

From: Michael Quinney <M.Quinney@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk>
Sent: 31 January 2020 13:04
To: '3bsplanning@gmail.com'
Subject: 3B's Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Dear 3BS Planning Forum,

I have recently been made aware of the 3B's Neighbourhood Plan Consultation work.

I understand that a formal response will be submitted by Tyler-Parkes Planning Consultancy on behalf of West Midlands Police.

My comments below should be seen as supportive, with feedback and observations on the consultation process and the study area in question.

You NP work seeks to influence and complement the Birmingham Development Plan and retained/adopted policies, as well as the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

NPPF creating the opportunity for Neighbourhood Plans to be developed.

The information/reports I have seen to date are:

- Beeches, Booths & Barr (3B's): Local Centres – Neighbourhood Planning Design Support (March 2019)
- Pre-submission Draft – “Towards a Garden Suburb” (3B's): Local Centres – Neighbourhood Planning Design Support (22nd August 2019)
- Together with the map of 3B's Area and the website <https://3bsplanning.wixsite.com/planningforum>

I have read the above documents and looked at the website.

On Friday 24th January 2020, I carried out a visit to the study area.

Community safety issues forms part of your work, crime and the fear of crime will also feature.

Crime is, and always will be a material planning consideration. It links with sustainability and other planning objectives.

Crime statistics for the area can be found at www.police.uk

Stakeholders in the area include Canal and Rivers Trust (re. Tame Valley Canal), Sport England, Highways England (M6), in addition to statutory functions of BCC and other agencies, including West Midlands Police. It should be noted that the former Walsall Road police station is mentioned. This building is no longer owned by West Midlands Police. It was sold at auction in 2018.

There remains a police presence at the Central Motorway Policing Group/Highways England site on the study area boundary at Thornbridge Avenue and our facility at Holford Drive.

WMP remain committed to the policing of the study area and working with the community.

I visited all three local centres and noted the following: _

Tower Hill Area

- All but one of the retail outlets are currently in use – a good economic indicator.
- Tower Hill Library – closed on the day of my visit and only open 3 days out of 7.
- Graffiti (Signal crime) on brickwork of flats adjacent Tower Hill Library.
- Generally, a lack of street litter – although litter more prevalent at Tower Hill Canal Bridge. (Signal crime).

Thornbridge Avenue Area

- All retail units are currently let.
- Good transport links.
- Little or no graffiti or litter.

Turnberry Road Area

- At the time of my visit there was a burnt-out car, dumped fridges and a mattress on Turnberry Park.

Across the study area the below examples are observed:

- Previously, gating schemes of vehicle driveways/alleyways have taken place in the area e.g. Mildenhall Road is a good example.

Such schemes reduce burglary and vehicle crime, for example. Some schemes have been resident driven and funded I understand.

- A34 corridor - subways along its route were historically under used and unsightly – a programme of works over the years has seen these “designed out” and street level pedestrian crossings installed – safer, improved natural surveillance etc. Major works have taken place at A34/A453 junctions and between One Stop Shopping Park and the former BCU site.
- A34 corridor has also seen installations of CCTV & ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) projects over the years to improve safety, traffic management, crime reduction etc.
- Public Transport improvements along the A34 corridor.
- Inconsiderate parking on grass verges – spoiling the same, in parts of the area – Dyas Avenue one of the worst roads for this.
- Street Lighting – there is currently a programme of works to upgrade street lighting in Beeches Road. A review of all street lighting may already have taken place.
- Projects in development in and around the study area (“Soft Boundaries”) include: Alexander Stadium (CWG 2022), A34 corridor flyover, (One Stop Retail site and the former Birmingham City University site which is to be the CWG 2022 Village), Perry Barr train station.
- Public Open Space – The “jewel in the crown” in many ways with sizable areas in the study area, considerable community involvement e.g. Friends of Perry Hall Park, Bark For The Park, Cycle tracks (BMX & Cycle Speedway), gardening projects, sport and recreation, a high take up of allotment plots, well maintained and used by the community.

The above list is not exhaustive. I hope these few lines assist you in completing the consultation process. Any questions, please ask.

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