH), David Bell (DB), Alison Cambage (AC), Tony Diccio (TD)

Public: Wendy Wilson who was asked to join in the discussions

1. Appointment of Chairman and Secretary

Andrew Burrow and Richard Drake were appointed Chairman and Secretary respectively

2. Initial Focus of the Working Group

It was agreed that the purpose of the initial sessions of the village centre working group would be focused on developing a broad recommendation of identified infrastructure needs to be included within the Solihull Local Plan to support the planned housing for Balsall Common both village centre and generally within Balsall Common. Work on a focused plan for the village centre would commence when SMBC were ready to start and the PCs would be lobbying for that to start soon.

3. Target Date for initial work

Based on advice from Councillor Diccio it was agreed that the target date for a submission of infrastructure needs to SMBC to support the housing plan would be mid/end January 2020

4. Updated initial list of infrastructure needs

It was agreed that the initial suggestions for infrastructure requirements derived from the NDPs resident surveys to be met both by SMBC and the PCs would be updated as shown in the appendix. with the changes in red. Item 4.3.4 would be deleted as a humorous input from a resident.

5. Further work on initial list of needs before consultation

The list would be organised to avoid duplication and into 4 broad headings for consultation with residents

5.1. Connectivity

5.2. Facilities

5.2.1. Community

5.2.2. Sport

5.2.3. Art

5.3. Village Centre

5.3.1. Parking

5.3.2. Making it a pleasant destination and community focal point rather than simply a destination of need

5.4. The living environment

5.4.1. Parks

5.4.2. Wildlife

5.4.3. Etc

5.5. It is recognised that other infrastructure needs will be provided by others as part of the normal planning process – water, sewers, schools, police, doctors, utilities etc

6. Consultation Process

6.1. Wide consultation using predominantly electronic means

6.2. Special leaflet drop for rural Balsall parish because for historical reasons residents have not identified that membership of BCVRA was relevant. Berkswell parish rural areas are covered by the Berkswell Society newsletter

- 6.3. Use the following e newsletters to announce residents' consultations
 - 6.3.1.Communicator
 - 6.3.2.Society newsletter
 - 6.3.3.Parent mail for Balsall Common and Berkswell primary schools and Heart of England
- 6.4. Community Organisations listed in appendix 2 will be contacted. **NB actions for committee members to find email addresses for those organisations are shown in appendix 2**
- 6.5. **Jim Ellis would be asked by ASB** if he would create an online survey using Google Forms
- 6.6. Consultation to ask three questions
 - 6.6.1.Has anything been missed
 - 6.6.2.Residents priorities
 - 6.6.3.Input from organisations on any work they are doing or thoughts on identified needs to meet their organisational needs

7. Date of Next meeting

Monday 9th December 2019 at 10.30 am. Westlake Room

Andrew Burrow
 Chairman of Working Group
 26 November 2019

Appendix 1

Briefing note on residents' suggestions for infrastructure improvement from Berkswell and Balsall NDPs and the NDP consultation process

1. Berkswell NDP

- 1.1. Improve Balsall Common centre holistically and not just parking
- 1.2. Sports facilities
 - 1.2.1.Gym
 - 1.2.2.Swimming pool
 - 1.2.3.Public tennis courts
 - 1.2.4.Adult outdoor gym/trim/track/petanque
- 1.3. Cyber-café where 6th formers can work
- 1.4. Multi-purpose hall covering sports., community centre, arts, business meeting rooms
- 1.5. Play areas for children on new developments
- 1.6. Communal site for village events
- 1.7. Wild areas for ecology, children's dens/camps
- 1.8. Picnic areas
- 1.9. Ponds/lakes
- 1.10. Dog walking routes
- 1.11. Cycle network connecting Balsall Common centre, the greenway, new developments. The Station, the Doctors and school(s)
- 1.12. Cycle/foot connection Balsall Common to Berkswell village and its school
- 1.13. More parking at the station

2. Balsall NDP

- 2.1. Walking and cycling opportunities in new developments

- 2.2. Enclosed bus shelters where appropriate
- 2.3. Electronic bus information at bus stops
- 2.4. Gym facilities
- 2.5. Parks for children
- 2.6. Develop Holly Lane playing fields
- 2.7. Enhanced sports and recreation facilities
- 2.8. Village bypass
- 2.9. Village centre road safety and parking improvements

3. Suggestions made to Cabinet member at joint PC presentation on 21st October 2019

- 3.1. A new primary school to precede development of allocated housing sites
- 3.2. Improved centre to Balsall Common including but not limited to parking.
- 3.3. Station car parking
- 3.4. Public green space between existing and new housing

4. Residents' ideas listed in Balsall Parish NDP consultation statement (not listed above)

- 4.1. Much improved BC village hall (mentioned many times)
 - 4.1.1. Theatre/music venue
 - 4.1.2. Badminton/squash courts
 - 4.1.3. Community sports hall – including above and 5-a-side football
 - 4.1.4. Youth provision - snooker, badminton, gym, table tennis

4.2. Sports facilities/parks/open space

- 4.2.1. Astro turf football, hockey etc pitch
- 4.2.2. Adventure playground
- 4.2.3. Wildlife corridors
- 4.2.4. Nature reserves
- 4.2.5. Allotments
- 4.2.6. Public garden with flowers where you can just sit
- 4.2.7. Exercise equipment in Lavender Hall park
- 4.2.8. Café/toilets in Lavender Hall park
- 4.2.9. Improved facilities at rugby club – changing rooms etc
- 4.2.10. More litter/dog waste bins

4.3. Roads

- 4.3.1. Improved road crossings for pedestrians (various locations – Alder Lane, Shops, Shell Garage on A452, by Station on Hallmeadow/station road)
- 4.3.2. Trees on local roads(existing)
- 4.3.3. Traffic calming measures (several locations including Kemps Green Road, Needlers End)
- 4.3.4. Footpath in Windmill Lane
- 4.3.5. Improved parking around schools
- 4.3.6. More litter/dog waste bins

4.4. Station

- 4.4.1. Improved waiting rooms at Berkswell Station
- 4.4.2. More cycle racks at Berkswell station
- 4.4.3. More parking at the station

4.5. Make BC a cycle friendly village

4.6. Village Centre

- 4.6.1. Public toilets in BC centre
- 4.6.2. Trees in village centre

- 4.7. Enlarged medical centre
- 4.8. Police station

5. Working Group suggestions

- 5.1. Lavender Hall Park improved drainage
 - 5.1.1. Car park
 - 5.1.2. Footpath by Catherine's wood
- 5.2. All weather cycle/walking/mobility scooter connectivity across the two parishes linking the key communities/facilities
 - 5.2.1. Berkswell village to Balsall Common (for school, church, pub and historical/tourist items of interest)
 - 5.2.2. Along the Kenilworth Road from Kelsey Lane to Hall Meadow Road to link with proposed route to UK Central etc
 - 5.2.3. Marked separation of cycleway from footpath as per Hallmeadow Road
 - 5.2.4. Cycle priority at road junctions to make cycling across them continuous and safe (CF Denmark and Holland)
 - 5.2.5. Existing cycle routes (insert numbers) (not cycleways) around Balsall Common to be surveyed, marked and upgraded to be truly cycle friendly
- 5.3. By pass
 - 5.3.1. Low noise surface past housing including Berkswell Gate estate
 - 5.3.2. Bushes to separate cycleway from motor vehicles to reduce airborne pollution for cycleway users
- 5.4. Improved footpaths
 - 5.4.1. Continuous lit path/cycleway from entry to Lavender Hall car park to Hallmeadow Road
 - 5.4.2. Improve surface of footpath from Kenilworth Road to Lavender Hall park
 - 5.4.3. Extend pavement from St Peters on Holly Lane to allotments to encourage walking to them
 - 5.4.4. Reduce hedge height etc to improve safety of Link from Kenilworth Road to Meeting House Lane, particularly at night
 - 5.4.5. Extend the permissive footpath within the land to the east of Hallmeadow northwards to a position where it will join the gate into Lavender Hall Park

Appendix 2 Organisations/bodies to be consulted

Organisation/body	Responsibility for obtaining email contact
B&B Sports Association	ASB
Heart of England	ASB
Balsall Common Primary	ASB
Berkswell Primary	ASB
Lady Katherine Leveson	LC
Berkswell Scouts	ASB
Balsall Common Scouts	ASB
Brownies (Berkswell)	AC
Brownies (Balsall Common)	AC
U3A	RD

Jubilee Hall	ASB
Village Hall	ASB
St Peter's Church & Hall	TH
Methodist Church & Hall	WW
Berkswell Church and Hall	ASB
St Mary's Church & hall (and school)	LC
B&B rugby	MK
Hornets	ASB
Centre Stage	TD
Library	ASB
Running Club	AC
Play groups (several)	LM
Lions	RD
Festival	ASB
Berkswell Charities	ASB
Lant Charity	AC
BCVRA	ASB
Berkswell Society	ASB
Medical Centre	DB