

**Balsall Heath
Neighbourhood
Development Plan
2014 – 2031**

Consultation Statement

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation Statement

This document is a record of the various stages and forms of consultation, statutory and non-statutory, which have been carried out during the making of the NDP, between 2011 and 2014.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Balsall Heath, despite being among the UK's 20% most deprived neighbourhoods, has a cohesive social structure, characterised by the existence of many social, religious, educational and business networks. These have been developed significantly over the past 30 years, largely by the efforts of local organisations such as Balsall Heath Forum and St Paul's Community Trust. Many local people have been involved in constructive processes by which the social, environmental and economic conditions of Balsall Heath have been improved. People are used to being consulted, and this has been to the advantage of the NDP, which has used existing networks as a basis for the various stages of consultation.

1.2 Consultation processes have been consistent with the City Council's policy *Statement of Community Involvement* (2008), which sets criteria and methods by which citizens are enabled and encouraged to be involved in planning issues. A Steering Group was set up early on in the plan process. This contained representatives of various sectors of the local community, and met regularly to receive reports of progress and to give advice. Two of the three Ward councillors have been actively involved through the plan process, and regular presentations have been given on the progress of the Plan to Ward Committee meetings, and to Neighbourhood Strategic Partnership meetings, where there was the opportunity for questions and discussion.

1.3 The Coordinator of the NDP wrote a series of articles about the progress of the Plan which were published in the monthly magazine *The Heathan*, which is published by St Paul's Community Trust, and distributed to every home in Balsall Heath, and to the local library, schools and other centres. These are included as an appendix to this statement.

2 The three stages of consultation

2.2 Through the preparation of the Plan, there have been three stages of consultation. The dates and the purposes of these are as follows, and each stage is characterised by a question which sums up the broad intent behind that stage of the consultation.

2.3 July 2011 – April 2012. *Initial consultation.*

This stage took place before the publication of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, but was consistent with them. It involved active approaches to residents' groups, individuals, traders, schools, and other organisations, within the NDP area. It resulted in the writing of what was called *the shopping list*. This period included in December 2011 a specific three-day community planning workshop organised jointly with the Prince's Foundation. The PF report is included as an appendix.

We are writing a Neighbourhood Plan - what would you like to see included?

2.4 June – August 2012. *Interim consultation on draft proposals.*

There was an exhibition of policies and proposals on 8 x A1 boards, and also on a website. This was advertised to residents' groups and generally within the NDP area, and was displayed at various locations within Balsall Heath. Staff of the BHF attended the exhibition at times, and encouraged visitors to submit completed questionnaires.

This is what we are proposing – what do you think?

2.5 September – November 2013. *Pre-submission consultation.*

This stage was carried out in accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations. The draft Plan was published on a website, and also on paper locally. Groups, organisations and statutory agencies, national, regional and local, as specified in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, were directed to the website. Local residents and traders were also directed to the website and to the paper copies by a four-page summary in the September copy of *The Heathan*.

We have now revised proposals and written policies - is the Plan now right?

**3 Stage 1. Initial consultation.
July 2011 to April 2012**

3.1 Balsall Heath was declared a frontrunner neighbourhood plan area in April 2011, in DCLG's first tranche. This part of the process started as soon as the Forum was allocated part of the initial DCLG funding by the City Council, allowing work to begin. The Coordinator organised a series of meetings, intended to cover as fully as possible the spectrum of individuals, groups, businesses and institutions who constitute the local community, as well as relevant external agencies. The ten residents' groups within the area were consulted early on in the process. Each were met twice: once in their regular bi-monthly meeting, and once on a special walkabout of their area. Schools, businesses, housing associations and other bodies followed, and also regular fora such as the Neighbourhood Strategic Partnership, Business Watch and Police Tasking Meeting.

3.2 This is a schedule of the consultation meetings that were held. In each case, there is a summary of the topics raised, and a list of the policies that were subsequently written, which were informed by the initial consultation.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location and individual/group, and numbers involved</i>	<i>Issues covered</i>	<i>Related policies</i>
02.07.11	Pickwick Park. Balsall Heath Carnival. 28 persons.	Where is the centre of Balsall Heath?	BH3
18.07.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. BH Forum meeting. Approx 200 persons.	Economy; where will new jobs come from? Baths; when will they be repaired? Dangers of traffic, encouraging cycling to school. Disabled access, need for better housing.	BH1 BH2, BH9 BH6 BH1, BH6 BH15, BH16
19.07.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road, office of BH Forum. NDP Steering Group. 11 persons.	Need to regenerate Moseley Road Neighbourhood Centre.	BH8, BH9, BH10

02.08.11	Jericho Project, Jakeman Road. BH is our Planet. 5 persons.	Energy issues. Reduce reliance on the motor car. Modal shift to public transport.	BH1 BH6 BH17
08.08.11	10 Alder Road. John Newson. (BH Is Our Planet) 1 person.	Reduce energy consumption. Increase energy generation.	BH1
19.09.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road, office of BH Forum. NDP Steering group. 9 persons.	What is the alternative agenda for the ex-JCC site? Organising the planning workshop.	BH15
21.09.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road, office of BH Forum. 3 persons.	Increase business opportunities for local people. Improve public transport. Find solutions for leftover land.	BH13 BH17 BH4
27.09.11	Centro, WM Pass- enger Transport Authority . Peter Sargant. 1 person.	Reintroduction of local train services.	BH17
03.10.11	St Paul's Trust, Clifton Road. BH Neighbourhood Strategic Partnership. 14 persons.	Deal with traffic congestion. Strengthen local centres. Alternatives for ex-JCC site. Absence of a bank in Balsall Heath.	BH6 BH3 BH15 BH3
11.10.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. BH Forum AGM. Approx. 120 persons.	Need for more and better youth facilities.	BH20

		Improvement of local centres.	BH3
15.10.11	Tindal Street Residents' Group. Cristina Pineromaesa 3 persons.	Difficulties with car parking. Improvements needed to George Street Park.	BH6 BH6
17.10.11	Moseley and District Housing Association. Dave Cusack. 1 person.	How to increase housing provision and development.	BH1, BH15, BH16
18.10.11	St Pauls Trust, Jakeman Road. Children of Queensbridge School. 10 persons.	Need to make cycling safe for children. Increase choice of shopping. Make parks more attractive.	BH1 BH8, BH12 BH5
24.10.11	Chamberlain Foundation. H. Worth, P. Slatter. 2 persons.	Economy – making Balsall Heath more prosperous. Improving public transport.	BH1 BH1, BH17
24.10.11	BCC Housing Dept. Dave Fairbotham. 1 person.	Improving the range of housing provision.	BH1, BH15, BH16
25.10.11	Kinver Croft Residents' Group. Danny Bailey. 3 persons.	Need to improve Redgra park. Create facilities for Percy Shurmer School on ex-JCC site. Tidying up neglected spaces and making them useful. Confusing postal addresses.	BH5 BH15 BH3, BH4
26.10.11	Mary Street Residents' Assoc. Edna Shaw. 2 persons.	Neglected spaces. Problems caused by South	BH3, BH4

		Birmingham College's car parking.	BH6
		Accident blackspot at Edward Road / Mary Street junction.	BH6
27.10.11	Midland Heart Housing Association. Gail Walters. 1 person.	Demand for housing in Balsall Heath. Housing management issues. Involvement of tenants in future planning.	BH1, BH15, BH16
31.10.11	Court & Cheddar Residents' Group. Stephen Blower. 2 persons.	Neglected spaces. Activities in Calthorpe Park. Test match parking. Traffic speeds. SBC parking and congestion.	BH3, BH4 BH5 BH6 BH6 BH6
02.11.11	Alexandra Residents' Assoc. Andy Donovan. 1 person.	Pedestrian subway on ring road. Anti-kerb crawling road blocks. Lack of street trees. Lack of access to river. Closure of nursery. Lack of community focal space.	BH1 BH6 BH2 BH18 BH3 BH3
03.11.11	BCC Transportation Department. Andrew Radford. 2 persons.	Possible 20mph zones. Encouraging walking and cycling. Traffic volumes on Moseley Road and Ladypool Road. Accident blackspots. Amey works timetable. Shared space policy. Highway improvement lines on Highgate Road.	BH6 BH1 BH10 BH13 BH6 BH1, BH2 BH16
03.11.11	Strensham Residents' Assoc. Mohammed Boota. 3 persons.	Residents' car parking. Street trees.	BH6 BH1, BH2

		Street maintenance.	BH6
		Pedestrian crossing needed on Edgbaston Road	BH6
06.11.11	Clifton Residents' Group. Parvez Akhtar. 1 person.	Residents' car parking. Lack of pedestrian crossing on Taunton Road. Lack of facilities in Balsall Heath Park. Approval of extensions to school on Ladypool Road. Ungated car park. Accident blackspot at Stoney Lane / Taunton Road junction.	BH1, BH6 BH6 BH5, BH13 BH12 BH6 BH6, BH14
07.11.11	Seven Streets Residents' Assoc. George Melrose. 1 person.	Residents' car parking. Potential railway station. Parks and open spaces. Hazards encountered by cyclists. Unadopted avenues on Runcorn Road. Traffic speeds on St Paul's Road.	BH1, BH6 BH17 BH4, BH5 BH6 BH2 BH6
07.11.11	Tindal School. Head, Susan Skillett. 1 person.	Lack of open space for the school. Congestion caused by children travelling by car. Possible input by children into the NDP process.	BH3, BH5 BH1, BH6
07.11.11	Harden Housing Association. Perminder Kaur. 1 person.	Local demand for larger houses.	BH1, BH15, BH16
08.11.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. NDP Steering Group.	The future of the ex-college site and	BH15, BH16

	9 persons.	Highgate Road site. Moving around Balsall Heath. Ownership of sites on Moseley Road. Community assets transfer. Prince's Foundation workshop.	BH1, BH6 BH8, BH9, BH11 BH2, BH3, BH9
08.11.11	Sherron Gdns Residents' Group. Ann Molloy. 2 persons.	Residents' car parking. Security and maintenance of car parks. Availability of local housing. Future of the ex-college site. Dumping on neglected sites.	BH1, BH6 BH6 BH1, BH15, BH16 BH15 BH2
08.11.11	Calthorpe Play Centre. Court & Cheddar Residents' Assoc. 8 persons.	Unblocking of Cheddar Road. Uses of Calthorpe Park. Lack of facilities for youth. Congestion caused by SBC parking.	BH2, BH6 BH5 BH20 BH6
09.11.11	Belgravia Sheltered Housing, Princess Rd. Alexandra Residents' Association. 7 persons.	Lack of an area focus. Need for a neighbourhood enterprise building.	BH3 BH1, BH3
10.11.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. Chesterton and Brunswick Residents' Assoc. 9 persons.	Parking restrictions on Stoney Lane. Need for safe pedestrian crossing on Stoney Lane. Need to reduce traffic speeds. Blocking of pavements on Ladypool Road. Improvements to Sparkgreen Park.	BH1, BH6 BH6, BH14 BH1, BH6 BH13 BH5, BH14
11.11.11	Percy Shurmer Sch. Head, Emma		

	Simpson. 1 person.	Development of ex-college site, new housing preferred. Possible enlargement of school. Congestion caused by children travelling by car. Underused green space on Longmore Road.	BH15 BH15 BH1, BH6 BH4, BH19
11.11.11	Nelson Mandela Sch. Head, Azita Zohhadi. 1 person.	Congestion caused by children travelling by car. Need for improvement of Spark- green Park. Proposal for school to time-share park.	BH1, BH6 BH5, BH14 BH5, BH14
14.11.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. Mary Street Residents' Assoc. 10 persons.	Speed of traffic on Edward Road. Congestion on Willows Road No.35 bus route. Neglected spaces.	BH6 BH1, BH6 BH4
15.11.11	Alexandra Road. Alexandra Residents' Assoc. 12 persons.	Nursery school closed. Potential of river. Unpopular subway under ring road.	BH3 BH18 BH6
15.11.11	BCC Housing Dept. Clive Skidmore, Steve Dallaway. 2 persons.	Municipal Housing Trust would like to build but have no land.	BH1, BH15, BH16
15.11.11	Yemeni Community Centre, Vincent St. Sherron Gardens Residents' Assoc. 8 persons.	Neglected spaces. Security of car parks. Need for larger dwellings. Improvement of green space on Haden Way. Illegal driving at rear of baths.	BH4 BH4, BH6 BH1, BH15, BH16 BH4 BH8

16.11.11	Beach Road Residents' Assoc. Munib Rehman. 1 person.	Parking restrictions on Stoney Lane. Shops on Ladypool Road encroaching on the pavement. Need for more facilities in Balsall Heath Park.	BH4, BH6 BH13 BH5. BH12
16.11.11	Apna Gar elderly persons' centre. Kinver Croft Residents Assoc. 7 persons.	Investment in redgra park. Potential of river. Neglected common spaces in housing area.	BH5 BH18 BH4
18.11.11	Tindal School. Tindal Residents' Association. 9 persons.	Connecting Tindal School and George Street Park. Improvement of George Street Park.	BH1, BH6 BH5
21.11.11	Heath Mount School. Head, Najma Chaudhury. 1 person.	Reduction in children arriving by car. Social facilities to be built on ex-college site. Involvement of children in NDP.	BH1, BH6 BH15
21.11.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. Clifton Residents' Group. 6 persons.	Residents' car parking. Pedestrian space on Ladypool Road. Empty house on Colville Road. Parking restrictions on Stoney Lane.	BH6 BH13 BH6, BH14
22.11.11	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. Seven Streets		

	Residents' Assoc. 9 persons.	Welcome for a new railway station. Need for facilities in Pickwick Park and Seven Streets Park. Improvement of Moseley Road. Car parking for Ladypool Road. Disabled parking bays. Future use of the Crown pub, Ladypool Road.	BH3, BH5 BH8, BH9, BH10 BH6, BH13 BH1, BH6 BH12
23.11.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. Strensham Residents' Assoc. 6 persons.	Disused listed buildings on Moseley Road. Disabled parking bays. State of Moseley Road Baths. Welcome for railway station.	BH2, BH8, BH9 BH1, BH6 BH2, BH9 BH17
25.11.11	Saffron Centre, Moseley Road. St Paul's Trust Staff Conference. Approx. 80 persons.	Regeneration of Moseley Road. Improvement of Ladypool Road. Green space on Highgate Road. Improvement of Sparkgreen Park. New railway station. Socially beneficial development on ex-college site.	BH2, BH8, BH9, BH10, BH12, BH13 BH4, BH16 BH5, BH14 BH17 BH3, BH15
28.11.11	Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College. Principal, Elly Tobin. 1 person.	Temporary college use of ex-college site. Re-use of listed buildings on Moseley Road. Location of new railway station.	BH1, BH11 BH2, BH8, BH9 BH17
28.11.11	St Paul's Trust, Clifton Road. NP Steering Group. 11 persons.	Moseley Road corridor strategy. Encouraging use of local labour.	BH3, BH8, BH9 BH10 BH1

		The identity of Balsall Heath.	BH1, BH7
28.11.11	Lahore Village Restaurant, Ladypool Road. Business Watch. 10 persons.	Speeding on Ladypool Road. New off-road parking for Ladypool Road.	BH6, BH13 BH6, BH13
01.12.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. Including Women Conference. Approx 80 persons.	Encouraging walking and cycling. Making streets safer. Making parks more attractive. Spaces for social assembly.	BH1 BH1, BH6 BH5 BH3, BH10
05.12.11	St Paul's Trust, Clifton Road. Neighbourhood Strategic Partnership. 15 persons.	Local economy of Balsall Heath.	BH1
07.12.11	Clifton School. Head, Christine Mitchell. 1 person.	Access to Pickwick Park. Transport of children to school. Traffic calming on St Paul's Road. Business use of car park at rear of school. Masterplan for school expansion.	BH1, BH6 BH1, BH6 BH6 BH6 BH3
07.12.11	Saffron Centre, Moseley Road. Police Tasking Meeting. 14 persons.	Parking outside schools. Disabled parking bays.	BH6 BH6
12.12.11	Clifton School. Head, Christine Mitchell. Bournville Architects. 12 persons.	Connection of school to Pickwick Park by traffic calming.	BH5, BH6

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14.12.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre. Community Planning Workshop Day 1. (See report in Appendix). Approx. 50 persons.	More local employment. Community Asset Transfer of buildings. Improvement of local centres. Dealing with derelict sites. Co-ordinated housing provision. Dealing with traffic congestion. Need for neutral community facilities. Encouraging social enterprise. Exploiting youth resources. Becoming energy self-sufficient. New housing built. Better green spaces. Improvement of key buildings. Transformation of the river.	BH1 BH3, BH8, BH9 BH3, BH8, BH12 BH2 BH1, BH15, BH16 BH6 BH3, BH20 BH1 BH20 BH1 BH1, BH15, BH16 BH4 BH2, BH9 BH18
15.12.11	Balsall Heath Church Centre Edward Road. Community Planning Workshop Day 2. (see report in Appendix). Approx. 100 persons.	Importance of historic buildings. New town square. Transformation of the river. Socially beneficial uses of the ex-college site. New railway station as a catalyst. Sustainable development. Development of The Hub on Moseley Road as a catalyst. Experimental one-day closure of Ladypool Road.	BH2, BH9 BH10 BH18 BH15 BH17 BH1 BH1, BH11 BH6, BH13
19.12.11	APEC Architects, 19a Princip Street. Ken Fisher, Gary Dyhouse. 3 persons.	Planning application for The Hub, Moseley Road, for owner and Joseph Chamberlain College.	BH1, BH1
19.12.11	St Paul's Trust, Clifton Road.		

	Alison Moore. 1 person.	Children's planning day. Schools' use of parks.	BH5
03.01.12	Hazrat Sultan Bahu Trust, Ombersley Road. Kamran Fazil. 1 person.	Plans for Trust to expand. Empty buildings on Clifton Road.`	BH1 BH1
10.01.12	BCC Parks Dept. King's Heath Park. Simon Cooper. 1 person.	Housing development on Highgate Road. Conversion of redgra into a park. Transformation of River Rea. Improvement of Sparkgreen Park, and new car park. Location of railway station.	BH16 BH5 BH18 BH5, BH6, BH14 BH17
10.01.12	Calthorpe Play Centre, Cheddar Rd. Court & Cheddar Residents' Assoc. 7 persons.	Dumping on neglected spaces. Uses for the space at the end of Cheddar Road.	BH1 BH4
12.01.12	Tindal School. Five schools' Children's Planning Workshop. 27 persons.	Recreational space for children. Wind farm. Keep-fit equipment in parks. Reduction in fast food shops. Outdoor community space.	BH4, BH5 BH1 BH5 BH3, BH8, BH13 BH4, BH5, BH10
12.01.12	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. BH Forum staff. 4 persons.	Meeting with traders. Consulting disabled people. Suitable land uses for ex-college site.	BH12, BH13 BH1 BH15
12.01.12	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum.		

	Chesterton Residents' Group. 6 persons.	Difficulties with residents' parking.	BH6
13.01.12	BCC offices, 1 Lancaster Circus Neil Vyse, Kelly Darby. 2 persons.	Moseley Road Heritage Corridor. Street Improvements by Amey.	BH8, BH9, BH10, BH11 BH10, BH11
17.01.12	Yemeni Community Centre, Vincent St. Sherron Gardens Residents' Assoc. 8 persons.	Ungated car park. Street lighting. Speed of traffic on Edward Road.	BH2, BH6 BH1, BH6 BH1, BH6
18.01.12	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. NDP Steering Group. 13 persons.	Improvements to local centres. Improvements to residential streets.	BH3, BH8, BH10 BH1, BH4
19.01.12	Wesleyan Holiness Church, Cromer Rd. Tindal Residents' Group. 6 persons.	George Street Park. Safety for children.	BH5 BH1, BH6
23.01.12	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. Clifton Residents' Group. 8 persons.	Residents' car parking. Ladypool Road car parking.	BH6 BH6, BH13
24.01.12	Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Office of BH Forum. Seven Streets Residents' Assoc. 8 persons.	Railway station location . Vehicle speeds.	BH17 BH1, BH6

25.01.12	55 Strensham Rd. Strensham Residents' Assoc. 5 persons.	Residents' car parking.	BH6
26.01.12	Lahore restaurant. Ladypool Road Business Watch. 7 persons.	Antisocial behaviour on Ladypool Road. Street lighting.	BH2, BH13 BH1, BH6
27.01.12	BH Library. Community Planning Workshop exhibition. 11 persons.	New railway station. New town square. Redevelopment of ex-college site. Improvement of Moseley Road.	BH17 BH10 BH15 BH9, BH10, BH11
30.01.12	Council House. Amey and Councillor Quinn. 3 persons.	Improvements to Ladypool Road. Filling in of pedestrian subway under ring road.	BH13 BH1, BH6
30.01.12	Apna Gar elderly persons' centre. Sally Haslam, DCLG. 6 persons.	Neighbourhood budgeting. Pooling resources.	BH1
31.01.12	Balsall Heath Church Centre, Edward Road. Neighbourhood Budgeting Meeting. 12 persons.	Local management of resources.	
23.02.12	BH Is Our Planet, Jericho Foundation. John Newson. 1 person.	Energy generation measures in new buildings. Zero carbon standard. Need for new allotments. New cycle routes.	BH1, BH2 BH1, BH2 BH19 BH1

		Car parking at the new railway station.	BH6, BH17
15.03.12	Café Karachi, Ladypool Road. Ladypool Road Traders. 18 persons.	A bank is needed. Better footpaths and street lighting. More off-street car parks. Parking space for coaches. Better signage. Creating better identity, by naming and by gateway features.	BH12 BH13 BH6, BH12 BH6, BH12 BH13 BH7, BH13
20.04.12	BCC, Hall Green District Office. Matthew Powell. 1 person.	Business Improvement District proposal. Bid for Mary Portas pilot grant. Parking, run by BID.	BH1 BH1 BH2, BH6
07.06.12	Calthorpe Park. David Hughes, Environment Agency. 1 person.	Renaturalisation of the River Rea.	BH18

3.3 The “shopping list” which was drawn up early in 2012 was a summary of the major topics which were introduced into the discussions by the participants in the various consultation meetings. There was a high degree of consensus within those consulted as to what should be on the list. There has been a degree of interpretation and articulation of the topics, in order to translate them into a coherent list which could become the basis for the writing of a series of proposals and policies. The list is as follows:

- *Moseley Road.*
Making Moseley Road a real local centre. Creation of a town square. Reorganising the highway space. Decluttering. Tree planting. Bringing significant buildings back into productive use.
- *Ladypool Road.*
Reorganising the highway space. Improving building frontages. Restructuring car parking.
- *Stoney Lane.*
Reorganising the highway space. Improving building frontages. Removing car parking restrictions.
- *Rail passenger services.*
Location of a new Balsall Heath railway station. Making good pedestrian connections to the station.
- *Jobs and employment.*
Finding opportunities for the creation of spaces for new SMEs.
- *Energy.*
Specifying standards for new buildings and the upgrading of old buildings, both to conserve energy and to generate autonomous energy. Possible Combined Heat and Power scheme for buildings on Moseley Road.
- *Schools and parks.*
Improving local parks, and making better connections between them and adjacent primary schools.
- *River Rea.*
Relandscaping the river between Edward Road and Belgrave Middleway. Regrading contours, creating riverside places, replanting, widening the river, weirs.
- *Ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site.*
Proposing an alternative mixed-use development plan which meets community needs.
- *Highgate Road.*
Proposing the development of new housing and small green landscaped spaces along a new boulevard.
- *Car parking on residential streets.*
Proposing measures to relieve the pressure on space, particularly in byelaw streets. Residents’ parking schemes a possibility.
- *“Old” Moseley Road.*

Making a strategy for the incremental upgrading of the bypassed part of Moseley Road. The Hub development. Improving other old buildings. Proposals for new development. Highway improvements.

- *Streets generally.*
Proposals for making streets more congenial places for walking and cycling, and for social uses generally. Highway redesign. Possible extension of 20mph zone. Relighting. Signing. Tree planting. Removal of barriers previously put in to deter kerbcrawlers. Better pedestrian crossings of major roads.
- *Local identity.*
Measures to create a distinctive identity for Balsall Heath. Boundary signs. Colours, images, patterns, public art.
- *Unadopted and leftover spaces.*
Proposals for bringing under local control spaces like the unadopted avenues on Runcorn Road, and patches of poorly maintained municipal land in newer housing areas.
- *Empty sites.*
Proposals for new developments on empty sites. Emphasis on residential and employment uses.
- *Youth services.*
Opportunities will be sought for the development of social, recreational and training-related services for local youth.

Possible Quick Win elements

- Entrance signs at key points.
- Fill in subway on Highgate Middleway.
- Ladypool Square, and other elements within Amey programme.
- Improve Runcorn Road avenues. (in 2014-15 Amey programme).
- Remove kerbcrawler barriers.
- Signage to Ladypool Road car parks.

4 Stage 2. Consultation on draft proposals.

June to August 2012.

4.1 The shopping list was then translated into a series of draft proposals. In some cases the translation was simple and direct. An example of this might be the investment in, and reuse of, the neglected listed buildings on Moseley Road. In other cases, the translation required more consideration and judgement. An example of this might be the new railway station: the principle was agreed, but there were different views on the best location, which had to be resolved.

4.2 The proposals were recorded on eight A1 panels, which were exhibited in a number of locations in Balsall Heath. The main venue was Balsall Heath Library, where they were exhibited during June and July 2012. In addition, the panels were exhibited outside Lidl on Moseley Road, outside Raja Brothers on Ladypool Road, and outside Cannon Hill Academy, for one day each. They were also exhibited in St Paul's Community Trust for twelve days. Reductions of the panels are included as an appendix to this report.

Staff from Balsall Heath Forum accompanied the exhibition on the days on which it was on the street, and solicited feedback. On the days when the exhibition was at the Library, it was not staffed by Balsall Heath Forum, similarly the days at St Paul's. From the representative attendance figures which were collected, the Forum calculates that around 1145 people visited the exhibition on the 40 days on which it was in existence in the various locations.

4.3 The ten residents' groups met during this period, and reduced-size versions of the panels were shown there. A4 versions of the proposals were widely distributed, and the panels were also available on the Forum's website. Around 180 people viewed and discussed the proposals at the ten meetings.

All of the face-to-face consultation was staffed by Balsall Heath Forum. Some members of the public completed questionnaire forms, but in the majority of cases their verbal feedback was recorded by the Forum staff. Of the 400 copies of the A4 versions of the panels which were printed, 391 were distributed.

4.4 The predominant response to the proposals from residents was positive. Many reminded the Forum staff that they had been involved in the initial consultations, and confirmed that the proposals were delivering the changes and improvements which had been initially suggested. The chief negative response was that, while the proposals were supported, there was a scepticism that improvements would actually be implemented.

4.5 Some specific comments made by residents were as follows. The responses to these in the Neighbourhood Plan or elsewhere are written in italics.

- Any widening of the River Rea should not interfere with adjacent sports pitches in Calthorpe Park.

This is ensured in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- The new railway station should be adjacent to the St Paul's Community Trust premises.

This is the preferred location in the Neighbourhood Plan.

- Contradictorily, there was support for the location of the station on Brighton Road. *This was the location of the original 19th century station, but is not favoured by the Neighbourhood Plan as it is not central.*
- Closer linkages between primary schools and adjacent or nearby parks were supported.

These are included in the Neighbourhood Plan wherever it is geographically feasible.

- Car parking should be subject to tighter controls. *In some cases this would be supportive of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, but this is not a matter over which the Neighbourhood Plan has influence.*

- The freedom of parents to drive their children short distances to and from school should be limited.

- *In some cases this would be supportive of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan, but this is not a matter over which the Neighbourhood Plan has influence.*

- The retail development proposed by Standard Life for its land should not be built. Instead there should be new housing and sporting facilities, including the relocation of the previous astroturf. But employment opportunities in new development should be sought.

The planning approval for the retail development has now expired, and in the pre-submission consultation Standard Life's agents expressed their support for the mixed-use strategy proposed by the Neighbourhood Plan. This strategy includes housing and employment, but not the relocation of the astroturf.

- Clifton Road Mosque should be allowed to expand their activities on to adjacent sites, to prevent them needing to leave the area.

This would be supportive of the strengthening of the neighbourhood centre proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan, but has not been expressly identified in the Plan, although informal support for the expansion has been given by the Forum.

- St Paul's Community Trust should be able to acquire the old Surestart building on St Paul's Road to expand its activities.

This has already happened, and the building is currently being converted for the Trust.

4.6 Balsall Heath Forum also solicited responses to the proposals from traders on Ladypool Road and on Moseley Road. Some typical comments were as follows. The responses to these in the Neighbourhood Plan or elsewhere are written in italics.

- More parking space for customers is needed. *This is proposed in the Neighbourhood Plan.*
- Can't you stop the police fining our customers for parking on double-yellow lines outside our shop?

This is not a matter over which the Neighbourhood Plan can have any influence. The Plan does propose that some rationalisation of parking on Ladypool Road could be achieved, but more off-road parking spaces are the main objective.

- Make Moseley Road a through road again, by reopening it at the ring road.
This junction is outside the Neighbourhood Plan area.
- Making part of Sparkgreen Park at the Ladypool Road end into a car park is a good idea.

This was initially proposed as part of the draft Neighbourhood Plan. But it has been taken out of the submitted Plan due to mitigation measures suggested by the Sustainability Appraisal.

4.7 The Forum staff who conducted the consultations reported that most people to whom they talked were very supportive of the proposals. They felt that those who had drawn up the plan from the initial consultations had done 'a good job' and were enthusiastic about the proposals.

4.8 During this stage there were specific objections to the Plan received from two neighbouring bodies. The Sparkbrook Neighbourhood Forum objected to the Plan area including an area around the Moseley Road north of Highgate Road, This area is outside the boundary of Balsall Heath Forum and within that of Sparkhill NF, but had been included at the suggestion of the City Council planning officers, in order to include in the NDP more of the Moseley Road regeneration corridor. Following the objection, this area was withdrawn from the Plan.

The draft plan included a proposal to build new housing on the vacant City Council-owned land on either side of Highgate Road, transforming a redesigned Highgate Road into a residential boulevard. However, the NDP boundary runs along the centre of Highgate Road, therefore only the southern half of the proposed development is within the NDP area. The Larches Park Residents Association, representing residents living to the north of Highgate Road, objected to the proposal on the grounds that it impinged on their area.

Clearly the residential boulevard proposal needs to be addressed as a totality. But while continuing to show the complete extent of the development on the illustrative plan and section included in the document, Balsall Heath Forum has made it clear in the document that the NDP includes only the southern half of the proposed development.

5 Stage 3. Pre-submission consultation. September to November 2013

5.1 Following the exhibition of the proposals, there was a process in which the proposals, which had been illustrated in a largely pictorial form, were translated into a draft series of written policies suitable for inclusion into the NDP. In addition, another consultant was commissioned by the City Council to prepare a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft proposals.

5.2 When these processes were complete, the statutory pre-submission consultation took place, over eight weeks between September and November 2013. The draft Plan, together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment documents, was made available to the statutory agencies as defined in the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, and as expanded at the City Council's suggestion. They were also made available to local organisations and to the general public. All documents were available on a website, and paper copies were displayed in Balsall Heath Library and at the Forum's office, with questionnaires to solicit responses. A four-page summary of the draft Plan was published in the September issue of *The Heathan*, giving details of where to find the documents.

5.3 This is a schedule of the comments received from consultees to the pre-submission consultation, and of any responses subsequently taken by the Forum.

Natural England

General advice only given: no specific response.

Highways Agency

No comments.

The Coal Authority

No comments.

Sport England

Supports policies BH1 and BH2. Parks improvements, section 5.10, need costings. Realistic sporting opportunities should be sought: alternative providers to BCC may be possible. Traditional sports may not reflect the community's interests. Sports development can also create new jobs.

Response: Costings for specific improvements will be made at a later stage, when particular priorities are identified. Presently, the City Council has no funding available for improvements to parks.

Tyler-Parkes (for WM Police)

Requests greater prominence for issues of crime prevention and safety.

Response: The extent to which a NDP can contribute to crime prevention and safety, within a document which is mainly concerned with land use, is limited. Our NDP policies are based upon, among other things, sound principles of public space which should work to mitigate criminal and anti-social behaviour.

St Paul's Community Development Trust

Generally in support of the Plan. But concerned about the impact of the proposed location of the railway station upon the Venture sports facilities and other community facilities.

Response: This has been pursued with the Trust, and it is a result of a misreading of the plans.

Karima Alawi, Highgate Road (resident).

Supports the building of new houses on Highgate Road.

Michelle Carden, St Alban's Road (resident)

Supports the Plan generally, and particularly town square, street improvements, ex-college site development, river improvements, railway station, and new housing on Highgate Road.

GVA (for Standard Life Assurance) (owners of the ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site)

Considers that the draft NDP appears positive in its approach to development, and reflects the relevant strategic content of the emerging BDP. (See the following paragraph).

Response: this comment is very welcome, as Standard Life was previously the one stakeholder with a substantial objection to the NDP proposals.

English Heritage

Commends and endorses the approaches taken to both the wider historic environment and individual historic buildings in the NDP.

Birmingham City Council

The Planning and Regeneration Department facilitated a corporate response from the City Council, which contained comments on the draft Plan from several departments. The great majority of these related to technical issues of drafting, the organisation of the document, and relationships between the document and the emerging local plan, the Birmingham Development Plan. These have been acted on in the subsequent revision of the NDP.

More significant issues were raised about the proposed redesign of Highgate Road, and the development of the adjacent council-owned land for new housing. A meeting was held with the Transportation Department, at which the department's requirements for the Highway Improvement Line were defined. Modifications to the development proposals were subsequently made.

Similarly, the proposed cycle priority route, while supported in principle, was judged to be unachievable in its specified detail form, and this has been redrafted.

A meeting was also held with the District Parks Officer, to discuss the various proposals and policies which affected parks and Leisure Department-owned land (which includes the land on Highgate Road). There was agreement on the majority of cases, with the exception of the proposal to convert part of Sparkgreen Park to a shoppers' car park, which was judged to be contrary to Council policy, though supported by Ladypool Road traders.

5.4 Perhaps the most significant response in the pre-submission consultation was that received from the agents for Standard Life Assurance, GVA. Standard Life are the owners of the ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site, and had a planning permission (extended and expiring on 2nd June 2014) for the development of non-food retail. Their agents had throughout the making of the Neighbourhood Plan opposed the Plan's proposal, based upon residents' expressed views in the consultation process, that the site should be developed instead with a mixture of uses, but including a substantial proportion of houses. The full text of the letter from Nick Hardy, Director of GVA, dated 19th November 2013, is quoted below.

We act on behalf of Standard Life Assurance (SLA) in relation to land at the junction of Haden Way and Belgrave Middleway and which was formerly occupied by the Joseph Chamberlain College (JCC) and Birmingham, Sports Centre (BSC). The site is referred to at various points in the draft Balsall Heath NDP including at Policy BH10.

In 2006 planning permission was granted for the use of the site for retail development. The application sought permission on the basis that development would substantially fund the construction of a new JCC and sports facilities and meet a need for retail floorspace. SLA purchased the site, the new JCC and sports facilities were built and the site was cleared. As the draft NDP confirms, permission was granted in 2011 to extend the period for implementation, subject to obligations which require contributions to significant improvements to Haden Circus and other junctions in the NDP area.

SLA has considered the content of the NDP against the 'basic conditions' that NDPs are required to satisfy. In general terms, and in accordance with the Framework, the draft NDP appears positive in its approach to development. Moreover, the draft NDP generally reflects the relevant strategic content of the emerging Birmingham Development Plan (BDP). In relation to Policy BH10 and supporting text, SLA notes the references to the former JCC site's redevelopment being a priority for the area "in accordance with the regeneration objectives of the NDP" and for a mix/variety of uses. These references are noted and supported, in the context of the comments above.

5.5 After the pre-submission consultation, Balsall Heath Forum requested a response to the draft NDP from the emerging Sparkbrook and Springfield Business Improvement District, which at that time was in the process of formation. At the time of submission, the BID's

future is uncertain, as it has lost an appeal, and needs to rebalot its constituency later in 2014. The BID's boundary overlaps that of the NDP, and the BID includes approximately the eastern third of the NDP area. We received a response from Maz Iqbal, the Interim Chair of the Sparkbrook and Springfield BID Company Limited, dated 11th March 2014, which is quoted in full below.

We are writing to you in support of the Neighbourhood Development Plan currently being drawn up by the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum.

The business community in the local area has recently voted in favour of plans to adopt a Business Improvement District in the area and we believe that this indicates the support of the businesses to improve the area and in doing so underpins the work of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

While the boundaries of the two areas are different, there is a significant overlap. Moreover, the two areas are inextricably linked in terms of the people living, working and visiting and the BID intends to work with the NDP to ensure that shared aims and outcomes are met.

There are several projects within the NDP which reference the BID and the BID Board would like to underline its commitment to carrying these out in partnership with the NDP and other key stakeholders.



**BALSALL
HEATH
COMMUNITY
PLANNING
REPORT**



**PRINCE'S
FOUNDATION**
FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY



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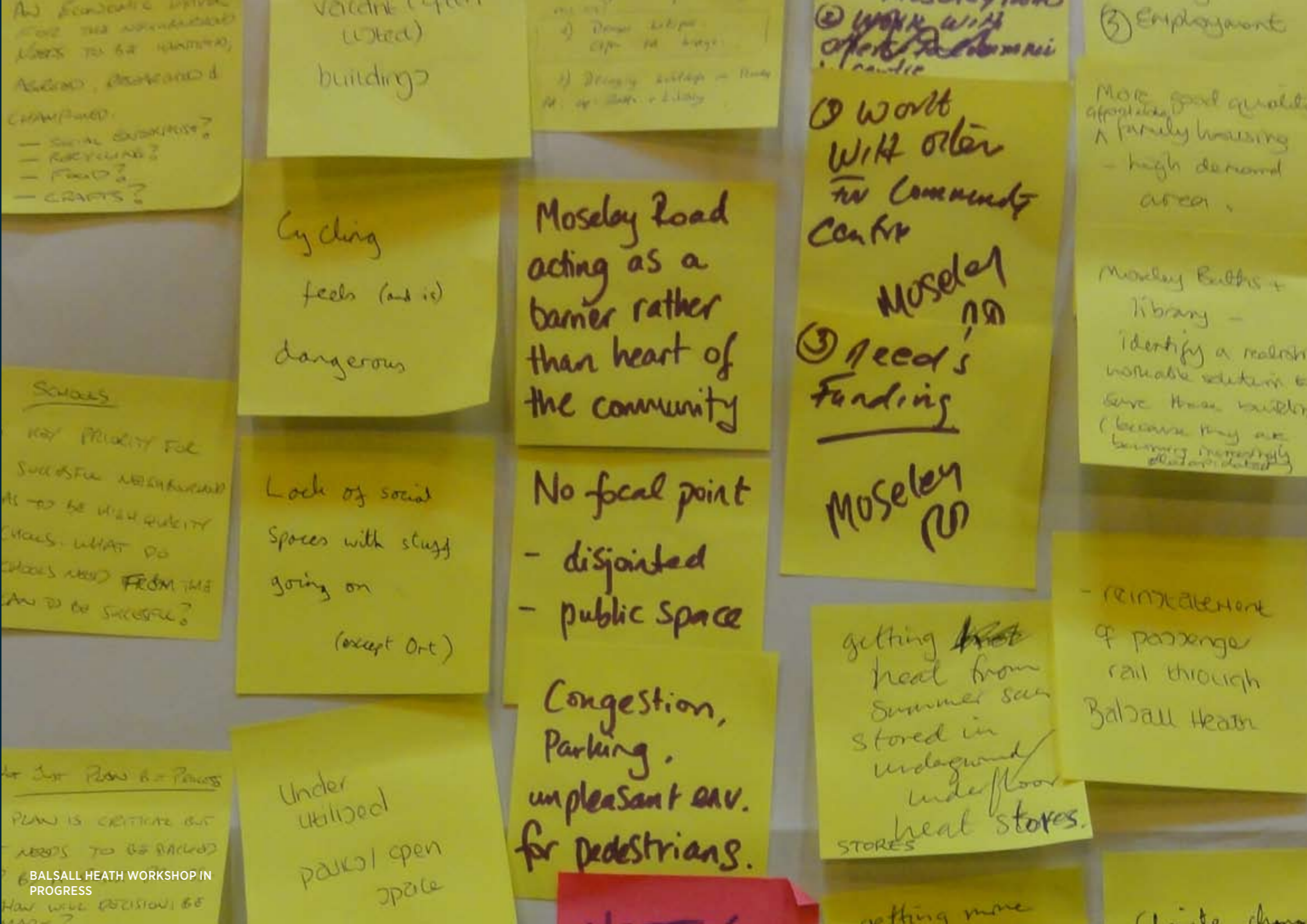
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THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION
for BUILDING COMMUNITY:
TRANSFORMING LIVES through ENGAGING
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BALSALL HEATH WORKSHOP IN PROGRESS

Facilitating a first phase stakeholder and community engagement.

KIM HITCH, PRINCES FOUNDATION



INTRODUCTION

The Prince's Foundation is a not-for-profit charitable organization based in London that transforms people's lives by making great places.

We operate within the UK and internationally, and aim to help create attractive sustainable neighborhoods through community engagement; by teaching, practicing and applied research. The Prince's Foundation was established in 1998 and is one of over 20 charities for which the Prince of Wales is President. Together we comprise the largest multi-cause charitable enterprise in the United Kingdom.

THE BALSALL HEATH FORUM

The Balsall Heath Forum approached the Prince's Foundation as one of the four organisations appointed by the Department for Communities and Local Government as part of the 'Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning Scheme', to support communities with advice, guidance and assistance. The commission was to work with the Forum to facilitate a first phase stakeholder and community engagement workshop to consider issues and options as part of the Neighborhood Plan process. This exercise was opportunity for local stakeholders to create a positive vision for the regeneration of the Balsall Heath

neighbourhood. This vision, in return recognises its heritage and celebrates its distinctive style.

The workshop process described in the following report follows the recognized Enquiry by Design (EbD) charette process of engaging stakeholders to elicit ideas and information and consider key actions, activities and development opportunities the plan should cover, recognizing that the Government is looking for communities to get increasingly involved in planning and regeneration issues.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The proposals in this Enquiry by Design (EbD) Document have been developed by the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment with the Balsall Heath Forum and Birmingham City Council along with key stakeholders and residents during a community workshop from the 13th to 15th of December 2011.



THE LOCALISM BILL AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

THE LOCALISM BILL ASPIRATIONS

‘Devolving decision making power to local communities enabling them to formulate a positive vision of their future.’

Within this introduction contains provisions for neighbourhood planning and empowering local communities to identify their priorities reflecting local needs and aspirations. Its aim being to encourage more people to participate in the planning process.

WHY A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Draft National Planning Policy Framework (July 2011) stated that communities should:

‘DEVELOP A SHARED VISION FOR THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD SET PLANNING POLICIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LAND.’

This is set against a context where the Government is moving to a system where the default answer to development is ‘yes’ based on sustainable development. Communities therefore need to play a part in determining what ‘sustainable development’ means to them.

Whilst the framework sets the broad economic, environmental and social priorities, these emerging neighborhood plans are to shape and direct development in the areas identified, subject to the presumption in favour of sustainable development. These can be delivered in various forms, the assumption being that they may become Neighbourhood Development Plans, the policies contained within taking precedence over existing policies in the Local Plan for that ‘neighbourhood’*.

Policy sets out that the development of neighbourhood plans is a ‘neighbourhood’ led process: It will be Initiated by a qualifying neighbourhood body (a community group such as the Forum Produced by the neighbourhood body with assistance from the Local Authority. The Community will decide on content. The content will be flexible to address different needs and expectations and tailored to the neighbourhood.

However the ambitions of the Neighbourhood Plan should be aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area as set out by the local planning authority and must therefore be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan.

Guidance suggests that any plan to be taken through the statutory process and ultimately to be called a ‘Neighbourhood Plan’ will need to comply with:

THE STRATEGIC CONTENT OF THE LOCAL PLAN

THE NATIONAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK OR OTHER NATIONAL GUIDANCE, INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ‘PRESUMPTION IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

E APPLICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF LAND

IDENTIFY SPECIFIC SITES OR BROAD LOCATION, AND SPECIFY THE FORM, SIZE, AND TYPE OF DEVELOPMENT

GUIDE OVERALL SCALE, DENSITY, MASSING, HEIGHT, LANDSCAPE, LAYOUT AND ACCESS OF NEW DEVELOPMENT IN RELATION THE LOCAL AREA MORE GENERALLY

CONSIDER IS PERMISSIVE, ENABLING DEVELOPMENT NOT PREVENTING IT.

INCLUDESADVICE FOR DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION

Neighbourhood Plans may also refine/add to policies in Core Strategies and Area Action Plans, including:

PLANNING OBJECTIVES

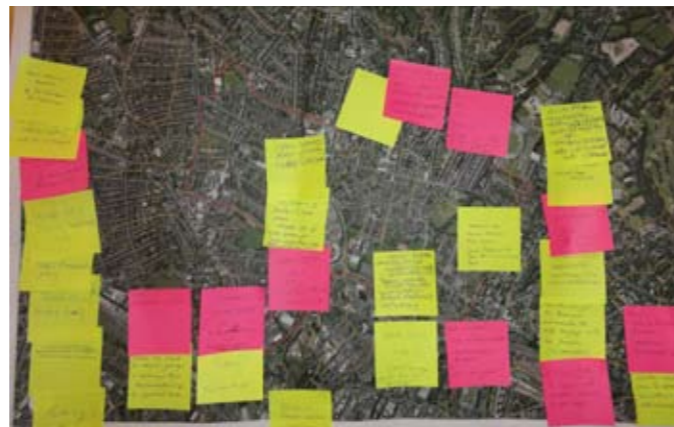
BROAD PLANNING CONTEXT OR VISION

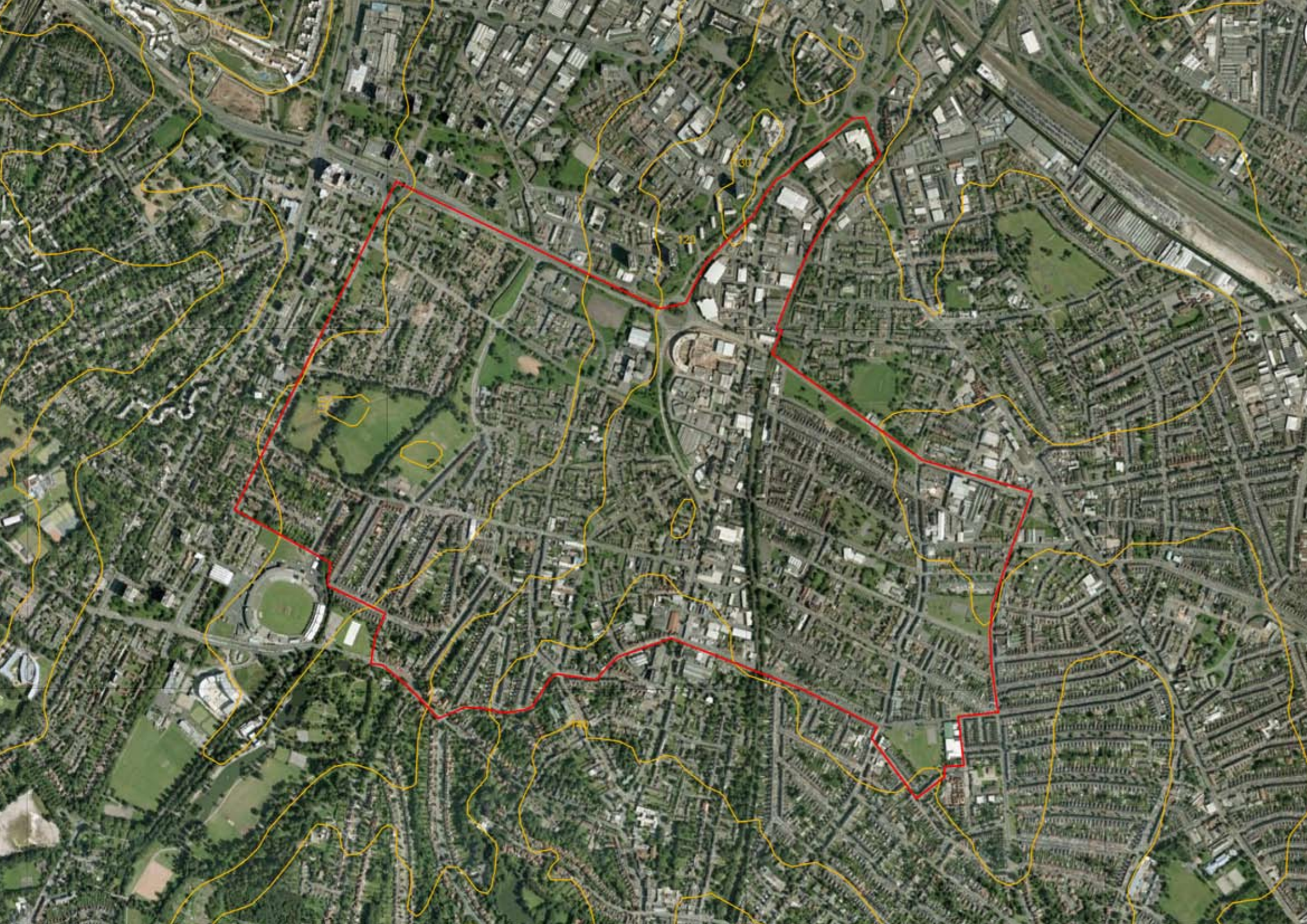
KEY PROJECTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT POLICIES

SITE SPECIFIC POLICIES (NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORDERS)

CHANGES TO COVERAGE OF PLANNING DESIGNATIONS





PROJECT BRIEF

The Balsall Forum began work on the Neighbourhood Plan-making process in September 2011. They have a 25 week programme for producing the Plan, with a target date for a draft Plan in March 2012.

Up until December 2011 work has been devoted to two concurrent processes. Firstly, consultation with as wide a group of stakeholders as possible including businesses, schools, resident groups, Housing Associations, Centro bus company and Birmingham City Council departments: Secondly, a physical mapping of the area, establishing land uses, problematic places, and opportunities for new development. in order to identify priorities for the Plan, and opportunities for action.

During this period the Balsall Heath Forum asked for support from the Prince's Foundation in initiating and facilitating the first phase of the process; by running an initial workshop looking at issues and possible options in terms of a potential spatial framework upon which to build their neighbourhood plan..

KEY ISSUES THEY IDENTIFIED

- ENABLE THE GENERATION OF MORE JOBS IN THE AREA
- DIMINISH CAR-DEPENDENCY, DEALING WITH PARKING ISSUES AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WALKING AND CYCLING
- TESTING THE PLAN FOR A NEW BALSALL HEATH RAILWAY STATION
- FACILITATE THE BUILDING OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSES IN THE AREA
- CONSIDERING POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE USES THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EX-6TH FORM COLLEGE SITE

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Balsall Heath is located approximately two miles to the south-east of Birmingham city centre, within the Hall Green parliamentary constituency. Today it is separated from the city core by the inner ring road, the Middleway. The primary road through the area is the Moseley Road, which becomes the A435 Alcester Road.

Road through to the more affluent neighbourhoods of Mosley and Kings Heath.

Balsall Heath is well served by public transport with a key bus route along the A453. Accessibility to public transport is important for an area where more than half of households do not have a car or van. Balsall Heath is within the Birmingham European Regional Development Fund Priority 3 Package "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development". This aims to stimulate economic development through creating jobs and assisting small and medium-sized businesses.



FROM TOP; STREET VIEW OF BALSALL; MAP OF BALSAL
OPPOSITE; BALSALL HEATH IN CONTEXT



THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKSHOP

SITE VISIT, 13 DECEMBER 2011

The first day of the workshop process involved a site visit of Balsall Heath with a representative of the Balsall Heath forum, Joe Holy oak who is tasked with leading the Neighbourhood Plan process.

This enabled the Prince's Foundation team to develop understanding of the character and nature of the area, current linkages and spatial, built form relationships. The team were also able to experience some of the challenges facing Balsall Heath including, for example, congestion and traffic management issues on Mosley Road.

WORKSHOP, 14 DECEMBER 2011

Local stakeholders were invited to a one day workshop to scope out the potential issues and themes that an emerging neighbourhood plan could address and to start the visioning and optioning process. Kim Hitch, of the Prince's Foundation, introduced the event and outlined the purpose of the workshop and its broad objectives, namely to:

BRING TOGETHER; COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE AREA STATUTORY STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER AT AN INITIAL STAGE TO DISCUSS ISSUES FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW.

TO START TO LOOK AT POTENTIAL OPTIONS

TO START TO ADDRESS THE CONTEXT, CHALLENGES AND ACTIVITIES REQUIRED BY THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN PROCESS.

The day began with a series of technical presentations. Val Hart introduced the presentations with an overview of the history of Balsall Heath. Staff of Birmingham City Council provided a context for the workshop through a series of presentations on a range of topics including the regional planning context, transportation challenges and economic development opportunities and potential sites. A presentation by Joe Holyoak on behalf of the Balsall Heath Forum identified emerging issues and opportunities that the Neighbourhood Plan could cover. A summary of the main points addressed is provided in the next section.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The name, Balsall is first mentioned as Bordeshale, which derives from the Old English Bord's health meaning 'Bord's nook'.

Balsall Heath stands on clay. Before 1767 when the Moseley Road had turnpikes, this part of the route was notoriously treacherous in winter and wet weather. However, this clay became a valuable economic resource from the 18th century and was extensively dug for brick-making. During the 19th century many local houses were built of clay excavated on site or near by.

Balsall Heath was agricultural land between Moseley village and the city of Birmingham until the 1850s when expansion along Moseley Road joined the two. The area was originally part of the Worcestershire parish of King's Norton, and amalgamated into the county borough of Birmingham in Warwickshire on October 1, 1891. The residents voted to amalgamate with Birmingham, largely encouraged by the lower council rates in the City. As part of this process the residents were promised a public baths and a free library.

In 1895 the library was opened on Moseley Road and in 1907 Balsall Heath Baths were opened in an adjoining building. The small lake at the end of Ladypool Road was also filled to create a park. In 1900, the area became home to the city's College of Art.

The present residential district took its name after the laying out of Balsall Heath Road in 1829 as a speculative building investment that was initially aimed at attracting Birmingham's growing middle class. The developers had ideas of creating another Edgbaston, but the estate lacked the strict controls imposed by the Calthorpe family. Plots were freehold not leasehold and consequently there were no restrictions on the quality or density of housing.

Good quality housing, however continued to be constructed along the Moseley Road. Building continued into the 1850s and 1860s and rapidly spread to the east side of the Moseley Road. The addition of a railway station on Brighton Road led to further expansion, and the end of the 19th century saw a proliferation of high-density, small terraced houses.

By 1939 the area was identifiable as working class, densely populated and mainly patterned with terraced housing. This was severely impacted by aerial bombing during the second world war, 1940-1942. Although a comprehensive clearance programme was identified post war other City investment priorities meant that poor housing conditions and derelict

bomb sites remained well into the mid 1970's

By the 1980s, many of Balsall Heath's houses had fallen into a state of neglect, some without bathrooms or indoor toilets. The local authority considered demolishing these properties but chose to refurbish them as part of an Urban Renewal scheme. Most of these Victorian terraces still survive and characterize the area today.

The decline in the fabric of the neighbourhood meant also that the nature and economic vibrancy of the community also changed as the area became identified with a cheap place to live and accessible to newcomers and short term residents. By the 1970s the area had acquired a very poor reputation.

A Muslim community was started in June 1940 when two Yemenis purchased an artisan cottage on Mary Street. They went on to establish the first mosque in the city. With the mosque being located in the area, the Muslim community began to expand as individuals and families began to move into private lodgings locally. With many of the pre war residents being rehoused as whole streets were cleared and the availability of low cost housing to new 'incomer' communities, the population continued to change and become more ethnically diverse. This has impacted on the nature of retail in the area as shops changed to meet the needs of the newer residents and new places of worship were established



FROM TOP A PHOTO OF THE RAILWAY BRIDGE AS PRESENT, A HISTORICAL PHOTO OF THE BRIDGE AND BUILDINGS AFTER BEING BOMBED





PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT SITE

BALSALL HEATH FORUM

The Balsall Heath Form was formed 25 years ago, as the 'Building a Better Balsall Heath' campaign to combat the poor image of the area and to deal with the blight, decay, crime and depression. The leading lights included representatives from a Mosque, Anglican and Methodist churches, and a voluntary organisation. They were joined by a Trades Unionist and half a dozen residents.

Together, they made progress in changing the image of the area, forming and representing the community with the Local Council, helping organize a mid -summer carnival and starting a community newspaper.

They achieved a number of successes and eventually become the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Forum with the first elections to the Forum's executive in 1992.. Today, out of a population of 15,000 with 9,000 of voting age, some 1,000 are members. There are 12 resident elected

members, 6 residents who represent voluntary and faith organisations and 4 who are co-opted.

The Forum now both represents the local voice to the public and private sectors and undertakes a variety of tasks with the help of its staff and an array of volunteers. It is rearranging the way Balsall Heath is managed and governed. It is enabling more and more local people to improve the quality of local life.



PLANNING CONTEXT

REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY

The Regional Spatial Strategy was revoked with the abolition of the regional Assembly in March 2011 and the Localism Act (2011).

As a result long-term growth and development within the region reverts back to being the responsibility of local authorities including Birmingham City Council. Crucially it is the Council that will determine the level of population and housing growth over the next 20 years and beyond.

BIRMINGHAM'S GROWTH AGENDA

Birmingham has ambitious plans to grow and improve the quality of life of its population.

It is expected that the population will increase by a further 100,000 in the next 20 years. To accommodate this, an integrated growth plan is being developed which will create sustainable communities where people want to live, work, visit and invest. This will involve supporting economic development with new opportunities for growth and jobs; significantly increasing the supply of quality housing choice. This will be achieved in the context of meeting the challenge of climate change with carbon reductions of 60% by 2026 and protecting and enhancing the environment and natural resources. Such ambitious targets will be met by policy decisions as outlined in the emerging Core Strategy.

BIRMINGHAM UNITARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

BALSALL HEATH IDENTIFIED AS PART OF THE SPARKBROOK WARD

The Unitary Development Plan adopted in 1993 was reviewed in 2005. The review took the form of alterations to the adopted plan. In September 2008, the Secretary of State agreed to save all but three policies in the UDP until they are replaced by the emerging Core strategy and Development Plan Documents.

The Unitary Development Plan (UDP) contains policies and proposals that currently guide development and land use for particular areas of the City. In addition, there are a range of other SPGs and adopted SPDs, which provide more detailed policy guidance for particular areas

Once approved these document will form the statutory Development Plan for Birmingham and will be the main basis for planning application decisions. These strategic documents together with Supplementary Planning Documents will shape the Local Development Framework, the portfolio of planning policies for Birmingham.

The Council is therefore continuing with a programme of area-based planning within the Local Development Framework. However it should be noted that whilst previously Balsall Heath has been the focus for extensive redevelopment and urban renewal activity, including improvements as part of the Sparkbrook/Sparkhill/Tyseley ARI, the area is not specifically targeted within the emerging Core strategy or 'Big City Plan'.



FROM TOP; CENTRAL BALSALL HEATH; SHOPS LINKING TO PARK AND SCHOOL



EMERGING CORE STRATEGY THE VISION

The Council is therefore continuing with a programme of area-based planning within the Local Development Framework.

However it should be noted that whilst previously Balsall Heath has been the focus for extensive redevelopment and urban renewal activity, including improvements as part of the Sparkbrook/Sparkhill/Tyseley ARI, the area is not specifically targeted within the emerging Core strategy or 'Big City Plan';

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

A VIBRANT GLOBAL CITY

AN INNOVATIVE & CONNECTED CITY

A HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE AND SENSE OF PLACE

OBJECTIVES

TO PROMOTE BIRMINGHAM'S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ROLE AS A GLOBAL CITY

TO CREATE A MORE SUSTAINABLE CITY THAT MINIMISES ITS CARBON FOOTPRINT AND WASTE WHILE ALLOWING THE CITY TO GROW

TO DEVELOP BIRMINGHAM AS A CITY OF VIBRANT URBAN VILLAGES, THAT IS SAFE, DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE WITH A LOCALLY DISTINCTIVE CHARACTER

TO SECURE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE CITY'S POPULATION, TOWARDS 1.1 MILLION

TO CREATE A PROSPEROUS, SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY, WITH BENEFITS FELT BY ALL

TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY TRANSPORTATION LINKS THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND WITH OTHER PLACES AND ENCOURAGE THE INCREASED USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

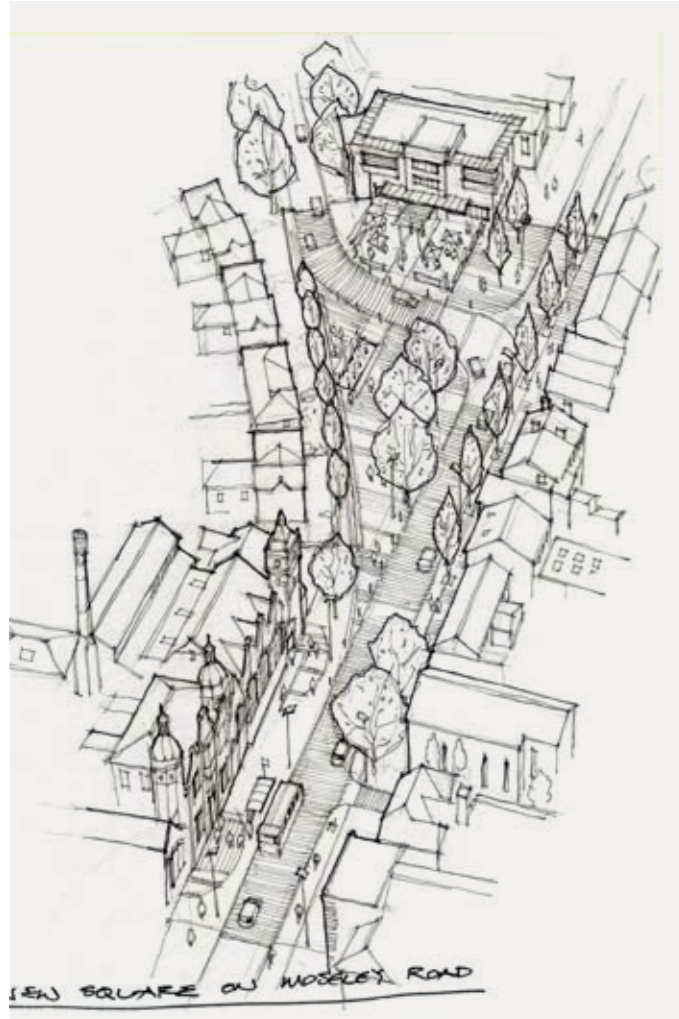
TO MAKE BIRMINGHAM A LEARNING CITY WITH QUALITY INSTITUTIONS

TO ENCOURAGE BETTER HEALTH AND WELLBEING THROUGH THE PROVISION OF NEW AND EXISTING SPORTS AND LEISURE ASSETS LINKED TO GOOD QUALITY PUBLIC OPEN SPACE THROUGHOUT

TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE CITY'S HERITAGE AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENTS ALLOWING BIODIVERSITY AND WILDLIFE TO FLOURISH

EMERGING CORE STRATEGY

THE VISION



NEW HOMES

50,600 NEW HOMES BY 2026

MAJORITY OF HOUSING DELIVERED ON BROWNFIELD LAND

PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE EXISTING DWELLING STOCK AND MATURE SUBURBS

MIXED AND BALLANCED COMMUNITIES THROUGH THE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND LARGER FAMILY DWELLINGS

NINE SUSTAINABLE URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS INCLUDING LONGBRIDGE, GREATER ICKNIELD AND BORDESLEY PARK

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROPOSED AT NORTH WORCHESTERSHIRE GOLF COURSE AND THE FORMER YARDLEY SEWAGE WORKS



TRANSPORT

REDEVELOPMENT OF NEW STREET STATION TO ACT AS A CATALYST FOR WIDER CHANGE

SUPPORT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC CYCLE NETWORK

IMPROVED PARK AND RIDE PROVISION

PROTECTION OF PRIMARY ROUTE NETWORK

ALLOWS FOR THE GOVERNMENTS HIGH SPEED 2 PROPOSAL

IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT THROUGH THE REOPENING OF PASSENGER SERVICES AND NEW STATIONS ON SUBURBAN RAILBAN RAILWAY LINES

SUPPORT FOR EXPANSION OF RAPID TRANSIT SUCH AS AMETRO INCLUDING LINK THROUGH EAST BIRMINGHAM AND EXTENSION TO NEW STREET STATION



NEW JOBS

100,000 NEW JOBS BY 2026

2 HIGH QUALITY REGIONAL INVESTMENT SITES AT LONGBRIDGE AND ASTON

PROTECT EXISTING CORE INDUSTRIAL AREAS AND OVER 200 HECTARES OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE CORE AREAS

RELEASE POOR QUALITY INDUSTRIAL SITES FOR OTHER USES SUCH AS HOUSING, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY USES

SUPPORT RETAIL AND OFFICE GROWTH IN CITY CENTRE AND SUTTON COLDFIELD AND PROMOTE NETWORK OF LOCAL CENTRES

3 DISTRICT CENTRE GROWTH POINTS AT PERRY BARR, SELLY OAK AND THE MEADWAY WITH POTENTIAL FOR NEW RETAIL AND OFFICE DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTION OF INDEPENDENTS/SMALL SHOPS RETAILING

DIVERSITY OF USES WITHIN CENTRES ENCOURAGED

UPPORT THE CENTRAL TECHNOLOGY BELT



GREEN CITY

MAINTAIN THE GREEN BELT WITH ONLY MINOR ADJUSTMENT AT YARDLEY SEWAGE WORKS

ACTIONS TO HELP ACHIEVE 60% REDUCTION IN CO2 BY 2026

ADAPT TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT MEETS HIGH STANDARD OF SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MAXIMISE THE USE OF COMBINED HEAT AND POWER (CHP) GENERATION

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE CITY'S WASTE

PROTECT THE CITY'S BIODIVERSITY AND GEOLOGICAL ASSETS

PROTECT PUBLIC OPEN SPACE AND PLAYING FIELDS



BIRMINGHAM'S BIG CITY PLAN

The Big City Plan is a 20 year vision to encourage and support continuing transformation to make Birmingham a world-class city centre.

It covers every aspect of the built environment, from improving links into and out of the city, and maintaining and enhancing its unique character, to developing new residential communities and supporting our diverse economy.

Covering 800 hectares of the city centre, the Big City Plan is a physical regeneration tool and strategic planning document. It focuses on the delivery of five areas of transformation supporting the growth of the City Core.

The masterplan is not a Statutory Planning document, but it is endorsed as the vision and framework for future development and regeneration of the City Centre. Where proposals need to be embedded in the statutory planning process to enable land use change, this will be achieved through the Core Strategy and subsequent Supplementary Planning Documents.

Whilst Balsall Heath sites outside of the Big City Plan it immediately borders on of the identified development areas; Southside and Highgate 59

The Big City Plan sees the Highgate residential area, as having a rich mix of existing activities giving the area a unique spirit and vibrancy. It is also identified as having significant redevelopment opportunities. The vision is to create one of the most diverse city centre quarters that will be a major cultural and visitor destination, with Highgate and surrounding areas providing a much improved family neighbourhood.



FROM TOP; PROPOSED MONORAIL LINK; BIG CITY PLAN LOGO
OPPOSITE; BIRMINGHAM BIG CITY PLAN

TRANSPORT AND MOVEMENT

KEY TRANSPORT ISSUE

Will Martin of Birmingham City Council provide a transportation overview including;

CURRENT TRANSPORT CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BALSALL HEATH AREA

GENERAL TRANSPORT ISSUES WITH THE ROAD NETWORK WITHIN AND CROSSING THE BALSALL HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD

INCLUDING LOCATION OF ACCIDENTS, EXISTING HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT LINES, CYCLING ROUTES AND 20MPH ROADS

PREVIOUS TRANSPORTATION SCHEME OPTIONS

POSSIBLE TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT OPTIONS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The area is crossed by a number of main transport corridors which serve the wider city network, these are identified as; Inner city ring road south side; Belgrave and Highgate Middleway A1840, Mosley road A 435 and Highgate Road A4167

All these roads are generally busy and lively and demonstrate peak time congestion for all road users. The implications of this is that these roads tend to create unsafe, unfriendly and unattractive pedestrian public realm and segregate parts of the neighbourhood from each other as they are not conducive to crossing.

As well as the main transport corridor issues, the general neighbourhood road network also demonstrates the following issues;

SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY CONCERNS ON CERTAIN ROADS

PARKING CONSTRAINTS ESPECIALLY IN TRADITIONAL RESIDENTIAL STREETS WHICH ARE NARROW AND OFTEN HOUSES ARE IN MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY WITH MORE THAN 1 VEHICLE.

CLUTTERED STREETScape; WITH SIGNAGE, BOLLARDS LIGHTING AND STREET TREES CREATING VISUALLY UNATTRACTIVE PLACES

He also identified the following main issues based on particular road locations and how the Neighbourhood Plan could address them.



MOSELEY ROAD

CONGESTION

DESIRE FOR IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES AND CROSSING POINTS

IMPROVED STREETScape AND FURNITURE

ENHANCED BUS STOP / INTERCHANGE AND POSSIBLE RED ROUTES



HIGHGATE ROAD

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL HAS AN EXISTING HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT LINE TO WIDEN KEY PARTS AND JUNCTIONS. THESE SHOULD BE REVIEWED IN LINE WITH CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES ALONG HIGHGATE ROAD.



LADYPOOL ROAD AND STONEY LANE

CONGESTION AND SAFETY CONCERNS BROUGHT ABOUT MAINLY BY INFORMAL PARKING ASSOCIATED WITH THE RETAIL NATURE OF THE STREET.

REVIEW OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS/ PROVISION ON LADYPOOL ROAD

IMPROVED STREETScape AND FURNITURE TO REMOVE VISUAL CLUTTER



LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOODS

REVIEW OF PARKING PROVISION IN NEIGHBOURHOOD STREETS

REVIEW OF LOCAL SAFETY AT CERTAIN ROAD JUNCTIONS AND ACCIDENT HOT SPOTS

POTENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF MORE 20MPH STREETS TO TRAFFIC CALM RESIDENTIAL AREAS

IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLING PROVISION ACROSS NEIGHBOURHOOD AREAS INCLUDING MORE CITY WIDE CYCLE ROUTES.



CAMP HILL RAILWAY LINE

PROPOSED USE OF THE LINE FOR PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC AND THE POSSIBILITY FOR A BALSALL HEATH RAILWAY STATION AND ASSOCIATED TRANSPORT INTERCHANGE WITH BUS ROUTES ON MOSLEY ROAD.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

*James Betjemann,
Birmingham City Council
East Birmingham
Regeneration Manager
presented an overview
of the development
site opportunities and
economic profile within
Balsall Heath.*

The economic profile for the area was identified as;

BEING IN THE 20% 'MOST DEPRIVED AREAS' NATIONALLY

HAVING A HIGH PROPORTION OF LOW INCOME LEVELS

HAVING HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

LOW LEVELS OF SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

BEING A PRIORITY NEIGHBOURHOOD WITHIN THE EXISTING UDP

However it was also pointed out that the city consider that the area has the following economic potential which need to be expressed / captured in any emerging plan and which aligns with current thoughts within the core strategy;

IT IS CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTRE AND WELL SERVED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

IT HAS A LARGE YOUTH POPULATION

THERE ARE KEY VIBRANT LOCAL CENTRES AND CULTURAL ASSETS WHICH ARE BOTH LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY RENOWNED.

THE AREA DEMONSTRATES STRONG ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT WITH MANY SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

GOOD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There is the potential for ERDF funding, especially for training and skills development which could enhance possible job creation in the area.

KEY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES SITES WITHIN THE BALSALL HEATH AREA

STRATFORD ROAD- HIGHGATE ROAD
JUNCTION OF STRATFORD ROAD AND HIGHGATE ROAD
INFINITY CENTRE
EUROPACKAGING SITE
291-293 HIGHGATE ROAD
100 LADYPOOL ROAD

NORTH OF HIGHGATE ROAD
FRIENDS INSTITUTE
232 MOSELEY ROAD

HIGHGATE ROAD INTERSECTION
COTTAGE OF CONTENT SITE
332-336 MOSELEY ROAD
OPEN SPACE ON HIGHGATE ROAD
BELGRAVE MIDDLEWAY (FORMER COLLEGE SITE)

SOUTH OF HIGHGATE ROAD
388-404 MOSELEY ROAD
427-461 MOSELEY ROAD

BALSALL HEATH LOCAL CENTRE
MOSELEY ROAD BATHS AND LIBRARY
496-500 MOSELEY ROAD (FORMER SCHOOL OF ART)
502-506 MOSELEY ROAD (FORMER PRINT WORKS)
508-514 MOSELEY ROAD
572-578 MOSELEY ROAD (MOSELEY ROAD DANCE CENTRE)
MOSELEY ROAD SHOP FRONTAGES

EMERGING ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

THE COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

Joe Holyoak presented an overview of the work done to date with the community in starting to identify issues and opportunities, including mapping problematic places, and opportunities for new development.

A key consideration was discussed was about the identity and possible physical centre of Balsall Heath.

It was presented that there is potentially 3 separate focuses each with a differing nature / character and fulfilling a differing function. These being Ladypool Road, Mosley Road and Edward Road. It was expressed that fundamental to the future of Balsall Heath is a vision for the Mosley Road area.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENABLE THE GENERATION OF MORE JOBS IN THE AREA.

FACILITATE THE GENERATION OF NEW BUSINESSES BY RESIDENTS.

FACILITATE THE BUILDING OF NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSES IN THE AREA.



MOVEMENT ISSUES

MINIMISE VEHICLE CONGESTION

TO DIMINISH CAR-DEPENDENCY, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF WALKING AND CYCLING.

TO REDUCE TRAFFIC SPEEDS WHERE NECESSARY.

TO REDESIGN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS.

ESTABLISH THE PLAN FOR A NEW BALSALL HEATH STATION ON THE RAILWAY LINE.

IDENTIFY WAYS OF REDUCING PRESSURE ON CAR PARKING SPACE IN RESIDENTIAL STREETS.

IMPROVE PUBLIC REALM DESIGN INCLUDING TREE PLANTING IN STREETS



LOCAL CENTRES

CONGESTION AND SAFETY CONCERNS BROUGHT ABOUT MAINLY BY INFORMAL PARKING ASSOCIATED WITH THE RETAIL NATURE OF THE STREET.

REVIEW OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS/ PROVISION ON LADYPOOL ROAD

IMPROVED STREETScape AND FURNITURE TO REMOVE VISUAL CLUTTER



DEVELOPMENT SITES AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

CONSIDER OTHER OPTIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EX-6TH FORM COLLEGE SITE WITH COMMUNITY-FRIENDLY USES.

ENABLE THE DEVELOPMENT OF BCC-OWNED LAND ON HIGHGATE ROAD WITH COMMUNITY-FRIENDLY USES.

ENABLE THE APPROPRIATION AND TRANSFER TO SUITABLE USES OF LEFTOVER AND INAPPROPRIATE GREEN SPACES IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

SET STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN OF NEW DEVELOPMENT.

SET STANDARDS FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND GENERATION.



PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

IMPROVE THE UTILITY AND ATTRACTIVENESS OF EXISTING PARKS, AND CREATE NEW RECREATIONAL SPACES.



WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The stakeholders & community members were separated into 4 holistic mixed groups facilitated by a member of the Princes Foundation consultant team.

THE FIRST WORKSHOP SESSION

The first groups session was focused on identifying and confirming issues based on the presentations and local knowledge. As part of the first working session groups were asked to identify potential themes for the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan as an introduction to the envisioning process as to what the Plan could contain cover.

Each group was asked to review the following;

AS AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFY 3 KEY ISSUES

AS A GROUP IDENTIFY THE TOP FIVE ISSUES

AS A GROUP IDENTIFY KEY THEMES ARISING

KEY CHANGES MOVING FORWARD

GROUP ONE

Group 1 identified and fed back the following Key Issues;

NEED TO CONSIDER HOW TO FOSTER MORE EMPLOYMENT INCLUDING;

SKILLS TRAINING

CLUSTERS OF USES

COMMUNITY ASSET TRANSFER OF BUILDINGS TO FORM COMMUNITY FOCUSED FACILITIES

NEED TO SET OUT IDENTITY OF NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES AND WHAT THEY ARE/ ROLE IS

TO RECOGNISE/ CELEBRATE THEIR ASSET/ ECONOMIC INVESTMENT POTENTIAL

SET OUT WHAT EACH MAY CONTAIN AND FUNCTION AS, SUCH AS RETAIL AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

IDENTIFY POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS AND MANAGEMENT ISSUES

DEALING WITH RUBBISH AND LITTER

TRANSPORT: ALL ISSUES

PARKING & CONGESTION

RAIL

HOUSING

FAMILY ACCOMMODATION

RENOVATE

GROUP TWO

Group 2 identified and fed back the following Key Issues;

NEED FOR ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS

DEALING WITH LITTER

IDENTIFYING SMALLER DERELICT SITES AS OPPORTUNITIES REGENERATION

IDENTIFY LARGER SITES AND WHAT IS THE BEST USE FOR THEM, BALANCING COMMUNITY NEEDS AND ASPIRATIONS WITH INVESTMENT VISIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS- INCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS WITH LAND OWNERS / DEVELOPERS IN TERMS OF SETTING A BENEFITS CASE.

CREATE / IDENTIFY MORE JOIN UP SERVICE PROVISION

COUNCIL, RSL AND PRIVATE AND LANDLORDS TO BE MORE CO-ORDINATED IN TERMS OF HOUSING PROVISION

COORDINATION OF SERVICE PROVISION INCLUDING MANAGEMENT MAINTENANCE

ENABLER RESIDENTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS.

POLICING AND CRIME PREVENTION/ SAFETY

POLICING SHOULD BE A COMMON THEME - CRIME AND SAFETY SHOULD BE CENTRAL

TRAFFIC

MOVEMENT AND CONGESTION, AND PARKING IDENTIFIED AS KEY ISSUES



WORKSHOP SESSIONS CONTINUED

GROUP THREE

Group 3 identified and fed back the following Key Issues;

TRAFFIC MATTERS

PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE SAFETY A HIGH PRIORITY ESPECIALLY ON MOSELEY ROAD

AREA HAS A LACK OF NEUTRAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES BUILDINGS

IT WAS RECOGNISED THAT THE AREA HAS A HIGH NUMBER OF BUILDINGS ASSOCIATED WITH FAITH GROUPS, BUT THERE IS NO NEUTRAL FACILITIES BUILDING TO BRING COMMUNITIES AND YOUNG PEOPLE TOGETHER.

WASTE OF SOCIAL POTENTIAL BECAUSE OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT.

NEED TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

NETWORKS OF SUPPORT

RENEWABLE ENERGY - OPPORTUNITIES

BALSALL HEATH INNOVATION & ENTERPRISE HUB'

LOW RENT WORKSHOP SPACE

IMPORTANT TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN THIS PROCESS, I.E. YOUTH AS A WASTED RESOURCE

IDENTIFYING YOUTH AS A WASTED RESOURCE WHICH NEEDS TO BE ENGAGED.

GROUP FOUR

Group 4 identified and fed back the following Key Issues;

TRAFFIC

PARKING AND ENFORCEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

CONGESTION ISSUES ESPECIALLY MOSELEY ROAD

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS ON HIGHGATE ROAD AND DEVELOPMENT SITE OPPORTUNITY NEED TO BE RESOLVED - DOES HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS NEED TO BE IMPLEMENTED

OPEN SPACE:

PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED ESPECIALLY STREET PARKING AND DECLUTTERING

OPEN SPACES NEED TO BE REVIEWED IN TERMS OF UNDERUTILISATION & QUALITY, ESPECIALLY HOUSING AMENITY SLOAP(SITE LEFT OVER AFTER PLANNING)

BUSINESS / EMPLOYMENT INVESTMENT

TRAINING NEEDS TO BE IDENTIFIED WITHIN PLAN

EMPLOYMENT AD JOB CREATION NEED TO BE IDENTIFIED WITHIN PLAN AS A KEY POLICY

THINK ABOUT ENCOURAGING BUSINESS CLUSTERS

YOUTH

NEED TO CONSIDER FOCUS ON YOUTH TRAINING EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES & INITIATIVES

NEED TO ENGAGE YOUTH REPRESENTATION IN THE PROCESS

ENERGY

NEIGHBOURHOOD COULD BE A MODEL OF SELF SUFFICIENCY

OPPORTUNITY TO INCLUDE A FULLY COHERENT SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY WITHIN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Group 4 were however mindful that it was important to balancing aspirations and what's deliverable and that a key part of the Neighbourhood plan focus needs to be on implementation and delivery.

FEEDBACK

Recurring Issues from Initial Break-out Groups

From the group feedback it became obvious that there were a number of common themes that were emerging as to what the Neighbourhood Plan should cover. These were identified as;

BUSINESS: EMPLOYMENT TRAINING, YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

TRAFFIC: PARKING, CONGESTION, SAFETY, SUSTAINABLE MOVEMENT

OPEN SPACE: QUALITY, USE AND FACILITIES

HOUSING: NEEDS, AFFORDABILITY AND IMPROVEMENTS

HERITAGE; REUSE OF QUALITY HISTORIC BUILDINGS

COMMUNITY FACILITIES: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT, ADULT EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENT: QUALITY OF PUBLIC REALM, CLEANLINESS,



THE SECOND WORKSHOP SESSION

FOR THE AFTERNOON SESSION THE GROUPS (WHICH REMAINED THE SAME AS THE MORNING SESSION) WERE ASKED TO START TO CONSIDER OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS THAT COULD INFORM AND CONSTITUTE THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN. SUCH CONSIDERATIONS WERE TO INCLUDE RESPONSES TO THE ISSUES RAISED IN THE MORNING SESSION AS WELL AS ACTIVITIES, DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.

PLANS AND LAYOUTS OF THE BALSALL HEATH AREA WERE USED BY THE GROUPS TO CAPTURE THE POINTS RAISED AND TO START DEFINING POTENTIAL SPATIAL FRAMEWORKS.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS CONTINUED

GROUP ONE

Group 1 focused on spatial place making and the key central area of the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood area including Haden Way, Mosley Road and Highgate Way. Issues identified included:

ENCOURAGING ENTERPRISE AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCLUDING NEW BUSINESSES AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES. AN EXAMPLE OF THE SORT OF FACILITY THAT COULD COME FORWARD BEING THE CUSTARD FACTORY.

A REBRANDING VISIONING FOR BALSALL HEATH CELEBRATING THE ETHNIC DIVERSITY OF THE AREA SUCH AS A BALSALL HEATH WORLD FAIR - ASIAN CRAFTS ETC.

LOCATING THE POTENTIAL RAILWAY STATION BETWEEN CLIFTON ROAD AND BALSALL HEATH ROAD

LOCATING NEW HOUSING ON HIGHGATE ROAD INCLUDING SMALL GREEN SPACE AND REDUCING THE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT IMPACTS.

A NEW HOTEL ON CORNER OF BELGRAVE MIDDLEWAY AND HADEN WAY- POSSIBLY WITH A TRAINING FACILITY

GROUP TWO

Group 2 focused on self sustaining solutions and project are community led and buildcommunity spirit. Concern was expressed that political change often means that programmes stop, therefore it is important that issues / solutions identified within the Plan are robust and as far as possible outside of political influence. The group also identified the following as important;

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT AND LANDSCAPE SOLUTIONS INCLUDING IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE PARKS

IDENTIFY LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL SQUARES TO FOSTER A SENSE OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT.

LOOK AT IMPROVED PUBLIC REALM ESPECIALLY PARKING SOLUTIONS/ PAVING AREAS/ PASSING AREAS

GROUP THREE

Group 3 focused also on the key central area of the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood area including Haden Way, Mosley Road and Highgate Way. Issues identified included;

CONSIDERATION AND IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS TO THE HISTORIC BATHS AND LIBRARIES. RECOGNISING THAT THESE ARE KEY LANDMARK BUILDING ASSETS THAT NEE TO HAVE USES TO ENSURE THEIR LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY.

IDENTIFIED THE MAIN HUB FOR BALSALL HEATH COULD BE AROUND THE MOSELEY ROAD INTERSECTION FOCUSED ON THE BATHS/ LIBRARY AND A NEW 'CIVIC' FOCUS WITH A NON DENOMINATION COMMUNITY FOCUSED BUILDING PROVIDING SERVICES.

A NEW RAIL STATION WAS IDENTIFIED AT CLIFTON ROAD AND ST PAUL'S ROAD

THE OLD JCC SITE ON THE CORNER OF BELGRAVE MIDDLEWAY AND HADEN WAY WAS IDENTIFIED HAS HAVING AN **ALTERNATIVE USE** - A THEMED HOTEL CELEBRATING THE DIVERSITY OF BALSALL

HEATH (INCLUDING A COOKERY SCHOOL)

IDENTIFIED TRAFFIC DANGER SPOTS FOR CYCLISTS AND PEDESTRIANS THAT NEED INTERVENTION / HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENTS THROUGHOUT THE AREA AS WELL AS IMPROVED CYCLE ROUTES

LADYPOOL ROAD WAS ALSO IDENTIFIED AS BEING A FOCUS FOR THE PLAN - ENHANCING ITS ROLE AND REPUTATION AND WIDER 'TOURIST' OPPORTUNITY PERHAPS WITH A ONCE A MONTH CLOSURE FOR MARKETS/ CRAFT MARKETS

GROUP FOUR

Group 4 focused on spatial place making, looking at the various different character areas within Balsall Heath and how the area is connected and where these can be improved. The Group also recognised that the Neighbourhood must not be considered in isolation and that it was important to view also connections and activities which are happening in adjoining areas. Complimentary set of uses makes the area useable. Issues identified included;

EXTENDING CYCLE ROUTES CONNECTING THE VARIOUS LOCAL COMMUNITY FOCAL POINTS AND OUT TO THE WIDER AREA, RECOGNISING THAT BALSALL HEATH IS VERY CLOSE TO THE CITY CENTRE.

LINK THE TRANSPORT/ MOVEMENT NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS WITH DEALING WITH ACCIDENT HOT SPOTS AND PARKING ISSUES.

CONSIDER THE USES AND QUALITY OF THE EXISTING OPEN SPACES AND LOOK AT A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE, POSSIBLY INCLUDING IDENTIFYING CERTAIN PARKS

/ SPACES WITH CERTAIN FACILITIES/ ACTIVITIES. NEED TO CONSIDER USE OF OPEN SPACE BY ALL AGES.

POSSIBLE CONSIDER REDESIGNATION OF SOME OF THE OPEN SPACE AS PART OF THE IMPROVEMENT PROPOSALS AND TO INTRODUCE NEW HOUSING ESPECIALLY IN UN-OVERLOOKED AREAS ON BALSALL HEATH ROAD.

THINK ABOUT IMPROVING THE RIVER EDGES FOR FLOOD CONTROL AND POSSIBLE ALLOTMENTS

CONSIDER THE JCC DEVELOPMENT SITE AS A MIXED USE SITE WITH HOUSING AND SMALL BUSINESS UNITS/EMPLOYMENT ACTIVITIES FRONTING BELGRAVE MIDDLEWAY.

THINK ABOUT IDENTIFYING THE ROLE / FUNCTION AND BRANDING OF THE 3 FOCUS AREAS OF BALSALL HEATH; LADYPOOL ROAD, MOSELEY ROAD AND EDWARD ROAD.

FOCUS IN ON A NEW VISION FOR CENTRAL BALSALL HEATH /MOSELEY ROAD POSSIBLY AS A NEW 'CIVIC' QUARTER- INCLUDING A 'CIVIC MULTICULTURAL SPACE' AND BUS INTERCHANGE LINKED TO THE POSSIBLE RAILWAY STATION

THINK ABOUT ENCOURAGING AND IDENTIFYING MIXED-USE DEVELOPMENT/ ENTERPRISE LED EMPLOYMENT USES IN THE CENTRAL AREA - REFLECTING CURRENT USES BUT STABILISING/ REINFORCING AND MAKING MORE SUSTAINABLE- ENCOURAGING STARTER UNITS / AN INCUBATOR HUB AND SKILLS TRAINING, ALL LINKED TO REGENERATION IMPROVEMENT TO THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.



WORKSHOP

EMERGING THEMES

Arising out the workshop sessions both the issues identification and opportunities, a number of key themes began to emerge. These could form the key chapters, and start to structure the Neighbourhood Plan. These were identified as:

VISION - BRAND-IDENTITY

TRAFFIC & MOVEMENT

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY ,EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

OPEN SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND HERITAGE

MANAGEMENT / MAINTENANCE - VERMIN & RUBBISH- PUBLIC REALM

HOUSING - NEEDS & MISFITS OF TYPES, AFFORDABILITY

SAFETY AND SECURITY

SUSTAINABILITY

KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

COMMUNITY COHESION - MULTI-CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT, YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES- ROLE/FUNCTION/IDENTITY



CONSULTANT TEAM CONSOLIDATION 15TH DECEMBER

Following the completion of the public workshop session the consultant team brought together all of the comments, outcomes from the various workshop groups to start to structure an initial response with regard to the potential scope and focus of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The consultant team split into 4 groups to undertake the following tasks;

SETTING OUT THE COMPOSITION / CHAPTER HEADINGS AND THEMES THAT THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN COULD COVER.

SETTING OUT A LANDSCAPE / PUBLIC REALM PLAN FRAMEWORK

SETTING OUT A BUILT FORM / URBAN DESIGN PLAN FRAMEWORK

A TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT STRATEGY

The following section identifies the outcomes of this work based on key focus headings and issues that the Neighbourhood Plan could cover.

THE VISION

As part of the process the team articulated a vision for the area that captured the spirit of the place and could form a brand strap line as the focus of the neighbourhood plan;

'A VIBRANT CONTEMPORARY COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT THAT DRAWS ON THE SKILLS AND LATENT POTENTIAL OF IT'S DIVERSE COMMUNITY WITHIN A REVITALISED HISTORIC SETTING'

'STRENGTH IN COMMUNITY COHESION AND TRACK RECORD OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP'

'THE FUTURE VIBRANCY OF BALSALL HEATH WILL BE GENERATED BY RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS & POTENTIAL OF THE YOUTH POPULATION

TRAFFIC AND MOVEMENT

PARKING; address issues in traditional residential streets- amount of space and policing considerations such as resident permits etc. Consider design solutions for streets to accommodate parking – formalise what's happening-survey capacity and demand to quantify problem

LADYPOOL ROAD; think about positively accommodate parking as part of traffic calming / management.

DISCUSS FURTHER; Congestion issues with Highways department- look to agree some priorities and possible additional bus routes.

IDENTIFY TRAFFIC CALMING on certain roads through design intervention to deal with safety issues and road speeds.

THINK ABOUT THE IMPACT OF 'SCHOOL RUN' and encourage other means of movement- school walking buses and work with schools to improve.

POSSIBLE THINK ABOUT A 'COMMUNITY TRAVEL PLAN' to encourage more sustainable transport methods- walking , cycling but also car shares etc.

LOOK AT THE DESIGN /USE OF MOSELEY ROAD especially in conjunction with possible desire to make the Balsall Heath / Mosley Road a more vibrant sustainable neighbourhood heart. Current Mosley Road high usage cuts area in half; Think about slowing speeds through usage of shared / changed surfaces and enhanced crossing points, also improve visual clutter in terms of street furniture and signage.

IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES through area connecting places up.

LINK REQUIREMENTS for better signage and lighting / improved and safer crossing points with need for safer streets and public realm improvements – possibly look to codify as a public realm design code document.

CONSULTANT TEAM CONSOLIDATION 15TH DECEMBER



EMPLOYMENT / TRAINING / BUSINESS

IDENTIFY YOUTH-TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, SKILLS APPRENTICESHIPS AS EITHER FACILITIES OR TRAINING PROGRAMMES which may access funding and kick start regeneration or existing redundant building re use

IDENTIFY SMALL BUSINESS AREAS including incubators / hubs. Possibly associated with training programmes

BUILD ON VIBRANT, MIXED USE ENTERPRISE NATURE OF AREA AND RECOGNISE AND ENCOURAGE SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND DIVERSITY INCLUDING SUPPORT PROGRAMMES (finance ,business practice support and training) Consider formalising a Market- Ladypool Road possibly

IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP ENGAGEMENT / REPRESENTATION OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY in the process Formalising business areas as development character areas –including character , diversity / opportunity and acceptable uses– what makes Ladypool Road special and different and what opportunity role can Moseley Road play

RECOGNISE THAT THE PLAN NEEDS TO CAPTURE EXISTING PROGRAMMES and surrounding area investment activities, including the relationship with the Big City Plan



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

RECOGNISE WITHIN THE PLAN THAT THE ARE HAS A STRONG ARTS COMMUNITY - especially fringe arts linked to youth and activities such as craft

POTENTIALLY 'BRAND' LADYPOOL ROAD BUSINESS citywide especially the specific cultural business activities that happen there

RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE THE MULTICULTURAL NATURE AND COHESION OF THE COMMUNITY – numbers of religious / educational / social establishments , activities and festivals

RECOGNISE THE ABSENCE OF A NON-RELIGIOUS / SECULAR COMMUNITY HUB and build the aspiration for one into the plan

BRINGING EVERYTHING INTO ALIGNMENT – opportunity for the arts festival / celebration of whole community involvement



HOUSING

RECOGNISE THE POTENTIAL HOUSING NEEDS REQUIREMENT FOR 'AFFORDABLE' FAMILY HOUSING within the area and consider prioritisation of particular housing coming forward to meet the needs.

CONSIDER REGENERATING REDUNDANT COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS as mixed use with a residential provision to meet housing need and as an economic benefit to encourage development / reuse

RECOGNISE THE UPGRADING OF EXISTING HOUSING STOCK as part of a community sustainability agenda

RECOGNISE THAT THE ARE HAS A NUMBER OF SOCIAL LANDLORDS AND HOUSING PROVIDER and that resource could be shared between partners to deliver adequate and improved services

CUTS AREA IN HALF; THINK ABOUT SLOWING SPEEDS through usage of shared / changed surfaces and enhanced crossing points, also improve visual clutter in terms of street furniture and signage

IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP CYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ROUTES through area connecting places up

LINK REQUIREMENTS FOR BETTER SIGNAGE AND LIGHTING / IMPROVED AND SAFER CROSSING POINTS with need for safer streets and public realm improvements – possibly look to codify as a public realm design code document.



MOVEMENT ISSUES

MINIMISE VEHICLE CONGESTION

TO DIMINISH CAR-DEPENDENCY and the encouragement of walking and cycling.

TO REDUCE TRAFFIC SPEEDS WHERE NECESSARY.

TO REDESIGN TRAFFIC ACCIDENT BLACKSPOTS.

ESTABLISH THE PLAN FOR A NEW BALSALL HEATH STATION on the railway line.

IDENTIFY WAYS OF REDUCING PRESSURE ON CAR PARKING SPACE in residential streets.

IMPROVE PUBLIC REALM DESIGN including tree planting in streets



OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNISE THAT THE RIVER IS A HUGE OPPORTUNITY – improve access and visual quality as well as natural habitat

IMPROVE INTERCONNECTIONS, ROUTES AND LINKAGES with surrounding areas

IMPROVING QUALITY

ASSESS FUNCTION/ ROLE OF OPEN SPACE WITHIN COMMUNITY with a view to defining certain activities with certain open spaces

IMPROVE YOUTH FACILITIES including sport and leisure activities

CONSULTANT TEAM CONSOLIDATION 15TH DECEMBER



LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

It is important as part of the vision for the plan to recognise / identifying role and function of the 3 key local centres;

LADYPOOL ROAD - RETAIL/FOOD

MOSELEY ROAD - MORE CIVIC/MIXED USE

EDWARD ROAD - LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRES

Strategies and policies can then be articulated to reinforce/ energise /support these local centres.

Balsall Heath /Moseley Road presents the main challenge for the neighbourhood plan as it is currently divided by the road traffic corridor and has a number of redundant and empty civic buildings. It is suggested that this 'Central area' could have its own development plan dealing with traffic issues, calming and alignment; the introduction of a new public space as part of this highways work and the acceptable mix of uses for the buildings recognising the historic legacy and listing of certain of the buildings



KEY DEVELOPMENT SITES

The plan should recognise that within the plan area there is limited building land - potentially 2 key sites & some fringe sites;

FORMER COLLEGE SITE - This currently has planning permission for industrial retail and there should be consideration if this is the best beneficial use for the community

POTENTIALLY HOUSING ON HIGHGATE ROAD with a mixed-use gateway at the Ladypool Road end leading into the retail area of Ladypool Road

JUNCTION OF MOSELEY ROAD AND HIGHGATE ROAD - Potentially a Training Hub facility associated with the new academy

A NUMBER OF SMALLER MIXED-USE SITES on the Moseley Road corridor - focused on building re-use

SMALLER PARK EDGE INFILL SITES - housing off Balsall Heath



MAINTENANCE & MANAGEMENT

A key part of the community plan could be focused on maintenance and delivery. Maintenance issues are also related to services and could be related to the Birmingham City Council initiative to allow communities to influence and control their service provision budgets. Such considerations could be;

STREET CLEANING AND REFUSE COLLECTION including thoughts around centralised bulky collection points and recycling

USE OF UNADOPTED SPACES with 'ownership by residents'

CONSIDERATION OF POLICING AND SAFETY ISSUES - park rangers - street community wardens

DELIVERY AND IMPLEMENTATION

A major part of the Neighbourhood Plan are considerations around implementation and delivery. Below are a set of considerations that the plan could include to ensure that it makes a meaningful impact and enables potential investment and change;

LINKING DEVELOPMENT / REGENERATION/ IMPLEMENTATION WITH LOCAL LABOUR AND TRAINING COMMITMENTS TO ENSURE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

IDENTIFYING A LOCAL SUPPLY CHAIN POLICY AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS.

IDENTIFY AND CAPTURE EXISTING PROGRAMMES /FUNDING AND SURROUNDING AREA ACTIVITIES. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PLAN NOT REINVENT INFORMATION AND IS EFFICIENT IN TERMS OF RESOURCE USES.

CONSIDER ALIGNING THE IMPLEMENTATION WITH OTHER POLICY PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD BUDGETING CONSIDERATIONS TO ENSURE A ROBUST, COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC APPROACH

CONSIDER A LOCAL DELIVERY VEHICLE TO ENABLE RESIDENTS / THE COMMUNITY TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ASSETS AND ASSET USES AND TO TAKE CHARGE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES. ESPECIALLY CONSIDER THE BENEFITS / DIS-BENEFITS OF;

A COMMUNITY LAND TRUST MADE UP OF LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WITH STAKEHOLDERS HAVING RESPONSIBILITY FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITH ASSET-TRANSFER AS PART OF A PROCESS

PUT TOGETHER A ROBUST IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY THAT; IDENTIFIES ACTIONS / ACTIVITIES AND OWNERSHIP RESPONSIBILITY / OWNERSHIP

IDENTIFIES;

QUICK WINS AND SHORT TERM GAINS / CHANGES SUCH AS; STREET SIGNAGE / CLEANING / MAINTENANCE /LIGHTING CONNECTED YOUTH PROGRAMME

MEDIUM-TERM SUCH AS HOUSING AND TRAINING

LONG TERM - TRAIN STATION

IMPORTANT TO ENSURE THAT SOMETHING IS HAPPENING NOW

IDENTIFY RESOURCE REQUIREMENT TO FACILITATE ACTIVITIES HAPPENING - COMMUNITY DRIVEN

THE PUBLIC FEEDBACK SESSION

At the end of the workshop process in the evening of the 15th December there was a feedback and discussion session held with stakeholders and community representatives. At this the Princes Foundation team along with Joe Holyoak presented their consolidation work and the suggested key themes/focusses to the group.

REVIEW

Whilst the work was welcomed as a coming together in one place of a number of initial activities that had been going on with regard to the Neighbourhood planning process, it was felt by some (who had not attend the workshop process), that the proposals were not that innovative or radical. Much discussion was had that the plan reflected what people had been saying they wanted to see happen for a long time and what was needed now was action in terms of investment, jobs and services.

It was also felt that possibly going forward the plan needs to have a sustainable focus maybe recognising issues around car usage and energy saving measures linked to street improvements.

Many felt that a key issue was the re use and saving of the Balsall Heath Baths and Library which had reached critical point. It was not felt by the community that a community land trust / legacy organisation was appropriate and that the responsibilities for these buildings should stay with the Council but that they should be recognised in the plan as an asset.

The community also questioned what was happening on the JCC school site, especially the loss of the hard surface ball court. Although the workshop process had looked at possible alternative options for the site it was clear from the land owner / developer representative that they had an approved planning application they were not mindful to consider a change of use. However the developer was prepared to review the design and the potential S106 benefits to match some of the emerging community needs and wishes.

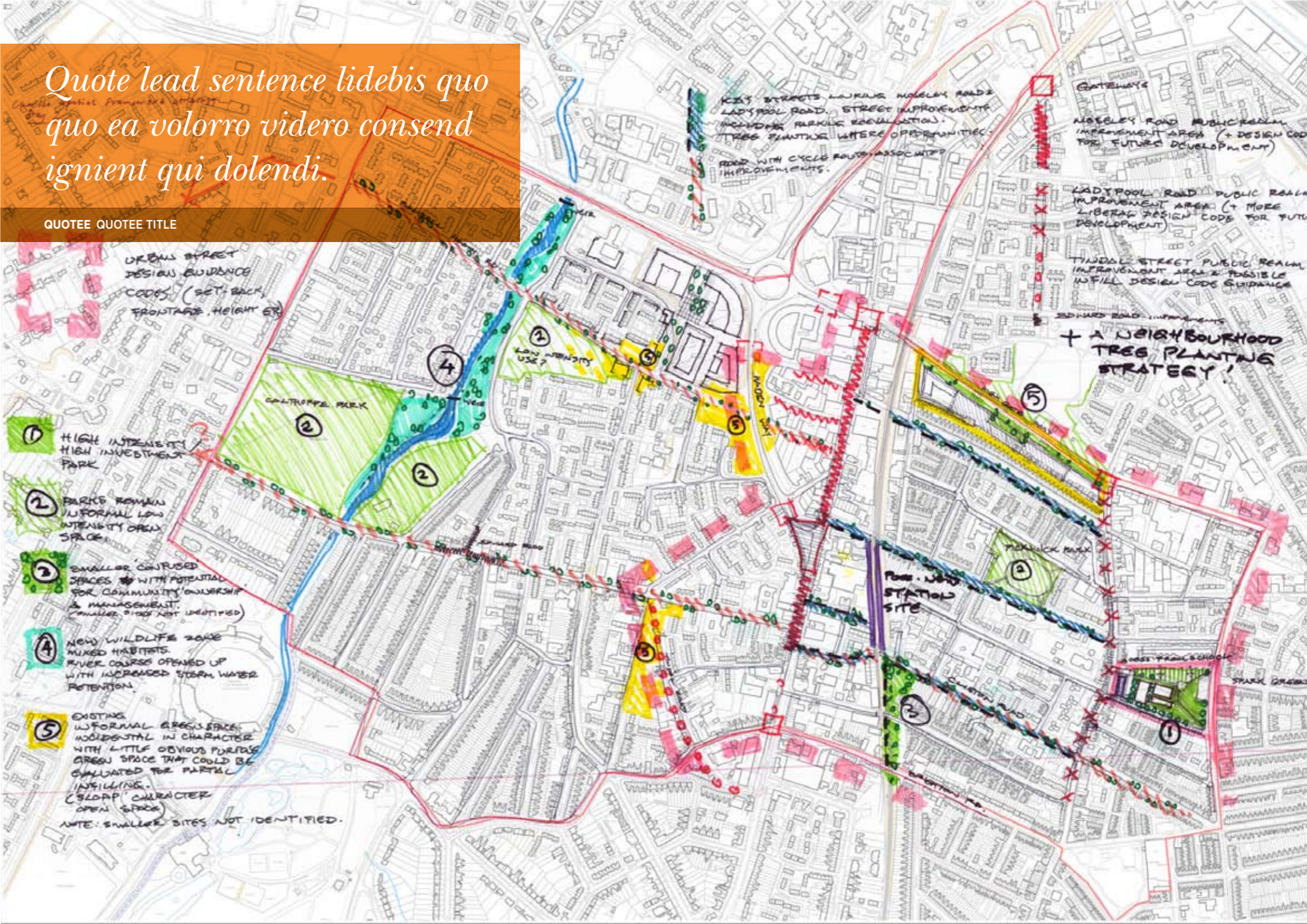
NEXT STEPS

Further comments were raised by the community as to the need for all to be involved in this process and feed in, especially as it was pointed out that this workshop was the start of the process and that there would be further reviews and consultation events to develop the community plan.



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QUOTE TITLE



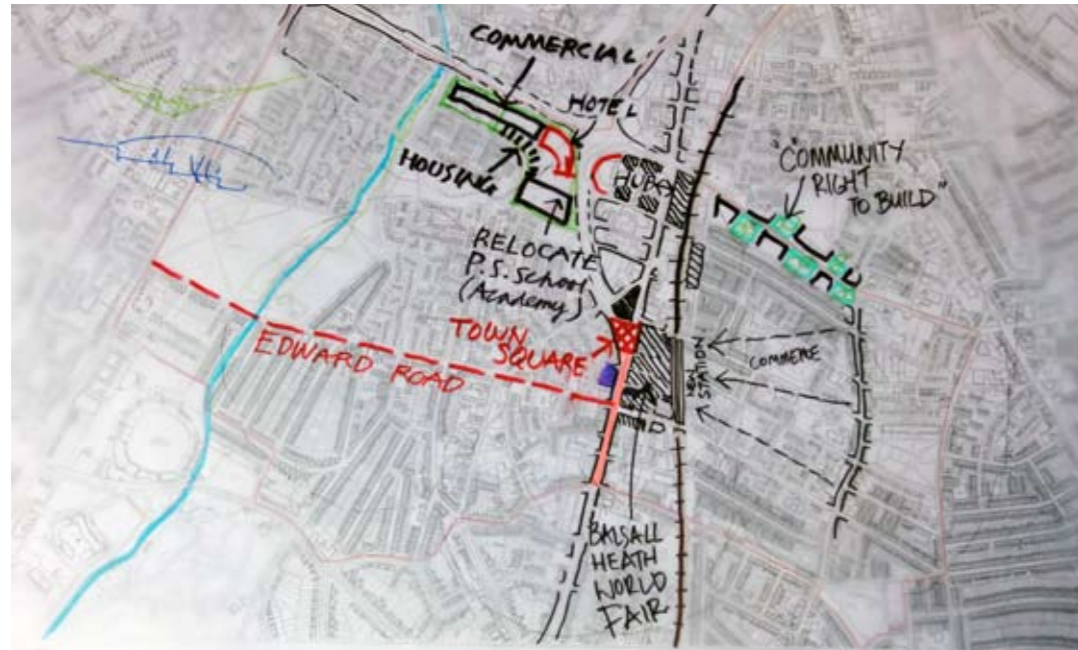
APPENDIX

1.1 DAY ONE WORKSHOP OUTPUT

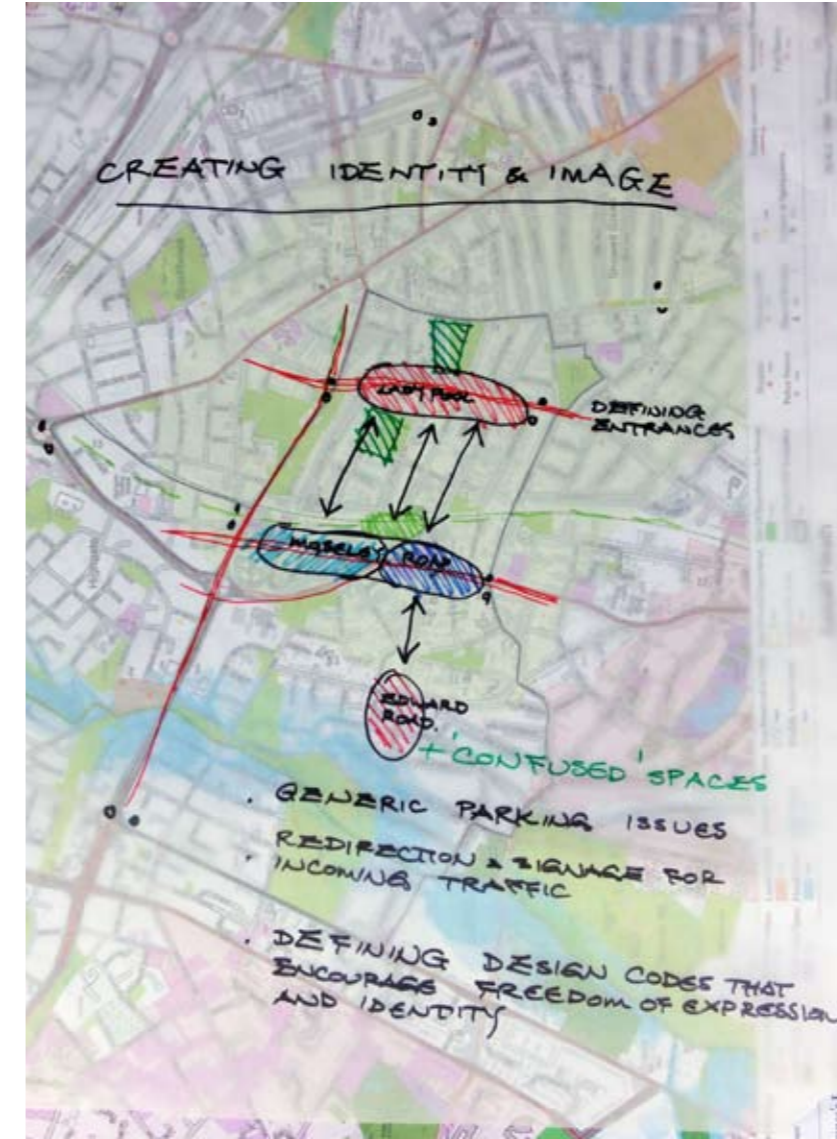
KIM'S GROUP



NOEL'S GROUP



TRENTON IMPORVEMENT OPTIONS



APPENDIX

1.2 DAY TWO WORKSHOP OUTPUT

NOEL'S BUILT ENVIRONMENT PLAN



TRENTON'S MOVEMENT STRATEGY



THE PRINCE'S FOUNDATION

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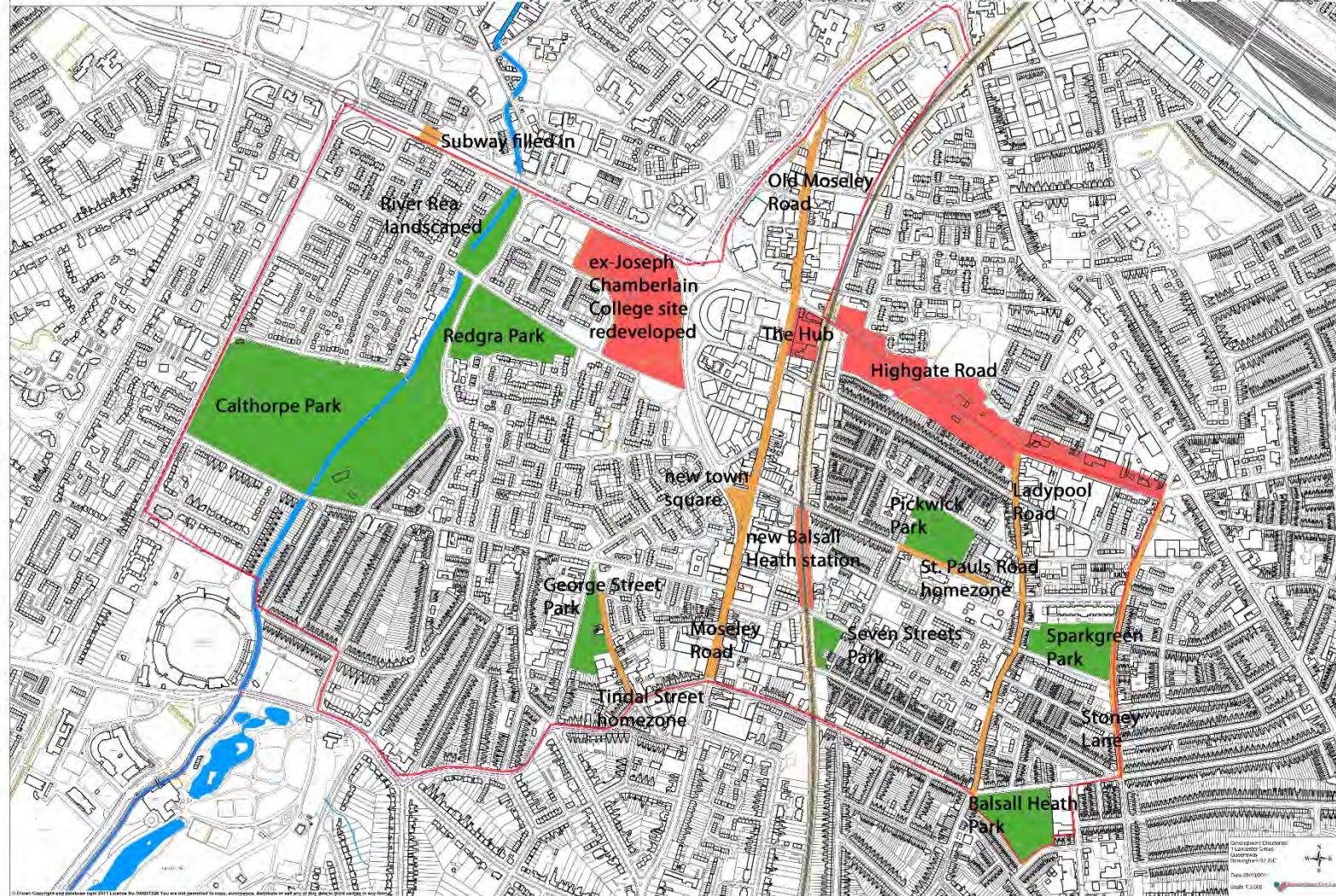
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BALSALL HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

1.1 Introduction



This map shows the main locations for which proposals are made. The red line is the boundary of the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan area.

This exhibition is about deciding what kind of place Balsall Heath will be in the future.

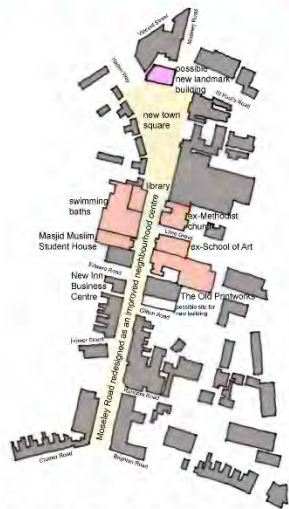
Balsall Heath is one of the “frontrunners” selected by the Government to pilot the idea of neighbourhood planning. This idea is contained in the Localism Act, and it gives a local community such as ours the authority to write its own statutory plan, which will guide the ways in which Balsall Heath grows and develops. Previously, this plan would have been written by planners in the City Council, but now the community can do the job itself.

Balsall Heath Forum is the body which is responsible for producing the Neighbourhood Development Plan. We started work in September 2011, and this exhibition contains the main proposals in the plan. They are all based upon consultations with many people in Balsall Heath, which were carried out between September and March. So as far as possible, this exhibition represents what local people have told us they want Balsall Heath to be.

This is the first occasion on which the proposals have been seen together. We need to know what you think about them, in order to be sure that we are working on the right lines. Please read the exhibition panels carefully, and then complete one of the feedback forms which you will find here. We shall read them all, and we shall then make any changes and revisions which the feedback requires.

Joe Holyoak
For Balsall Heath Forum

2.1 Moseley Road Neighbourhood Centre



A plan with proposals for the Moseley Road Neighbourhood Centre, showing prominent buildings.

Historic buildings on Moseley Road



Balsall Heath Library



Moseley Road Baths



old Moseley School of Art



Old Print Works



old New Inn pub

Moseley Road is where Balsall Heath first began, and it is the location of the no.50 bus route, and of a number of significant institutional buildings, some of which are of historic importance. But several of the major buildings are in a critical state, the road is traffic-dominated, and currently it divides Balsall Heath instead of being its centre.

The centre of Balsall Heath

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that improvements be made that will strengthen the role of Moseley Road, between Brighton Road/Cromer Road and Vincent Street, as the local centre of Balsall Heath, uniting the area which it currently divides.

Land uses

Within the primary shopping area, between Brighton Road/Cromer Road and Edward Road, the development of shopping, restaurants, and financial and professional services will be encouraged, with at least half of the units being in retail use. Elsewhere in the neighbourhood centre, the development of a variety of workplaces, institutions and community uses will be encouraged. In particular, initiatives by independent businesses and retailers will be encouraged.

Street quality

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that a comprehensive scheme be drawn up to improve the quality of the public space of Moseley Road. While not inhibiting the movement of vehicles, it should seek to incorporate principles which can make the street environment more attractive, comfortable, safer and more convenient for pedestrians and cyclists. These may include the redesign of the pavements, road surfaces and pedestrian crossings; improvements to building frontages; tree planting; new street furniture such as signage, lighting, seats and bins; and the removal of unnecessary clutter.

Historic buildings

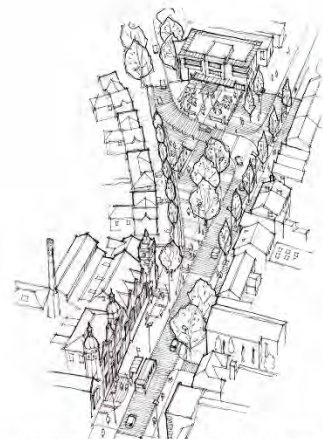
The historic buildings on Moseley Road are valuable assets which are presently not flourishing, or contributing to this area, as they should. Opportunities will be sought to find funding to improve the fabric of the buildings and to generate more beneficial usages. Legislation should be used where appropriate to require owners to maintain their buildings.

Design of new development

Through its development control procedures, the City Council can ensure that new developments in the neighbourhood centre are designed to high standards, and are appropriate neighbours to the historic buildings and other buildings on Moseley Road.

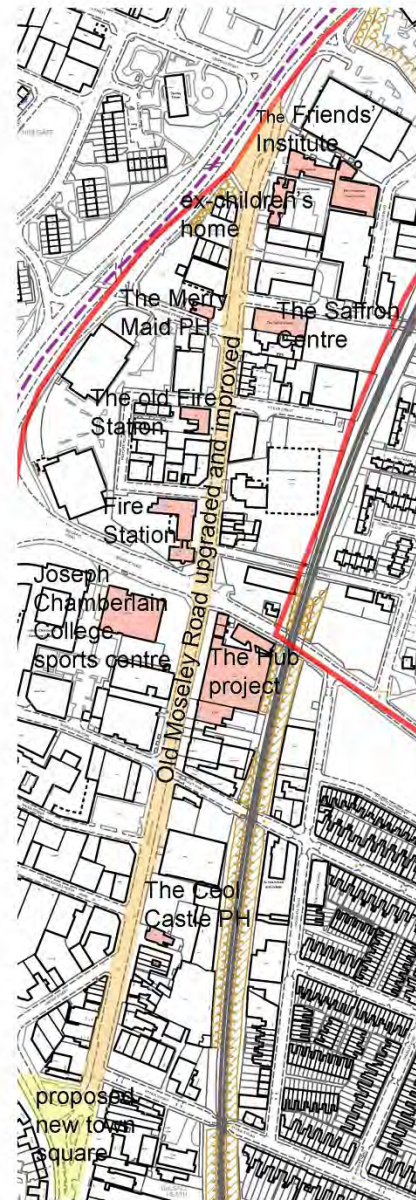
The town square

Consideration could be given to the creation of a new town square for Balsall Heath, at the junction of Moseley Road and Haden Way. This could include the redesign of vehicle routes, the creation of a new pedestrian area, and the development of a new landmark building on the north side of the square, between Moseley Road and Haden Way.



A drawing showing what the proposed town square might look like. (From the Prince's Foundation for Building Community).

2.2 "Old" Moseley Road



A plan of the old Moseley Road, bypassed by Haden Way and Highgate Middleway.

The Neighbourhood Development Plan area includes the part of Moseley Road which has been bypassed by Haden Way and Highgate Middleway. It runs from the junction with Haden Way, where the new town square is proposed, across Highgate Road, as far as the Friends' Institute. As a consequence of the bypass, the environment of Moseley Road has become run down and degraded, although it contains several buildings of character.

Improving the quality of the road

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that a programme of environmental improvements and regeneration is made for this part of the road. It might include such elements as tree planting, lighting, paving, and street furniture such as seating, bins and signage. It is proposed that a design code be produced to give guidance on the design of new buildings and shop fronts. Encouragement could be given to unsuitable existing uses to relocate, and to appropriate commercial, industrial and community uses to locate there.

The Hub development

Nos. 332-340 Moseley Road are Grade II listed houses, and are the location of a project called The Hub, promoted by their owner and Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form College, for adult education and the development of workspaces. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that this development is used as a catalyst to encourage other regeneration projects to happen nearby.



A view of the old Moseley Road, looking south from Highgate Road, with the buildings of The Hub project, nos. 332-340, on the left.

3.1 Ex- Joseph Chamberlain College site



A view over the redevelopment site, looking towards the city centre.



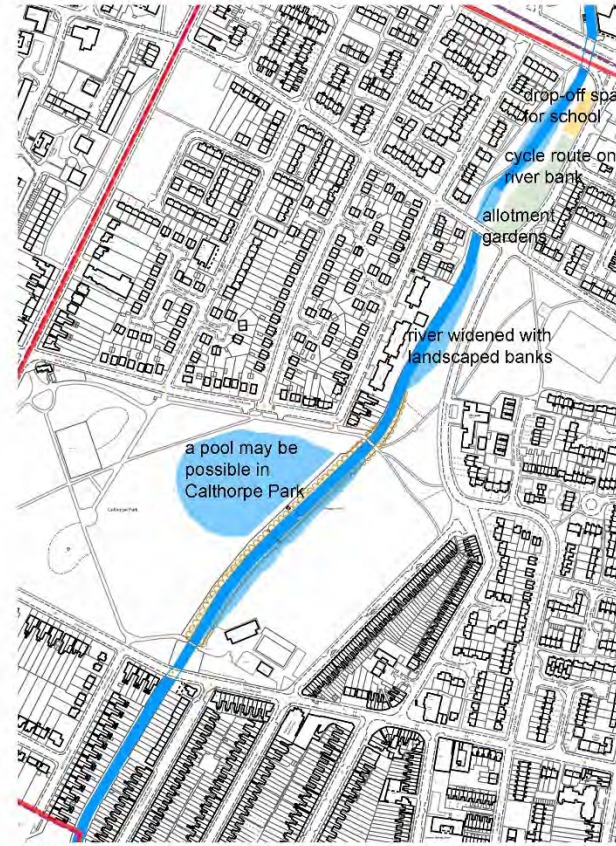
A plan of the redevelopment site.

This cleared piece of land, 4.7 hectares in size, is the biggest opportunity for new development in Balsall Heath. It has an existing planning permission granted to its owners, Standard Life, for 25,000 square metres of non-food retail development. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that, instead, the site should be developed with a mixture of uses, including housing, business, and community use. Other uses in addition, such as a hotel, or a new education facility, might be possible.

A brief for new development
A development brief for the site should be produced to specify those elements which are necessary to ensure that the new development is a satisfactory, useful and attractive addition to Balsall Heath. These will include the appropriate land uses, where they are to be placed on the site, building heights, vehicular and pedestrian access and circulation, public spaces, the quality of design, and materials.

Land uses and built form
There should be residential development on Sherbourne Road and Balsall Heath Road, facing the existing houses. On the main roads of Belgrave Middleway and Haden Way, there could be non-residential development of a bigger scale, appropriate to the scale of these roads. Consideration should be given to exploiting the extensive views of the city centre available from the site, and to an appropriate form of architecture as a neighbour to the new Joseph Chamberlain College across Haden Way. (See the section on Significant Landmark Locations).

3.2 The River Rea



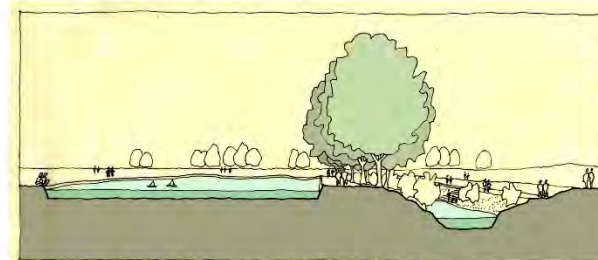
A plan of the river, showing possible improvements.

The river, which flows through the Neighbourhood Development Plan area between Edgbaston cricket ground and Belgrave Middleway, has the potential to become an attractive and enjoyable resource. But at present it is inaccessible and largely invisible, enclosed between brick walls and fenced off.

Renaturalising the river
The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that the brick culvert walls should be removed where possible, and that the banks be landscaped to enable appropriate public access to the water. Opportunities should be taken to widen the river where appropriate. It is also proposed that a pool could be created in Calthorpe Park, if it can be located without removing playing pitches, and if it can be fed by water from higher up the river. The possibilities of using the flow of water to generate energy should also be investigated.

Alleviating flooding
Because of the considerable change in level of the river which follows rainfall, there are critical technical issues to be considered in these proposals, and the approval of the Environment Agency will need to be sought. Initial discussions with the EA indicate that the Plan's proposals for the river are broadly in line with the Agency's own aspirations.

New allotments
Between the river and Clevedon Road and Longmore Street, there is grassed land which is leftover and unproductive. It is joined to Calthorpe Park, but is not part of the park. It is proposed that part of this land could with benefit be converted to allotments for local people to grow food.

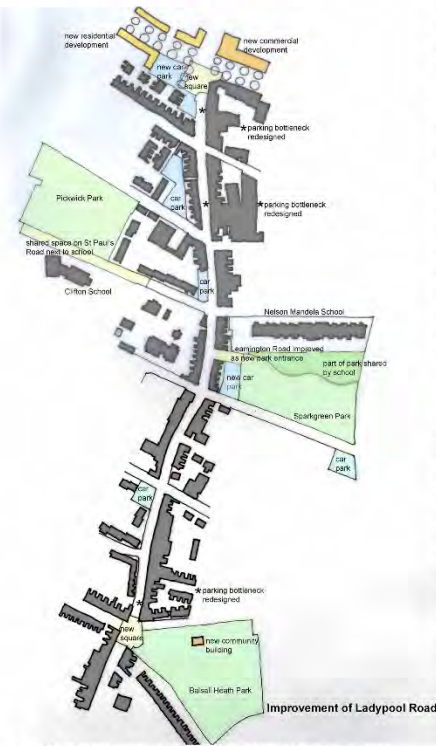


A cross-section through the improved river in Calthorpe Park, showing a possible pool, fed from higher up the river, on the left.



The river near Clevedon Road

4.1 Ladypool Road Neighbourhood Centre



A plan of Ladypool Road, showing some possible improvements.

Ladypool Road is the second neighbourhood centre in the Neighbourhood Development Plan area, and is a busy and prosperous shopping and restaurant street, drawing customers from far away as well as from Balsall Heath. It stretches from Brighton Road/Taunton Road to Highgate Road. But while busy, it is also a place of confusion and congestion. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes, while protecting its prosperity, to increase its appeal and identity, and to reduce its problems.

New squares

To mark the entrances to the neighbourhood centre, new local squares are proposed at each end, together with the redesign of the adjacent crossroads. At the southern end, part of Balsall Heath Park would be taken to form the square, which would incorporate a new main entrance to the park. At the northern end, a similar square would take up part of the space on Highgate Road inherited from housing clearance.

Traffic

The Neighbourhood Development Plan does not propose any restriction on vehicular traffic through Ladypool Road, but it does aim to make traffic more compatible with comfortable and safe

movement by pedestrians and cyclists, and to reduce the congestion caused by illegal car parking. There are three specific points on Ladypool Road where congestion is primarily caused, and it is suggested that minor design changes at these points could reduce the problem.

Car parks

Two new car parks are proposed, on Brunswick Road, taking up part of Sparkgreen Park, and on Highgate Road, adjacent to the proposed new square. These would be prominently signposted, and also the existing car parks, in order to encourage their use by drivers.

Improving the street

Opportunities would be sought for funding for environmental improvements to Ladypool Road, such as paving, signage, and street furniture... New tree planting is proposed in each of the new squares, but it is not thought that trees can be accommodated in the road itself because of its restricted width. It is proposed that a design code should be produced to provide guidance on the design of new buildings and shop fronts, to improve the appearance of Ladypool Road.

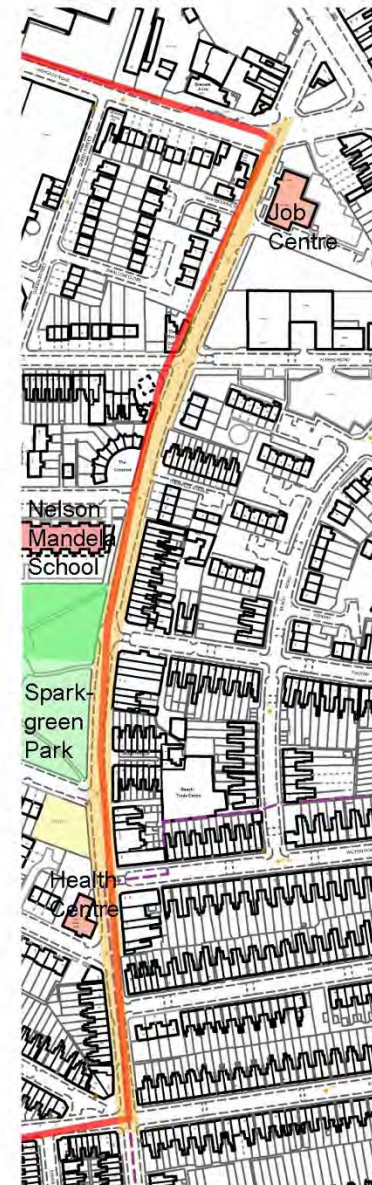


A drawing of the proposed square at the junction with Taunton Road, from the Friends of Balsall Heath Park's 2006 plan for the park.



A general view of Ladypool Road.

4.2 Stoney Lane



A plan of Stoney Lane, showing possible improvements.

The issues for Stoney Lane are similar to those for Ladypool Road. But they are different in that Stoney Lane has fewer shops and restaurants, and has a greater amount of through traffic from outside the area. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that there can be a series of improvements which can improve Stoney Lane's quality, comfort, safety and convenience.

Improving the road

Opportunities would be sought for funding for environmental improvements to Stoney Lane, such as paving, lighting, signage and street furniture. Consideration can be given to new tree planting where there is space to accommodate it. It is proposed that a design code should be written to provide guidance on the design of new buildings and shopfronts, in order to bring more visual coherence to the appearance of Stoney Lane.

Car parking

There are considerable numbers of residents living on either side of Stoney Lane without car parking spaces close to their houses. To improve their lives, it is proposed that the time restrictions on car parking currently in place on Stoney Lane will be reduced. The agreement of the Council's Transportation Department will be needed for this.

Sparkgreen Park

It is proposed that the frontage of Sparkgreen Park on Stoney Lane is improved, in order to add to the identity of the park and to strengthen the relationship between the two spaces.

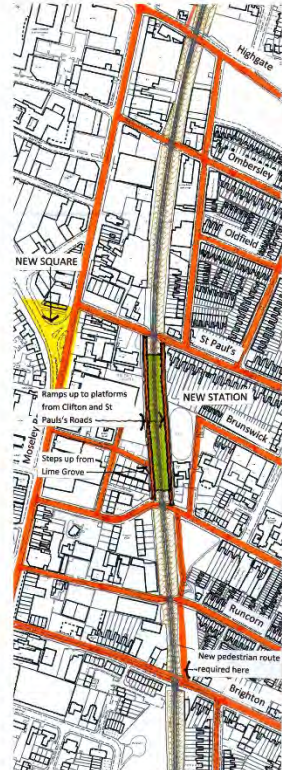


A cross-section through Stoney Lane, showing some possible improvements to the park on the left.

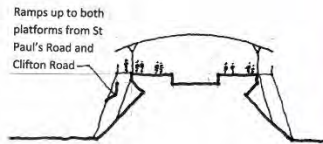


A general view of Stoney Lane, with Sparkgreen Park on the left.

5.1 Balsall Heath Railway Station



A plan of the proposed location for the new station, showing connecting pedestrian routes in red.



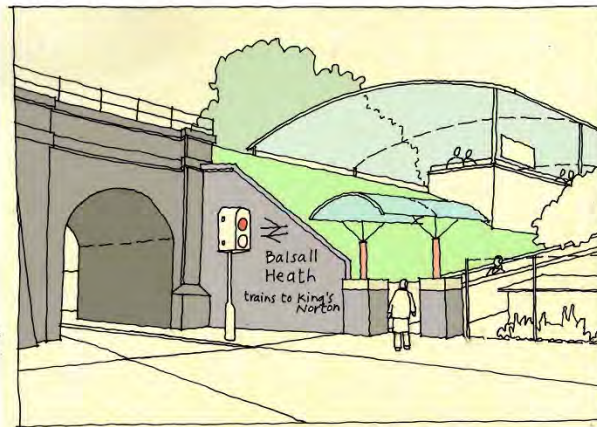
Cross-section through the station

Centro is proposing to reintroduce local passenger services on the existing railway line, although not for several years yet. They propose reopening the stations at Moseley and King's Heath, but do not include a new station in Balsall Heath. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that there should be a new Balsall Heath station, so that local residents can take advantage of the new service.

Location
Historically, there were two stations in Balsall Heath, at Highgate Road and at Brighton Road. Both locations are on the edge of the residential area of Balsall Heath. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that the preferred location of the new station should be more central, located between Clifton Road and St Paul's Road, with convenient pedestrian access from all the Seven Streets.

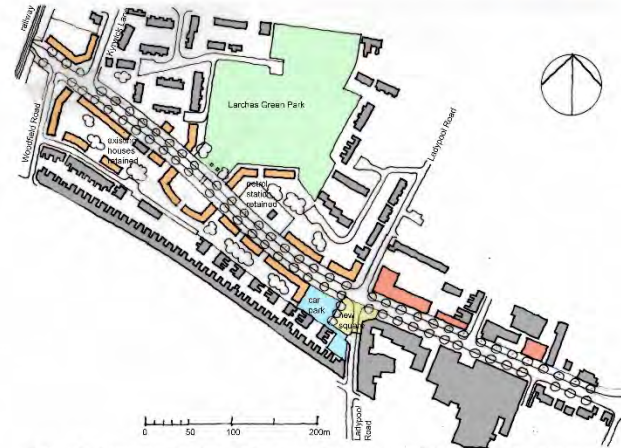
Neighbourhood Centre
This location is also conveniently close to the neighbourhood centre on Moseley Road, with its proposed new square, with easy access via Clifton Road, Lime Grove and St Paul's Road. Opportunities would be sought to improve the environmental quality of these connecting streets.

A local landmark
It is proposed that the station itself should be designed so as to be a significant local landmark, visible on the embankment from several viewpoints.



A drawing of the proposed railway station, looking across Clifton Road from Seven Streets Park.

5.2 Highgate Road



A plan of the proposed boulevard of Highgate Road, with possible new housing in orange, and possible commercial and industrial development in red. Development to the north of the boulevard is indicative only, as it is outside the NDP boundary.



A cross-section through the proposed residential boulevard.



A view of Highgate Road, showing the cleared space on either side.

Between the railway bridge and Ladypool Road, Highgate Road passes through green spaces which resulted from housing clearance a long time ago. They are pleasant scenery, but they are not used in any beneficial way. Highgate Road has a road-widening line on it, also of long standing.

A boulevard for Balsall Heath
The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that this part of Highgate Road should be redesigned to become a residential boulevard – capable of carrying traffic more efficiently than at present, but at the same time becoming an attractive place to live. There would be cycle lanes and wide pavements, and the road would be lined by trees. New housing is proposed on each side, and would include small public areas of greenery. The northern side of the road is outside the Neighbourhood Development Plan boundary, so this part of the proposal is indicative only.

New commercial development
Between Ladypool Road and Stoney Lane, the road will be similarly widened on its northern side as a continuation of the boulevard. New commercial or industrial development is proposed on that side, in order to complete the enclosure of the boulevard. Because this area is also outside the Neighbourhood Development Plan boundary, this part of the proposal is also only indicative.

A new landmark square
The junction with Ladypool Road is proposed as a significant landmark location, marking the entrance into the neighbourhood centre. It is marked by the local square previously mentioned in the proposals for Ladypool Road. Also it is proposed that new residential development on the north side of the junction should have a landmark quality (although again it is outside the Neighbourhood Development Plan boundary, and therefore this proposal is only indicative).

6.1 Parks

There are seven substantial public green spaces within the Neighbourhood Development Plan area, which are well used and valued by the community. However, their quality is moderate at best, and they all require and deserve investment and improvement. Funding for this is unlikely to be a high priority for the City Council, but the Neighbourhood Development Plan sets out the community's aspirations.

Five of the parks are adjacent to or near to primary schools. In these cases, the Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that the physical connection between the school and the park should be strengthened. In addition, the possibility of the school taking on some degree of responsibility for the management of the park can also be investigated.

Most of the parks have inadequately defined boundaries and understated entrances, which results in their lacking identity and sense of place. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that each park should be enclosed by good quality and distinctive boundaries, for example ornamental steel railings, with substantial and clearly-visible gateways in appropriate locations.

Seven Streets Park

This small park is opposite the urban farm and the Children's Centre on Clifton Road, and also opposite the suggested location for a new railway station. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that this part of Clifton Road should be redesigned in order to calm traffic and to better connect the two sides of the street. This redesign should also take into account the hazardous tunnel under the railway on Clifton Road.



Sparkgreen Park

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that part of the park adjacent to Nelson Mandela School, which has limited outdoor play space, should be made available to the school on a timeshare basis. During school hours, this part would be used exclusively by the school; outside school hours it would revert to public use.



"Redgra" pitch, Balsall Heath Road

It is proposed that this formally designated as a park, and that local residents should choose an appropriate name for it. The pitch's surface should be better maintained. Play equipment for small children should be installed.



Calthorpe Park

This is a large, historic and well-established park. It has a substantial and well-used play centre, and football and cricket pitches, but is rather lacking in other facilities. The section on the River Rea describes the proposal to reinstate the natural qualities of the river as it runs through the park, by landscape design, in order to improve the quality of the river and



improve the quality of the river and to make it a usable asset.

It is proposed that overflow car parking for Test matches at Edgbaston cricket ground should be discontinued in the park, as it damages the fabric of the park and reduces its usefulness to local residents.

Balsall Heath Park

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that elements of the plan made in 2006 by the Friends of Balsall Heath Park, following the destruction caused by the 2007 tornado, should be implemented. The two most significant parts of this plan are the proposed community building near the Taunton Road boundary, and the new square at the corner of Taunton Road and Ladypool Road. The design of this square should be coordinated with the redesign of the crossroads to improve its safety, and will form a significant local landmark at the southern end of the Ladypool Road neighbourhood centre.

It is proposed that a small part of the park, behind the shops on Ladypool Road, should be converted to a car park for about 30 vehicles, accessible from Brunswick Road, to ease car parking on Ladypool Road. Leamington Road should be redesigned to become a prominent and welcoming entrance to the park from Ladypool Road



Pickwick Park

This park is well used and well maintained. It is directly opposite Clifton School on St Paul's Road, and it is proposed that this section of the road be redesigned to reduce the speed of vehicles, enable better dropping-off and collection of children, and establish a closer connection between the school and the park.



George Street Park

This small park has had improvements in the recent past. It is a short distance away from Tindal School on Tindal Street. As described in the section on Streets, the Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that Tindal Street should be redesigned as a homezone, making a better connection between the school and the park.

6.2 Streets and Movement

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that a strategy be developed which will improve the environmental quality of residential streets in Balsall Heath. This is intended to both make Balsall Heath

a more pleasant, safe and attractive place for residents and visitors to live in and use, and also to reduce the dependence upon the motor car, encouraging walking and cycling as preferred means of transport, and reducing congestion and pollution.



It is proposed that funding should be sought for an incremental programme of street improvements, which could include elements such as new paving, tree planting, street furniture, lighting, and signage, and the removal of unnecessary clutter. It could also include an initiative to reduce litter, with a long-term vision of making Balsall Heath a litter-free zone.

An early stage could be the identification of a new cycle route through Balsall Heath, connecting with the existing Rea Valley cycle route, and running from Stoney Lane to Pershore Road. The route would follow Clifton Road and Edward Road, crossing Moseley Road on the way, and would connect with a future Balsall Heath railway station. Bicycle parking could be provided at both Moseley Road and the railway station.



Another priority could be the improvement of streets near to primary schools, in order to discourage children's arrival and departure by car, and to encourage children's walking and cycling to and from school. Examples of this, already mentioned in the section on parks, are the proposed Tindal Street homezone, and the proposed traffic calming on St Paul's Road

An extension of the existing 20mph speed limit zone, to cover other residential streets, may be considered. It is proposed that the existing provision of pedestrian crossings of streets be reviewed, and new crossings provided where they are needed; Edgbaston Road, near to Mary Street, is one such location.

7.1 Jobs and Employment



The Old Print Works on Moseley Road, converted to a number of small workspaces and the Ort cafe.



The New Inn Business Centre on Moseley Road, converted from a pub.

Balsall Heath suffers from both an above-average rate of unemployment, and from a deficit in skills and training, particularly among young people. The Neighbourhood Development Plan, in addition to all the physical improvement to the area which are shown here, proposes that measures be taken to address these important economic issues, without which Balsall Heath cannot become a healthy and prosperous neighbourhood.

New centres are needed for a large programme of vocational and employment training. Young people in particular (between 16 and 24) need pre-apprenticeship training, followed by real apprenticeships. In addition to the proposals for The Hub (included here under "Old Moseley Road") large bases could be made available on each side of the neighbourhood with the Jericho Foundation and St Paul's Community Trust, but both need to be secured through asset transfer and investment. Large premises are needed because formal training is required alongside job training. Commitment is also needed from statutory, voluntary and private sector partners for support for apprenticeships with training in all age groups, in work situations.

Opportunities should be sought for the provision of affordable workspaces for small businesses, to keep employment local. There are precedents here in the Old Print Works on Moseley Road, the conversion of the empty Butchers' factory, and on the opposite side of the road, the New Inn Business Centre in what was previously the pub.

7.2 New Housing



New housing on Pershore Road, built by the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust.

There is a strong demand for affordable housing in Balsall Heath, and the Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that opportunities should be sought for new housing to be built. However, there is not much land currently available on which housing can be built; the land on Highgate Road and the ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site (both featured in other parts of this exhibition) are the only large available locations.

There are a number of Social Landlords who provide affordable housing in Balsall Heath; the biggest are Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart Housing Association, and Moseley and District Housing Association. Altogether, the Social Landlords have 1,591 dwellings of various kinds in Balsall Heath. All of the larger Social Landlords have waiting lists of people who want to move into, or within, Balsall Heath. The demand ranges from small dwellings for individuals and young families, to bigger houses for larger and extended families.

Currently, there are no Social Landlords who are planning to build new housing in Balsall Heath. Birmingham City Council, through the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust, has recently completed a development on Pershore Road, but the Housing Department owns no more land in the area. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that affordable housing should be built on Highgate Road and the ex-college site, and that further opportunities be sought in the way of disused industrial land, other buildings no longer in use, and pieces of leftover and unused land.



Photo-voltaic panels added to the roofs of houses on Clifton Road.

7.3 Energy Measures

The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that measures should be taken to ensure that Balsall Heath becomes a model of a green and sustainable neighbourhood, in terms of its consumption and generation of energy. This policy will affect the ways in which we move about, existing buildings, proposed new buildings, and the uses of open space.

Transport
As described in the section on Streets and Movement, the policy of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is that dependence upon the motor car should be reduced, and that movement by walking and cycling should be encouraged. This will affect the design of streets and the crossings of streets. A future Balsall Heath railway station would contribute to the policy. The usage and impact of motor cars may also be reduced by the encouragement of electric vehicles through the provision of charging points, and the creation of a car-sharing club.

Existing buildings
It is proposed that opportunities be taken to improve the sustainability of existing buildings by improving their performance. In existing housing, this typically might take the form of improving its thermal insulation and, where the orientation is suitable, installing photovoltaic cells to

rainwater harvesting can also be included. It is proposed that a study should be done into the creation of a Combined Heat and Power programme for major buildings on Moseley Road, including the baths.

New buildings
It is proposed that a set of standards should be agreed, higher than the minimum required by Building Regulations, to which all new buildings will be designed, which will ensure that new developments in Balsall Heath will be models of their kind. New housing in particular, as described elsewhere, will be designed to the highest standards.

Open spaces
In order to maximise the cooling effect of the earth, the creation and retention of grassed areas and trees will be generally encouraged, and should be taken into account when new public squares, car parks and residential areas are proposed. Permeable surfaces should be employed wherever possible, to reduce water run-off. The growing of food, both in private gardens and in public allotments, will be encouraged. Opportunities for the creation of new allotment gardens, as described elsewhere, will be sought. The possible reshaping of the River Rea to reduce flood risk, and also to generate electricity, as described elsewhere, will be investigated. The feasibility of generating power by wind turbines on high ground near Haden Way can also be investigated.



The Zero Carbon House in Tindal Street, which produces 147% of its own electrical energy needs.

8.1 Youth provision

Balsall Heath is short of social facilities provided specifically for young people. There is a Council-run youth centre in Sparkbrook; in Balsall Heath there is a good centre in Calthorpe Park, some faith-based groups, and not much else. There is a problem with disengaged youth, particularly in the eastern half of Balsall Heath, and we need to have more and varied facilities to provide activities for them.

It is proposed that new centres should be identified to accommodate youth activities near to Moseley Road and Ladypool Road. The Ladypool Road proposal is that the new centre should be part of the Balsall Heath Park improvements, shown here in the section on parks. The location of the Moseley Road centre can be determined as part of the proposal for the improvement of Moseley Road, but presently a preferred option is the ex-Sure Start building on St Paul's Road, owned by the City Council and currently vacant.



The existing centre in Calthorpe Park.

8.2 Significant landmark locations



A plan showing the locations where it is suggested there could be significant local landmarks.

We consider that many of the Neighbourhood Development Plan proposals that are described in this exhibition, apart from any other benefits they bring, will add to the distinctive identity of Balsall Heath. But in addition, there are several places that act as key entrances to the area or parts of the area, and it is proposed that these locations should be deliberately and prominently marked. This might be done not merely by a sign that says Welcome to Balsall Heath, but more substantially by architecture, public art, lighting, signage, or a combination of these. We have listed seven of these locations.

The junction of Pershore Road and Edward Road

This might be a large piece of public art at the corner of Calthorpe Park, which might in addition have a useful function for users of the park, such as a pavilion.

The junction of Belgrave Middleway and Longmore Street

This might be a large piece of public art related to the River Rea, possibly in the form of a new footbridge across the river. There is an existing precedent for this across the Middleway at Horton Square in Highgate, and the additional piece might be seen as complementary to this.

The junction of Belgrave Middleway and Haden Way

This could be a distinctive building which is a part of the new development on the ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site, and is complementary to the new college building opposite, which is already a significant landmark.

The junction of Highgate Road and Moseley Road

The Grade II listed buildings which occupy this prominent site on the crest of the ridge, although derelict, already have a landmark quality. Their restoration and conversion into the proposed Hub development should be done in such a way as to reinforce this quality.

The junction of Moseley Road and Cromer Road/Brighton Road

This is the boundary of the Moseley Road neighbourhood centre, and the proposed environmental enhancements to Moseley Road should emphasise this as an important gateway. In addition, there is an opportunity for imaginative landscaping of the treed site to the south of Cromer Road, although this is just outside the Neighbourhood Development Plan boundary.



The entrance into Balsall Heath from Moseley, at the junction of Moseley Road and Cromer Road.



The corner of Calthorpe Park, at the junction of Pershore Road and Edward Road.

The junction of Ladypool Road and Brighton Road/Taunton Road

It is proposed that this, the southern gateway to the Ladypool Road neighbourhood centre, be marked by a new square on the corner of Balsall Heath Park, described here in the section on Ladypool Road.

The junction of Ladypool Road and Highgate Road

This is the northern gateway to the Ladypool Road neighbourhood centre. It is proposed that it is marked by a new square on Ladypool Road, and also by a significant piece of new residential architecture on the north side of Highgate Road, although the latter site is just outside the boundary of the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

8.3 Orphan spaces



A plan showing the locations of some leftover, neglected or orphan spaces in Balsall Heath.

Across Balsall Heath there are many small fragments of land which are either unused, neglected, abused or ugly, or a combination of these. They are mostly not big enough to become development sites. In some cases, their ownership is known; in others it is not. Some have come about through poor planning, some just through neglect. The Neighbourhood Development Plan proposes that there should be a programme whereby all the orphan spaces are adopted, improved and looked after.

Balsall Heath Forum has already done this in a number of cases. In side streets around Mary Street, residents have taken charge of bits of leftover space, planted them with shrubs, and maintained them, to everyone's benefit. These transformations can be copied in other parts of the area.



One of the unadopted avenues off Runcorn Road.

Another category of orphan spaces are car parks, owned either privately or by the City Council. They are often poorly maintained eyesores, and they are further abused by people dumping rubbish on them.

In a third category are streets which are not adopted by the City Council, and the avenues on Runcorn Road are prominent examples of these. It is not clear who owns them, and the City council does not maintain them or collect rubbish from them. The Plan proposes that effort be put into a scheme by which they will become adopted.



A leftover public space on Wenman Street, which has been successfully taken over by local residents.

Articles from *The Balsall Heathan*

Appendix 3 to the Consultation Statement

The Balsall Heathan is a monthly magazine, published by St Paul's Community Trust, which is delivered free of charge to all households within the area covered by the Balsall Heath Forum (which is also the area of the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan), and to other locations in addition.

Between September 2011 and September 2013, covering the periods of the three stages of consultation, the magazine published a number of articles about the Neighbourhood Plan, most of them written by the Plan's Coordinator, and these are reproduced here.

Sep 11

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

by Joe Holyoak

The Government's Localism Bill, which is currently being discussed in Parliament, may seem remote from our immediate local concerns here in Balsall Heath – concerns like housing, traffic, parks, jobs and so on. But in fact there is an important connection, and it is going to become prominent in Balsall Heath over the next twelve months. Part of the Localism agenda is enabling local communities to make their own Neighbourhood



Moseley Road can become more than just a traffic corridor – a real local centre with its many fine buildings used properly.



The site of the old Joseph Chamberlain College, the Sports Centre and the astroturf; a major site for new development. What should we put there?

the priorities and aspirations of the people of Balsall Heath, and the issues listed above are some of the priorities that residents have already suggested to us.

Starting in mid-September, there will be a wide programme of consultation to decide on the content of the Plan. We shall be talking with residents' associations; housing associations; traders; community organisations; Councillors; Centro; schools and colleges; faith groups and many others, to find out what they want to see included in the Plan. We shall be describing our progress in The Heathian every month, and we hope to have the Plan drafted by March next year.

Plans, which will decide the future of their locality – instead of being written by professional planners in the City Council, the Plan will be written by local people themselves. Because of its national reputation as an enterprising and innovative place, Balsall Heath has been chosen by the Government as one of the first 17 places across England which will have this opportunity. Balsall Heath Forum is the body chosen to organise the Plan, and Joe Holyoak, a local architect and urban designer, is going to coordinate the making of the Plan for the Forum.



This is the boundary of the area which the Neighbourhood Plan will cover.

Joe Holyoak will be working with Simone Taylor, who is a Business in the Community placement from the construction firm Cardlioni, and who will be particularly focussing on the needs of businesses in Balsall Heath. We also welcome local volunteers, anyone who feels they have some time and skills they can contribute to the Plan. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, please direct them to Joe; his details are as follows:

The Neighbourhood Plan, when approved, will become official City Council policy, and it will make decisions such as where new housing is built, and what kind of houses; where accommodation for new small businesses will go; how traffic and car parking is handled; whether there will be a new passenger railway station in Balsall Heath; and what happens to important public buildings on Moseley Road. It is of course essential that the Plan reflects

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Email: jh@joholyoak.co.uk
Telephone: 0121 633 8918

We intend to enable Balsall Heath to make the best Neighbourhood Plan of any place in England; please help us to achieve it!

Oct 11

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Local Business and the Neighbourhood Plan

Business.....What part will you play?

Local businesses are vital to stimulating growth and benefit their communities way beyond just providing jobs. Businesses can revive neglected neighbourhoods, support schools or make a significant contribution to community facilities.



We need to involve local companies more explicitly in neighbourhood planning decisions for business areas if communities are to get the most out of them. Businesses have access to skills, resources and expertise that can give a real boost to getting the right kind of growth underway in many areas. Business Neighbourhood Frontrunners are about residents and businesses shaping their neighbourhood together.

Ensuring all members of a community are involved in driving development in their neighbourhood is central to our planning reforms and local businesses are an equally important part of many communities.

What can you do to get involved? What ideas do you have? What should a neighbourhood plan look like? What would you like to see included in this plan? What should it cover?

I am delighted to be working in partnership with the Balsall Heath Forum and Business in the Community at a very exciting time where real change can be implemented in your already enthusiastic and thriving community.

Simone Taylor – Business Connector (Carillion Plc/ Secunded to Balsall Heath Forum)

A new station in Balsall Heath?

by Joe Holyoak

One subject which the Neighbourhood Plan will deal with is transport – how we get around Balsall Heath, and to and from other places. The Plan will try to find ways to make our streets more attractive, comfortable and safe, in order to encourage walking and cycling. It will also see what can be done to improve public transport, to encourage people to use it and leave the car behind. One interesting possibility is the reopening of the railway line, running parallel to Moseley Road, to local passenger trains. Trains have not run here since the 1940s. This proposal has been approved in principle by Network Rail and Centro, and is pencilled in for funding between 2014 and 2019. The most expensive element will be building a new viaduct at Camp Hill, to connect the line to Moor Street Station, instead of leading to the already overloaded New Street Station.



Up to the 1940s, Balsall Heath had a passenger station at Brighton Road. This replaced an earlier one at Highgate Road, opposite where Joseph Chamberlain College is now. In the new Centro plan, the old stations at King's Heath and Moseley will be reopened, but there is no new station proposed for Balsall Heath. Centro's reasoning is that Balsall Heath is too close to the city centre for the rail service to compete with the no.50 bus, and that a new station would not pay for itself. I am not convinced, and think that we should argue for a new station central to Balsall Heath, perhaps between Clifton Road and St Paul's Road. What do you think?



The railway bridge at Clifton Road; could there be a new station here?

NOV 11

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Local Businesses..... WE NEED YOU TO SPEAK UP...

By Simone Taylor

Local businesses are required to work hand in hand with the community. Your community needs you to work with them to prepare the Neighbourhood Plan in order to bring the right kind of development to your area and to help boost local economies. Help set the agenda for business growth, rather than being impeded by an overly bureaucratic system.

Whether you are engaged in the trade of goods or services, are privately owned, not-for-profit, state-owned a Social Enterprise or a family business; whatever the size we need you to have your say.

Much needed growth can be achieved quicker by using the



expertise and resources of local business people to spearhead the right development swiftly. The Neighbourhood Plan will also help with the regeneration of your local streets such as Moseley Road, Ladypool Road and Edward Road -

making them better places to visit and shop. The proposals are intended to help enable businesses to remain competitive in a rapidly changing economic market.

Anyone who has thought for even a moment about how to improve their area knows that the best outcomes can only be achieved where business and communities come

together.

SPEAK UP AND HAVE YOUR SAY:

- Tuesday 13th December – evening meeting
 - Wednesday 14th December – meetings during the day
 - Thursday 15th December – final evening meeting
- Please contact me directly for further details on how you can get involved at simone.taylor@bhc.org.uk or on 07734 342 598

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

by Joe Holyoak

At this stage of the making of the Plan for the future of Balsall Heath, we are concentrating on talking to as many people as we can – residents, traders, businesses, housing associations, schools and colleges, mosques and churches – and consulting them on what are the priorities that they want to see included in the Plan. During November, in particular I shall be attending the regular meetings of all the ten residents' groups in Balsall Heath, talking to residents about what the Plan can do for them, and asking for their thoughts and ideas.

We shall be following up this consultation with a public two-day planning event at Balsall Heath Church Centre in December, organised in collaboration with the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment. Prince Charles set up the Foundation in order to promote people-friendly

ideas about how our towns and cities should be planned and designed. One of these ideas is that there should be local community-based planning and decision-making, based on wide public consultation – exactly what we are now doing in Balsall Heath.

The Prince's Foundation has built up a lot of experience in holding this kind of planning event, which is both productive and enjoyable. But it will work only if residents and traders turn up to participate. Please put these dates in your diary:

Balsall Heath Church Centre

- Wednesday 14th December meetings during the day, 9am-4pm.
- Thursday 15th December evening meeting, 6.00-7.30pm.

More details of these days will be widely advertised later, but please make a note of the dates, and come along and make your voice heard.

Dec 11 /
Jan 12

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Streets and Cars

by Joe Holyoak

Simone Taylor and I have been busy finding out what people in Balsall Heath want to see in the Plan, and compiling what I think of as our shopping list. Just before writing this, I was at the meeting in the Church Centre of the group called Including Women. They discussed what women wanted from the Neighbourhood Plan. There were many excellent suggestions, and all of the suggestions were good not only for women, but for everyone in Balsall Heath.



and difficulty in finding somewhere to park your car near your house. The last problem is particularly difficult in the old terraced streets like Oldfield Road (pictured). On average there is space to park about one car per house in these streets. Yet I have talked to people whose households own four cars, and who expect to find room to park all of them in their street. It cannot be done. We shall see what we can do in the Neighbourhood Plan to make parking easier; but while we can continue buying more and more cars, space is finite – we cannot invent any more. Balsall Heath is going to stay the same size it is.

During November I was at the meetings of all ten residents' groups, asking them what their priorities were for the Neighbourhood Plan. Issues about traffic came up again and again: speeding vehicles, danger in crossing the road,

At least part of the answer has to be to encourage Balsall Heath to be less dependent on the motor car; to make our streets safer and more attractive to walk and cycle on, to get more children walking or cycling to school, and to improve access to public transport (including that railway station!).

An Energy Plan

by John Newson

Fuel costs are a real worry for householders and community organisations in our neighbourhood. Gas and electricity prices just keep on rising - for an average family the bill is £1,300 a year.



Energy could also be saved by growing food, storing water and recycling wastes at neighbourhood scale. All these changes can save money, create jobs and bring people together, to create a future more under our control.



An Energy Plan for Balsall Heath is needed, and Balsall Heath Is our Planet has been working on this during 2011.

The blame for rising prices often goes onto the government or the energy companies, but the truth is that oil and gas fields are starting to run out all over the world - a world of 7,000 million people, all of whom want energy. A more energy-efficient way to live will have to be planned for every neighbourhood and town.

The first point is to make buildings more energy efficient. The fuel we don't use will be the cheapest, cleanest, and most reliable. The second point is to get on with generating our own electricity from locally available sources. Sunlight on the roof is free, so why not make use of it?

Third point is not using the private car so much. Petrol is at an all-time high and prices will only rise in future, so we need to provide for other means of travel, especially for short journeys.

The Energy Plan will give practical ideas about energy saving measures that can work in Balsall Heath. Some could become part of the wider Neighbourhood Plan being drawn up by Balsall Heath Forum, if residents like them.

A new way to pay for energy improvements will appear in 2012. It is called the Green Deal and is a national programme to give homes and buildings an energy makeover, paid for from the savings in future years, with no cost to the occupants. Balsall Heath should make sure that it benefits as much as possible.

Balsall Heath Is our Planet is very interested to hear from anyone with any ideas, or who would like a copy of the draft Energy Plan

Contact John Newson 0121 440 7919 x 204 office hours or bhiop@jericho.org.uk

mar 12

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

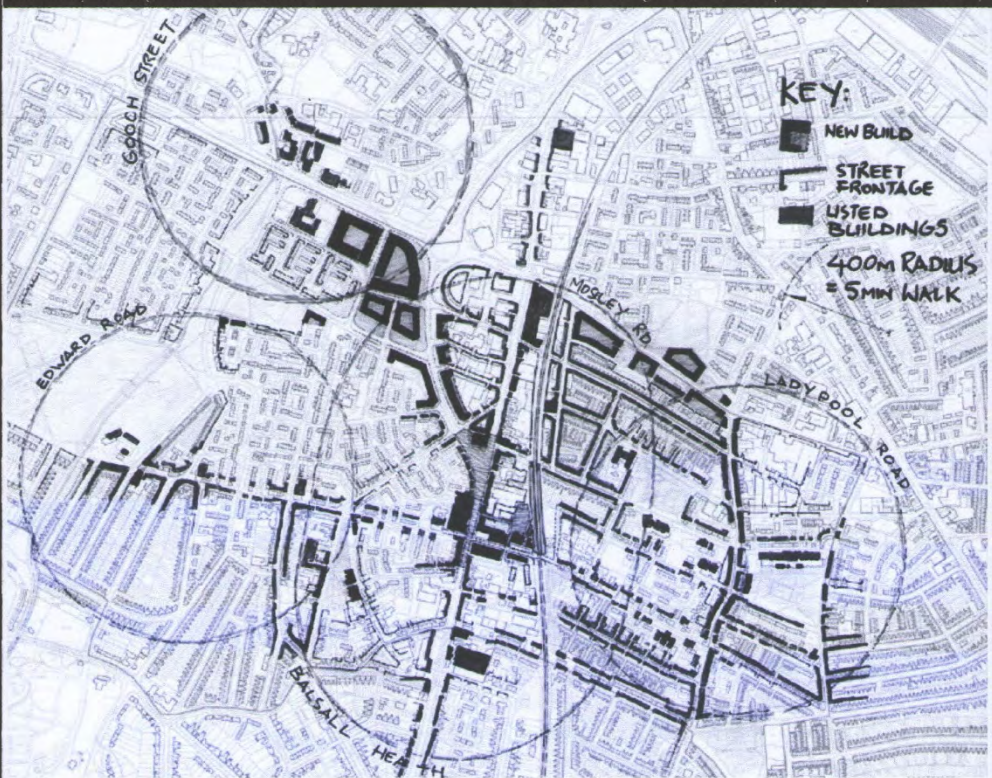
by Joe Holyoak and Simone Taylor
Balsall Heath Forum

From September to December, we were mainly doing what we call 'writing the shopping list' for the Neighbourhood Plan. That is, we were asking as many local people as possible what they wanted to see included in the Plan. We have ended up with a long list of ingredients: some of them big, expensive and long term, like a new railway station for Balsall Heath, and the redevelopment of the old Joseph Chamberlain College site, and some of them things that could be achieved relatively quickly, like tidying up some leftover or neglected spaces, or filling in a dangerous subway under the ring road. Our task now is to assemble these ideas into some actual policies and proposals, in a form which can direct and influence what happens in Balsall Heath in the future.

In December we took an important step in this direction, when we organised, in collaboration with the Prince's Foundation for the Built Environment, a two-day Community Planning Workshop. We invited about forty local people to take part, and in discussions they produced many ideas, some which we already had on our list, but some new ones as well. On the second day the Foundation team turned these into drawings, and we are publishing two of them here. We are also exhibiting the drawings in some public locations in Balsall Heath – the library, St Paul's Trust, the Church Centre, Jericho, the Ort café, and you can go and see them there.

These two drawings both illustrate the question – Where is the centre of Balsall Heath? We have asked lots of people this question, and we get lots of different answers. It is not simple. There are at least three local centres in Balsall Heath – Moseley Road, Ladypool Road and Edward Road – and some residents regard Gooch Street in Highgate as their local centre. The plan drawing shows that although Balsall Heath is quite a big place, most residents live within five minutes' walk of at least one of these centres. It also starts to suggest where there are opportunities for new development – of housing, employment, or community facilities.

The other drawing suggests that Moseley Road could be a much stronger centre of Balsall Heath than it presently is. Currently, it could be seen to divide Balsall Heath into two halves; it could be improved, to become the place that joins it together. One way this could be made to happen is with the creation of a Town Square, as has recently happened down the road in Kings Heath. The drawing shows this square at the junction of Moseley Road and Haden Way, with the roads rerouted so as to make the square a place where people could gather. In addition to the square, we would like to see Moseley Road become a much more attractive place, the major buildings restored and fully in use, pavements resurfaced to a high quality, street clutter removed and new trees planted. A similar scheme, very successful, has recently been done in Kensington High Street in London – Google it to see some pictures. At present Moseley



A plan which identifies the several local centres in and around Balsall Heath, and also places where new development might take place.

Apr 12

The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Ladypool Road

by **Joc Holyoak**

When people think of Balsall Heath, many will think of Ladypool Road. Admittedly it's a long way from residents of Cheddar Road or Alexandra Road, but for a lot of residents on the Sparkbrook side of Balsall Heath (I am one) it's their local High Street. Mainly because of its history of balti restaurants, and now because of the growing number of clothes shops, it is also well known to visitors from other parts of the West Midlands and even further afield.

We want to include in the Neighbourhood Plan, a proposal to improve its quality. I would describe it at present like this. Ladypool Road is very popular and busy – there are few if any empty shops. Shops and restaurants are predominantly locally-owned: this is unusual and wonderful. But visually it is rather untidy – uncoordinated shopfront designs and unattractive car park gaps; it is uncomfortable for pedestrians – narrow pavements, poor surfaces, and few crossing points. Illegal and inconsiderate car parking on yellow lines (not to mention on the pavement) causes disruption and traffic congestion.

We want a proposal that keeps the prosperity and the business, but makes it a more comfortable place to visit and stay. Obviously the proposal has to have the support of traders. We held a meeting of traders in March, at the Karachi Café, to discuss what they would like to see. Much of the discussion was about adding to the distinctive identity of the place. One way to do this which I am keen on is by emphasising the two ends of the street – not necessarily in the Chinese manner with an actual gateway, but with something unique that says you are entering a significant place. Some traders were very keen on the idea of renaming the area, to give it a distinctive "brand". The quality of pavements was thought to be very poor.

If they could be resurfaced in a material with a distinctive colour and pattern, this could add to the identity of the street, as well as making it more enjoyable to walk there.

Traders wanted to see more off-street car parking, with clear signposting to it. Parking space is particularly under pressure at the Highgate Road end, and in the redevelopment of Highgate Road which we are hoping to include in the Plan, there could perhaps be some additional parking space. But traders did not consider that traffic congestion was a big problem. In fact, two advantages of congestion were mentioned. One, with slow-moving traffic it is easier and safer to cross the road. Two, people in slow-moving cars have more time to look into shopfronts and do window-shopping.

In the past there have been suggestions for closing Ladypool Road to traffic, or making it one-way. But I don't think that this is the right way to go. I would like to see a scheme which keeps the street open to traffic but, through an intelligent design, achieves a better balance between moving

vehicles, parked cars, and people on foot. One idea which I would like to see tried out is for an experimental one-day closure of part of the street (say the two blocks between Brunswick Road and Oldfield Road) to traffic, and the organisation of a one-off street market / street party; maybe for the Queen's Jubilee or to coincide with the Olympic Games. Or if it's too late to do it this year, plan for a big event next year. If it happened on a Sunday it would not cause any big disruption, and it could be great fun. If it were a success, it could become a regular event.

What do you think of this idea? Indeed, if you regularly use Ladypool Road, or even only occasionally, what do you think of any of the traders' ideas for improvement? Please let me know through the Balsall Heath Forum, 82-89 St. Pauls Road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham B12 8LS.



may 12

The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

by Joe Holyoak

As I write this, there are flood warnings on the radio for locations all over the country, following the wettest April in a century. Being high up in the centre of the country, Birmingham is less threatened by floods than many other places. But our rivers – the Tame, the Cole and the Rea – do play an important role in taking rainwater and channelling it away towards the North Sea, although occasionally they cannot cope with the load.

The River Rea, which runs through Balsall Heath, is not a large or a long river (only 14 miles in length), but a great proportion of the rain which falls on Birmingham ends up there, and in wet weather its level sometimes rises alarmingly. Because of this, in the early 20th century, from around Cannon Hill Park onwards, the river was culverted between brick walls in order to contain the floodwater and prevent it from spreading.

Within Balsall Heath, the culverted river runs between the back gardens of houses in Constance Road and Eastwood Road, then under Edward Road and through Calthorpe Park; then alongside Clevedon Road, underneath Balsall Heath Road, and alongside Longmore Street, before it goes under Belgrave Middleway and disappears into Highgate. For most of this length, unless you are standing on the edge of the brick wall, the river is virtually invisible, and I imagine that many people



in Balsall Heath are not even aware that it is there. This is a great pity. We are very fortunate in Balsall Heath in having a river, although a minor one, and it ought to be an asset which we can enjoy. We ought to be able to walk alongside it and listen to its sounds, look for water voles, sit under willow trees and feed ducks, and children should be able to race sticks in it from bridge to bridge, and even paddle in the shallow water on days when the floodwater is not charging along.

In the Neighbourhood Plan, we want to make all this possible. Between Edward Road and the Middleway, we want to

transform the river Rea into a pleasant and enjoyable place. We propose removing the brick walls, widening the river where there is space to do so, and making landscaped banks where residents can get near to the water. In Calthorpe Park we could make a pool as big as one of the pools in Cannon Hill Park. We would probably need the approval of the Environment Agency for all this, but if done in the right way, these measures could actually help to prevent flooding, not make it worse.



In addition, the redesigned river could possibly also be a source of energy. The water flows fast, and centuries ago there were several watermills that used the river to grind corn. Later, its power drove manufacturing mills in the industrial revolution. Even if only small amounts of electricity could be produced by the river, it could be a very interesting experiment.

There will be people who are worried about safety issues in the opening up of the river to public access, particularly for children. But there are miles of unguarded canal towpaths in the city that we take for granted, and I doubt if anybody regards the pools in Cannon Hill Park as dangerous. The truth is that a culverted and fenced-off river is more dangerous. Children learn about the risks of water by standing on its edge and negotiating with it – this is a necessary and educational experience. But in the past, people who fell into the flooded river Rea have been carried miles downriver and drowned, unable to be rescued because the river was inaccessible.

Where is the money to come from to transform our part of the river? That we don't know, as with many other of the Neighbourhood Plan's objectives. But the first step is to put the proposal into the Plan, and to get the backing of Balsall Heath residents for it. Then we can get it costed, and look to see how it can be funded. What do you think about the idea? Would you like to see it happen?

The Balsall Heathan

Your Community Newspaper

The deadline for the next edition is June 1st

Please send your news and views to The Editor, St. Paul's Centre, Hertford Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 8NJ. Tel: 0121-464 4376. Fax: 0121-464 2555
Email balsall.heathan@stpaulstrust.org.uk

Balsall Heath Forum Focus

June 12

Community Champions?

The Heathan has invited the 3 Sparkbrook councillors to contribute a regular "Councillors Business" section to each and every issue. The first of these contributions is proudly printed in this issue. Residents and voters are warmly invited to respond to it.

Perhaps Councillors need to be seen less as being Party Political and more as being Community Champions. The new Labour Council is committed to decentralisation. So, perhaps councillors could be seen out and about more in the neighbourhoods of their Wards, help to identify local issues and be seen by residents to improve local conditions.

Balsall Heathans are lucky to have 3 councillors who already do this. Perhaps they can be held up as examples to Councillors in other Wards?

Read all about it!

"Nourishing Social Renewal"

This new book by Dick Atkinson asks: "How do you feed a hungry person?". It concludes that the best way of doing so is not by just giving them a fish. For, while this feeds them for a day, it makes them dependent on being given another one tomorrow. Instead, if the donor helps the recipient to learn how to fish, then they can feed themselves and they become independent. Dicks' book applies this principle to social renewal and shows how self-help is more effective, cheaper and lasting.

Copies can be bought from the Forum's base at the Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road. Or, phone and order one on 0121 446 6183.

Litter Scout & Good Neighbours

Balsall Heath has taken great strides forward in recent years. It is not just safer, but cleaner and greener. But, there is still a way to go. Far too many streets are litter strewn and appear uncared for. The Forum aims to make a real difference over the coming 12 months and to make the street litter free, clean and cared for.

Success depends on identifying a 'Litter Scout' and a 'Good Neighbour' for every street. We need them to knock on the door of offending residents, tap on the shoulder of offending pedestrians, car owners and say: "Don't do it in my back yard. For, you wouldn't do it in your own back yard".

So, will Heathan readers please sign up to become 'Litter Scouts' and 'Good Neighbours'. We can't have enough of you. We really do need at least one for every street - say, 60. Please get in touch with the Balsall Heath Forum via the Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road or phone on 446-6183. We really do need you.

Faith

The article on Faith in the April Heathan gave rise to many conversations. These were the main points which people raised:

- Today's society tends to confine Faith to the sidelines and to Sunday and Friday prayers.
- But, it is the glue which binds any good community together. So, it needs to be brought out of the sacred days and applied to the way we live 7 days a week.
- Although there are many different faiths in Balsall Heath, they all address the same truths about how we should live and love and care for one another.
- So, Balsall Heath is blessed and rich in Faith and should set an example to other neighbourhoods who don't possess such riches.
- We should devote one Communal Meal to a "Sharing of Faiths".

So, the article clearly struck a chord in readers' minds. More suggestions and ideas are welcome.

The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

The new plan for Balsall Heath which the Forum has been preparing is nearing completion. It aims to show how the buildings, open spaces and streets of the area could be improved over the next few years to make life better and more economically productive.

If you have not yet told us your idea about how the area could be improved, there is still time. Just write to the Forum, phone it or pop in and say. The Tree Nursery, 82-89 St Pauls Road, 446 6183.

Once complete, the plan will guide local action and use for years to come. So, it will be a really useful tool for improving the area. Make sure that it includes your ideas.

Volunteers needed

Metal railings run alongside the Moseley Road. They start at the Brighton/Cromer Road crossing, with a few gaps continue where Haden Way starts and end up at the junction with Highgate/Belgrave Middle Way. They look drab and uncared for.

However, Business in the Community has donated black and gold paint to the Forum to brighten them up and make the road look more attractive. But, who will actually paint them? The Forum will do its bit. However, it needs a few good volunteers to help it or the painting task will take a long time.

Will those interested to help please step forward and ring the Tree Nursery on 446 6183? Will others please watch this space and thank those who are about to transform it?

The Balsall Heathan

Your Community Newspaper

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Email balsall.heathan@stpaulstrust.org.uk

Balsall Heath Forum Focus *July 12*

Litter Scouts

Everyone knows a 'litter lout', the person who carelessly throws into the gutter, their cigarette packet or food container. They blight the area. They let it down.

Dozens of them do this in and off Ladypool Road, Moseley Road and Edward Road. But, the Forum has coined a new phrase for a new person – a Litter Scout. This is a person who notices the litter lout, stops them, tells them politely to pick up their cast off papers and bin them.

If only, the Forum says, we had a Litter Scout in every road, we'd soon beat the blight and turn the Litter Lout into a caring citizen.

So, are you or could you be a Litter Scout? Or, do you know one? If so, either tell your residents group or Abdullah or let the Forum know (0121 446 6183 or call in at the Tree Nursery).

Welcome

Have you seen the new feature in Haden Way? It welcomes people coming into Balsall Heath with a cheery sign and tiers of flowers.



It gives out all the right messages to home comers and passing commuters.

This is the first of 6 or so signs which will soon adorn Edward Road at Calthorpe Park, Clevedon Road and both ends of Ladypool Road.

What do you think? Does it cheer and

brighten the area up? Where do you think the next signs should go? What else should we do to signal that Balsall Heath is a bright, welcoming and friendly area?

Diamond Jubilee Trees

The circle of trees pictured below was planted in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Residents intend that they will contribute another 60 years of communal service by many people, not just the Queen and her successors.

The planting ceremony was attended by residents, the present Lord Mayor and Joseph Chamberlain from the History Society. All concerned felt the ceremony was fitting and memorable.

In the evening, Makhdoom Chisite organised a meal and awards ceremony in the Central Mosque attended by 200 people from



Balsall Heath and Highgate. The overriding theme was 'communal service'. The important event spelled out this fact: "If the Queen can dedicate

herself to the whole country for 60 long years, so too can many local people make a commitment to their community".

The Olympic Torch

Hot on the heels of Royal celebrations came the Olympic Torch. On June 30th it passed along Bristol Road and ended up on Cannon Hill Park for a very popular event.

A similar event had been organised in Calthorpe Park. But, the most startling effect was the hundreds and hundreds of residents who lined the route of the Torch to cheer it on and those who carried it.

The fact that this very moving event followed on so soon after the Diamond Jubilee event is testimony to the fact that people in Balsall Heath and the rest of the country love an excuse to celebrate and cheer each other on. Both Queen and Torch brought out the very best in people.

We now need to look to the next event which can stir and feed our emotions.



Beating the Blight

On the plus side, 350 hanging baskets are now scattered throughout Balsall Heath. So, also, are 70 wooden planters and 40 small beds of flowers in public spaces. Plus, very many residents now make a great public show of care and colour in their gardens. On the down side, many streets are still blighted by litter and dumping, particularly from cars and take-away restaurants. So, the Forum, Environmental Service, the Police, Housing Associations and Health have combined to organise a 'Beat the Blight' campaign. It will start in September and last at least a year. The campaign will:

- Seek to involve all schools.
- Fine offenders and publicise these fines as a deterrent to others.
- Seek the support of fast-food outlets.
- Applaud the Litter Scouts identified in a separate article.
- Reward those who tend their garden and take part in litter-picks.

Don't forget! The Campaign starts in September. The Campaigners are relying on every resident – yes, you too! – to do their bit. Or, rather, to put their bit of litter into a bin. So, bin it, don't blight it.

The Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan has been on display in the Library for some weeks. It is also travelling to each of the 10 Resident Groups and is still available at the Tree Nursery, St Paul's Road.

There is still time for residents to see it and make comments and suggestions. These will be included in a final draft. All residents will be asked to formally vote on the plan in November at the same time that there is a vote for the new Police Commissioner. If approved, it will then shape developments in Balsall Heath for many years to come. So, do look at it and make your views count.

Sep 12

The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

In April 2011, Balsall Heath was chosen by the Government as one of the first areas in the country to pilot Neighbourhood Planning; a chance for local people to decide on future development within their area.

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum has now formally applied to Birmingham City Council to be recognised as the legitimate body to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for Balsall Heath. The application also seeks to designate the neighbourhood area boundary, including Highgate Road to the north, Stoney Lane to the east, Brighton Road to the south and Pershore Road to the west.

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan Application

The Neighbourhood Plan application for Balsall Heath can be viewed on Birmingham City Council's website www.birmingham.gov.uk/balsallheathndp, where you can also find more details about Neighbourhood Planning.

A copy of the application can also be found at the Balsall Heath Forum in the Tree Nursery and includes:

- A map of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan area in Balsall Heath.
- Reasons why the Balsall Heath area should be designated a Neighbourhood Plan.
- How Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum meets regulations as the relevant body to prepare the plan.

If a designation is made, no other organisation or body may be designated to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for this area, until the designation expires or is withdrawn.

Your comments

You can comment on Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum's request to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and the plan boundary for your area.

The application will be available for comment for 6 weeks until Wednesday 24th October 2012.

Your comments can be sent to us by email at:

planningandregenerationenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk

or posted to:

Planning and Regeneration
PO Box 28
Birmingham
B1 1TU

How do I get involved with the Plan?

If you wish to get involved in the preparation of the plan, contact Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum at the Tree Nursery, St Pauls Road. Get in touch through the Forum website at www.planningbalsallheath.info or email nowrah@balsallheathforum.org.uk.

Start Making Some "Positive Moves"!

Positive Moves is brand new project for women in Balsall Heath. The Big Lottery funded programme began in April; the first strand ran at St Paul's Children's Centre and had a fantastic response.

It's now your opportunity to get involved in the second strand of the course.

'Positive Moves' looks at improving body language, vocal and body confidence, and self-worth using drama and creative arts activities to encourage women over 19 back into employment.

'Positive Moves' will work with you at your own pace, looking at your CV, work history and developing a personal development plan to help you feel more confident about interviews and entering a professional environment.



This is a completely FREE program, that runs for 12 weeks; it begins on Tuesday 11th September at Anderton Park Children's Centre. Available to women over the age of 19, those interested are encouraged to meet with the team and have a chat about the course and enjoy some drinks and nibbles. If you would like any more information about us, or Positive Moves, then please call Josie on 0121 440 8188.

.... Balsall Heath Forum Focus continued

Dec 12/
Jan 13

The Neighbourhood Plan – the next stage

The plan for the development of Balsall Heath is still being refined to make sure it is as good and watertight as can be. These questions are being asked:

- Did the authors of it consider all possible alternatives before making specific proposals?
- What are the implications of some of these proposals? Are they realistic?
- Are any late suggestions being made? Could they be included?
- When will the referendum be held which finally approves – or disapproves – of the plan be held?

Anyone interested in the answers to any of these questions is invited to get in touch with Joe Holyoak via the Forum on 0121 446 6183 or by calling in at the Tree Nursery and looking at the plan.

Residents who are keen to see swift progress are asked to be patient. The referendum to approve or object to the plan is not due until the spring or even a little later. But, all concerned are asked to accept that it is important to get every stage of the plan right and not to make errors which invalidate it. For, if and when it is approved, it could result in major changes to:

- The Moseley Road
- The south side of the Highgate Road.
- The River Rea
- The old college site
- And much, much, more...

So, do keep an eye on the plan and prepare to vote for or against it in the spring.

From Cabaret to Night Club

The point where Haden Way joins the Moseley Road should be a major attraction to visitors and commuters passing through Balsall Heath to Moseley, Kings Heath and beyond. However, for several years it has been the site of a late night Cabaret which hosted 'exotic dancing and scanty displays. Indeed, the place closed down a few months ago after fighting and a gun battle raged. Residents said: "Told you so. It should have been closed down long ago."

Residents and police have been shocked, therefore, to discover that an application to turn it into a night club has been made. Just when residents and legitimate businesses and agencies on the Moseley Road are seeking to develop and upgrade the road, this can't make sense. It would again risk attracting a range of undesirable users and give out all the wrong messages.

It's not surprising, therefore, to learn that nearby residents' groups and concerned businesses all say: "Don't do this to us. We are trying to improve the road. This is the last thing we need." So, it is hoped that local concerns prevail and permission is not granted for this new use. The key question is this: "Will the planning and licensing authorities take note and agree with the local view or ignore it? The Heathan will keep readers informed."



Helping You Get On In Work and Life

Sometimes it's hard to know what steps to take to move on in work and life. This is where the Jericho Careers Advice Service can help. Our careers advisers are professionally qualified and can give free, individual advice to help you make the right choices about learning and work.

JCAS Can Help You:

- Find learning and training that is right for you
- Develop your CV
- Improve your interview and presentation skills
- Progress in your current job
- Understand the local job market
- Register with Universal Jobsmatch

Special Events - CV Workshops: 9th & 16th January 2013

Drop into the **JCAS** at
196-198 Edward Road, Balsall Heath, B12 9LX
0121 440 7919
Open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm



Apr 13

Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan

by Kelly Darby
Principal Planning Officer
North-West Planning and Regeneration Team

In April 2011, Balsall Heath was chosen by the Government as one of the first areas in the country to pilot Neighbourhood Planning, and a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is currently being prepared for the area. NDPs are a tool to enable land use change and regeneration, but are led and prepared by the community rather than the local planning authority. In accordance with the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), NDPs need to be prepared by Neighbourhood Forums in the absence of town and parish councils.

Designation of the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Area and the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum

Following the Regulations coming into force, the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum was created and constituted to ensure it met the requirements of the Regulations and was fit for purpose in neighbourhood planning terms. In September 2012, the Forum formally applied to Birmingham City Council (BCC) to be recognised as the relevant body to prepare an NDP for their area. The application highlighted the proposed Neighbourhood Area to which the plan would relate and the Neighbourhood Planning Forum's reasons for wanting to prepare a plan. BCC publicised the application on its website for a 6 week period between the 12th September and 24th October 2012, and also publicised it at a local level within Balsall Heath Library.

A number of representations were submitted on the application, and these have been considered by BCC. The extent of the proposed Neighbourhood Area has been amended to take account of the comments received, and the area to the north of Highgate Road has been removed from the boundary. BCC is also satisfied that the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum meets the requirements of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, and as such, the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Area and Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum were formally designated by the City Council on Monday 11th February 2013. As these formal designations have taken place, the Forum can now progress with the preparation of the NDP. The amended Neighbourhood Area can be viewed below.

What happens next and how to get involved?

The Neighbourhood Planning Forum is encouraging everyone to contribute to the preparation of the NDP, particularly those who live and work in the area. The draft NDP is being finalised and will be consulted upon for 6 weeks before the NDP is submitted to us and this will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to help shape proposals in the plan. Once submitted to BCC the draft NDP will be examined by an independent body. Provided the NDP is supported at that stage, a referendum will be held to enable local people to vote on the document.

If you wish to get involved, contact Dick Admison at the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum (www.balsallheathforum.org.uk) or visit their website at www.planningbalsallheath.info. If you would like to discuss Neighbourhood Planning or the emerging Balsall Heath NDP with Council officers, please email us at planningandregenerationenquiries@birmingham.gov.uk or call 0121 303 1115.



Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan

by Joe Holyoak

You may have wondered what has happened to the Neighbourhood Plan, as there has been little published in the *Heathan* for some time, and neither have I stood up at Balsall Heath Forum meetings and spoken about it. But the project is still alive – it's just been on hold, as the limited funding we had to produce the Neighbourhood Plan had run out.

The Government announced a new funding programme in May, and I am delighted to say that the Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Plan has been allocated funding and assistance, which should enable us to complete the work. Our immediate target now, after revising the draft proposals and policies which we produced last year, is to formally submit our Plan to Birmingham City Council, for consideration.

But before we do that, we have to consult everyone in Balsall Heath on what we are going to submit, over a minimum period of six weeks. We are going to do this in the form of a summary of the policies, which will appear in the September *Heathan*. So please make sure to study the September issue, and then to write your thoughts on the proposals to Balsall Heath Forum.

The Balsall Heathan

Your Community Newspaper

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Please send your news and views to The Editor, St. Paul's Centre, Hertford Street, Balsall Heath, Birmingham, B12 8NJ. Tel: 0121-464 4376. Fax: 0121-464 2555

Email balsall.heathan@stpaulstrust.org.uk

Help Celebrate 40 Years of Community News

To help celebrate 40 years of community news the *Balsall Heathan* is holding a special commemorative competition. The *Heathan* is asking for your special memories of Balsall Heath over the last 40 years. You may remember a special carnival day, a special event such as Prince Charles visit, a trip to the swimming baths or a day at school. Your memory may be of a special person from the community of Balsall Heath.

Whatever it is, send your entries including your contact details to the Editor before August 30th.

By post to:

**The Balsall Heathan
St. Paul's Community Development Trust
Hertford Street
Balsall Heath
Birmingham
B12 8NJ**

Or by email to:

balsall.heathan@stpaulstrust.org.uk

Entries should include a photograph illustrating the event and a piece of writing describing your memory. Postal entries must include a return stamped address envelope for any photographs that are to be returned. The winning entry will be treated to a three course meal for two courtesy of the competitions sponsors, the Kushi Restaurant. All shortlisted entries will be published as part of the celebration edition of the *Heathan*.



Sep 13 1/4

THE BALSALL HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

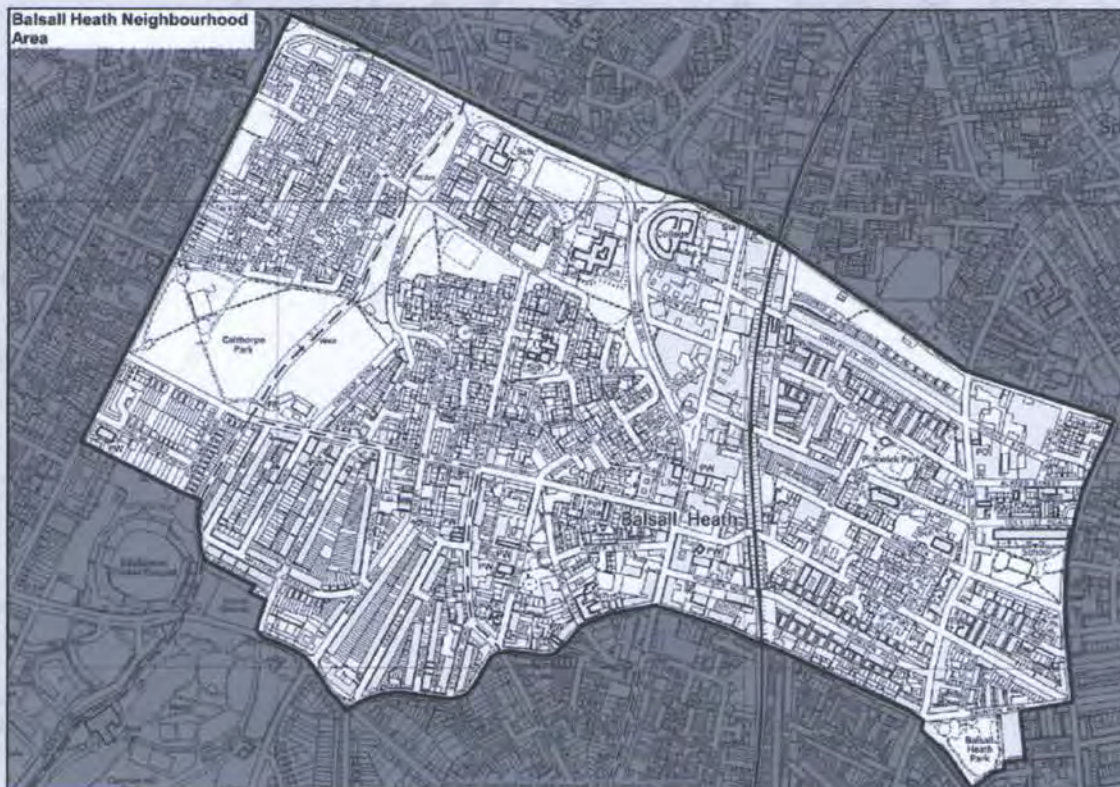
The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Planning Forum is preparing a "Neighbourhood Development Plan" for Balsall Heath, which it is enabled to do by the 2012 Localism Act. This Plan, when completed, will guide the City Council in its decisions about development in the area. 'Development' here means buildings, roads and open spaces, and different uses of land: in other words, all the things that need planning permission. The Plan seeks to encourage suitable development, and ensure that it takes place in a sustainable way for people, the local economy and the environment. So it will have real effects on the place where you live.

During 2011 and 2012, the Forum did lots of consultation with local people and institutions, asking them what they thought should go in the Plan. The proposals and policies which have been produced are based upon the answers that we got. We are now approaching the point at which we formally submit the Plan to the City Council. Before we do that, we have to again consult local people, this time upon what we are intending to submit. This four-page summary is a shortened version of the Plan, which can be viewed in full on www.planningbalsallheath.info/draft-neighbourhood-plan, and is also available

at the Forum's Tree Nursery, 82-89 St Paul's Road. The full version is also available at Balsall Heath Library.

It is important that we have your responses to these proposals and policies, so that we can demonstrate to the City Council that the Plan has the support of local people. These are the ways you can do it:

- Collect a form from the Tree Nursery or the Library, and write your views. Leave the form there to be collected, or post it to the Tree Nursery.
- Or just write your views in a letter and post it to the Tree Nursery.
- Or write your views in an email and send it to nowrah@balsallheathforum.org.uk.
- Or come to the Forum community meal at the Church Centre on Edward Road, 7.00pm on Wednesday 13th November, and fill in a form there. That date will be the last day that responses can be received.



The black line on the plan is the boundary of the NDP, which covers nearly the whole of Balsall Heath.

1. There are limits on what we can do.

We are not free to put whatever we want in the Plan. Our Plan has to be in agreement with all the relevant policies in the Birmingham Development Plan (BDP), which covers the whole city. The new version of the BDP is being prepared for consultation at the moment. Our Plan must also conform to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) of central government.

Policy BH1 requires all developments to contribute to a sustainable community. Sustainability is expressed in such terms as the right kinds of housing, suitable training and employment, access to open spaces and leisure, the quality of design, energy generation, and forms of transport.

2. There are four guiding principles in the Plan.

The Balsall Heath Neighbourhood Development Plan aims to achieve:

- economic development which can provide an appropriate and sufficient range of local job and training opportunities and promote business growth at appropriate locations.
- social development which can provide an appropriate and sufficient range of new and improved housing opportunities and social facilities to support the well-being of residents;
- environmental and urban design improvements which will enhance the quality of life for residents and the state of the physical environment, including measures to address climate change;
- transport infrastructure which enables the effective and safe movement of people and goods around and through the area, including by foot and bicycle.

Policy BH2 promotes the provision of community facilities of all kinds, particularly as part of the improvement of the local centres on Moseley Road and Ladypool Road. In these local centres, the management of traffic, congestion and parking will be addressed.

Policy BH3 aims to protect and improve the quality of public open spaces, particularly green spaces, and to promote the creation of new spaces in new development where that is possible.

Policy BH4 concerns the improvement of local streets, including bringing underused buildings back into use, and in particular the conservation and improvement of listed buildings in the Moseley Road corridor.

Priority will be given to actions which address the needs and aspirations of the most deprived sectors of the local population, especially those with disabilities.

3. The Plan has four general policies

The Plan has four general policies, numbered BH1 to BH4, which are applicable over the whole area. These policies will apply to all planning decisions, and give general guidance about what would be required for planning permission to be given.

4. There are proposals for what should happen in specific places.

There are two large sites where new development could take place. These are the ex-Joseph Chamberlain College site on Haden Way, which is privately owned, and the land adjacent to Highgate Road, which is Council-owned. The Plan proposes a mixed-use development on the college site, including up to 200 dwellings, and around 120 dwellings on a new tree-lined boulevard replacing Highgate Road.



A mixture of uses is proposed for the ex-College site.



Council-owned land on Highgate Road, where new houses could be built on a new boulevard.

Moseley Road is seen in the Plan as the "missing town centre" of Balsall Heath. The Plan proposes that to become a real town centre it needs new investment by owners and developers. It proposes the redesign of the street to make it less traffic-dominated and more pedestrian-friendly. It also proposes a new town square be made, at the junction of Moseley Road and Haden Way, as a focus for social activity, rather like the new square in Kings Heath.



Moseley Road could become a real town centre, with new investment in public space, public buildings, and businesses.

The part of Moseley Road which Haden Way bypasses has become rundown, and the Plan proposes that new investment and improvements are necessary in order to revitalise it. The Plan supports the proposal for a new training and employment hub in the old listed buildings at the junction with Highgate Road, as the kind of stimulus which is needed.



The listed buildings on Moseley Road, which will become The Hub, an employment and training centre.



Ladypool Road is a lively neighbourhood centre, but needs to become less traffic-dominated and more people-friendly.

The Plan intends that Ladypool Road and Stoney Lane should remain vibrant and popular commercial locations, and that traffic and environmental improvements should take place in order to make them work better and be more pedestrian-friendly. Traffic management on both streets should be improved. New car parks near to Ladypool Road should be built,

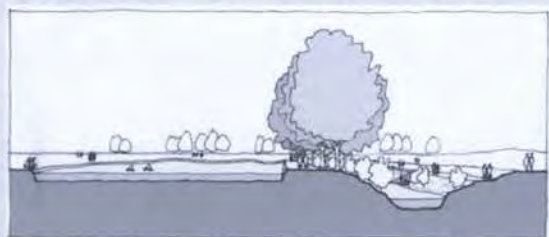


Stoney Lane too needs to become less traffic-dominated and more people-friendly.

Sep 13 4/4

together with small pedestrian squares at each end of the street, at Taunton Road and Highgate Road.

Centro has a longterm plan to return local passenger services to the railway line, and the Plan proposes that there should be a new Balsall Heath railway station, to enable local people to take advantage of this. The preferred location is between Clifton Road



There are seven parks in the Neighbourhood Plan area. The Plan proposes that investment be targeted at these parks in order to improve their facilities and



The proposed location of the new Balsall Heath railway station, next to the urban farm on Clifton Road.

and St Paul's Road. Another transport proposal is a new strategic cycle route connecting Stoney Lane to the station and the existing Rea Valley cycle route, using Clifton Road and Edward Road.



Calthorpe Park, the largest of the seven parks in the Neighbourhood Plan area, which could all benefit from investment.

The Plan proposes that the River Rea, which is culverted and fenced-off in Balsall Heath, should be re-landscaped with river banks and new planting, so that residents can see and enjoy the river. This has to be done in such a way that it can still resist flooding at times of heavy rainfall. Adjacent public land can be devoted to allotments and wildflower meadows, incorporating an improved cycle route.

their quality. Some of these parks are adjacent to junior schools, and the Plan proposes that in those cases the school could take on part of the responsibility for the development and maintenance of the park.

5. How will these developments and improvements happen?



The River Rea, culverted and fenced-off, could be made into a proper river again, an asset which could be enjoyed by local people.

The final part of the Plan deals with the implementation of the proposals and policies. Just writing the Plan itself gives no guarantee that anything will actually happen, but it sets the policy for what we want to happen in Balsall Heath. The Plan envisages that proposals will be carried out, at different times, by a variety of public, private and voluntary organisations. A major resource for public sector developments will be Balsall Heath's share of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is money that private developers pay to the City Council when their planning permissions get built.