

Moseley Regeneration Group

Notes of a meeting held at Moseley Exchange on Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 6.00 p.m.

Present:

1. Alison Millward (Reddings and Amesbury Road RA)
2. Tony Thapar (Moseley Community Development Trust)
3. John Dring (The Moseley Society)
4. Izzy Knowles (Moseley Forum)
5. Esther Boyd (Moseley Forum)
6. Fiona Adams (The Moseley Society)
7. Carole McKeown (RARRA, KHGTD)
8. Austin Barber (Moseley Community Development Trust, Trustee)
9. Mark Eftichiou (Domestica, Moseley business)
10. Jenny Brewer (Moseley in Bloom)
11. Rob Kewley (Moseley Forum)
12. David Sandison (Moseley CDT volunteer)

Also present:

1. Clive Wright (BCC Interim Head of Resilience and Local Engineering)
2. Cllr. Claire Spencer (BCC)
3. Emma Bowen (Church Avenue resident, CASPRA)
4. Richard Arden (Church Avenue resident, CASPRA)

Apologies received from:

1. Cllr. Lisa Trickett (Birmingham City Council)
2. Francis Healy (Ashram Moseley HA)

Welcome:

Alison Millward opened the meeting with apologies received and welcomed Clive Wright and other visitors to the meeting. Clive was attending the meeting by invitation, on behalf of Jacqui Kennedy, BCC Corporate Director Place, to meet with community and business representatives to discuss concerns relating to the management of the car park. Issues of concern included problems with litter picking and collection, broken glass; safety and security; begging, misuse of facilities for street drinking, drug use and rough sleeping; rats, human faeces and discarded needles; and newly imposed parking charges. Those most directly concerned were residents from the surrounding area, affected by the poor environment and new 24 hours parking charges, and the Moseley Society, Moseley in Bloom and GCSE, whose volunteers had helped to maintain the planted borders and cleanliness of the car park.

1.0 Management of the public car park, Moseley Village

ACTION

1.1 Clive Wright (CW) said that in response to the email trail since May, there had

been senior level discussion at BCC between the Cabinet Minister and Place Directorate towards a solution to the issues raised. He would take the concerns and suggestions made at the meeting back to his colleagues. CW said that whilst Moseley car park may generate a profit, the BCC car parking services budget covered all provision and was currently significantly underachieving the income budget; therefore the Directorate was concerned to minimise expenditure. In response to questioning, CW confirmed that the budget was designed to generate income for the City; and it was inferred that the budgeted income target might not be based on realistic projections. BCC had undertaken a review of fees and charges with the approach of standardising across the City, which had led to the recently introduced charges in Moseley. Moseley had not been alone in asking for a degree of flexibility in charging to meet local conditions.

1.2 Clive Wright said that they were in talks with Waste Management, the Road Sweepers and the Probation Service's Unpaid Work organisation, for quotes for city wide car park cleaning and waste removal. They would also be looking at alternative models for setting budgets.

1.3 Wider discussion brought up the following:

- BCC inspect the car park for pot holes and general upkeep every six months.
- Cleaning was performed on a reactive basis and only in response to public safety issues. In other words, a community representative still had to report a significant issue for any BCC cleaning to be undertaken. Unpaid Work would undertake a monthly clean up but this would not include sharps, faeces or other items hazardous to public health.
- Unhappiness expressed by members over lack of consultation in the recent introduction of new charges and the apparent inflexibility in response to community concerns.
- Members felt reporting was not straightforward. By telephone and web site, it was not clear which section to contact. A single telephone point of contact was needed and clearer guidance on the web site.
- The loss of the street/neighbourhood wardens was regretted. Using their network of contacts, they had previously reported safety issues and problems.
- CW said 'essential services' for Health & Safety issues may be reported through Environmental Health by telephoning 303 1112 or on-line.
- CW said that with cuts in public expenditure the City would need to work more with volunteers, supported by BCC in covering essential work. Moseley was already an example of this approach.
- Members felt for volunteers to be willing to continue with their support work, it was essential for BCC to resolve the issues raised over recent months and to work effectively and in partnership.
- BCC needed to provide a good basic maintenance service. The appearance of the car park played its part in representing Moseley as a Conservation Area and a safe and attractive centre to visit.

- A Fol request had shown Moseley car park to have had income of £45,137 over 2015/16 (Net profit £33,146) and £61,713 (NP £48,833) over 2016/17.
- In discussing parking income and expenditure, Izzy Knowles said that there was a published BCC Annual Parking Review 2015 – 16. She would aim to find it and to forward it to members. It was hoped that it would be possible to gain some comparative figures, such as income per car parking space for car parks across the city.
- It was felt that BCC was failing to meet SPD Policies, specifically T7, “measures will be encouraged that improve the safety and usage of the in-centre car parks, including their management by a local community organisation, where appropriate.”
- It was regretted that the Highways street cleaning service did not extend to the car parks. Such an arrangement might be cost effective for the City and more easy to manage.
- Whilst standardisation of parking services and charges may make management easier, it did not necessarily meet community needs.
- Flexibility in charging was needed to encourage daytime business and the busy night-time leisure economy. With local knowledge, MRG could work with BCC to agree a charging structure that would more closely meet needs and maintain income. A particular issue was the provision of a free for 20-30 minutes ticket to enable people to make a quick visit to the Post Office etc and a re-think of charging churchgoers on a Sunday morning.
- CW said that the ticketing machines cannot be easily reset.
- Concerning security, it was noted that whilst there were three CCTV cameras around the car park, only one was believed to be in operation. CW said that this now came under his remit and that he would check. It was also felt that the lighting in the area of the ticket machine was not adequate. Begging at the ticket machines had become a real problem in recent weeks and was intimidating car park users.
- Parking charges were to be introduced at Cannon Hill where a letter from the MAC suggested that the income from the MAC parking would be shared between BCC and the MAC. **NB**, in an email following the meeting, CW explained that the introduction of car parking charges at Cannon Hill Park had been part of the Council’s commercialisation approach to supporting budgets and not part of the local car parks service.

IK

1.4 Alison Millward thanked Clive Wright for attending, members had appreciated the opportunity to discuss issues collectively. CW said that he would share the feedback from the meeting with colleagues. In summing up, AM said that MRG and the other community groups involved were keen to work with the Council to review the management plan for Moseley car park and to make their contribution to its upkeep.

CW

2.0 Connecting the dots – public car park, MHH transport and travel review, Traffic Regulation Orders/Cannon Hill Park, the Green Travel District, ‘Birmingham Connected’ Integrated Transport System, draft 2026 Delivery Plan and the ongoing work of the Moseley Public Realm Design Group

2.1 Moseley Hall Hospital parking - a follow up meeting to that hosted by MRG on 11th April was held at MHH, organised by Cllr. Claire Spencer and Kat Rose, BCHFT, chaired by Mark Holloway, Director for NHS Estates & Facilities, and including representatives from MRG, RARRA, Russell Road RA, BCC District Engineer and Lucy O’Grady from Amey. The meeting was structured around an update of the BCHFT Travel & Transport Review and had included the following points:

- BCHFT aim to submit a Planning Application by end of September for 105 additional parking spaces in areas D & F (previously 150 spaces)
- BCHFT have a meeting arranged with BCC for 18th July to discuss the public right of way (PROW) relating to plans for area D, which would have the majority of spaces. This PROW had been established after local residents had taken the Council to judicial review on the Juniper Centre development
- Prior to PA, meeting by invitation with Moseley stakeholders to discuss PA plans, scheduled between 15-17th August, followed by a public consultation meeting early September
- BCHFT seriously considering relocating training off-site, reducing demand for car parking by 20-35 cars.
- BCHFT medical services running at close to capacity on the site and unlikely to be expanded.

Community representatives suggested:

- Appointment of a community representative to join the BCHFT Internal Board that was reviewing transport and traffic across all sites – the representative would be able to bring real local knowledge to aid planning – BCHFT agreed to take this suggestion to the Board
- The April RARRA statement accepted by the Board had made 10 suggestions for improvements but had received no feedback
- Concern expressed on the decision for additional parking before taking a more holistic approach. Suggested a staged approach, starting with improved signage for pedestrian access to the site from Amesbury and Salisbury Roads; management of the site to control parking access by barriers.
- Concern that most new parking spaces were to be in Area D that was located within the PROW. Residents had previously had to defend the PROW.
- Additional parking seen as a magnet for further car use
- Highways asked whether extension of double yellow lines was being considering for the Reddings Road, Salisbury Road ‘box’ around MHH. Garry Dalton said that 90% residents had opposed this when this had

been previously considered. No one at the MRG could remember ever being consulted on this in the last 20 years.

In discussing the MHH meeting, MRG members worried as to whether Community concerns would influence BCHFT decision making, in particular over the preservation of the Public Right of Way.

2.2 Wider travel and transport issues – Moseley Public Realm Design Group (PRDG) had met on 25th May with Anne Shaw, BCC Asst. Director Transportation Services. They had discussed reducing air pollution, re-routing of HGVs from the A435, measures to effect the 20mph limits and how to move forward with a design concept for Moseley Centre. Austin Barber (AB) said that considerable modelling work had already been done by the PRDG. BCC wanted to model traffic for the whole length of the A435. AB said that the public realm came first for Moseley, as a place with the Moseley SPD at its core. He said that Phil Jones Associates had the capacity to carry out a design study. It was asked whether LIF funding might still be available to enable this to be carried out. ACTION Izzy Knowles agreed to check.

IK

2.3 M&S site – it was reported that work had started on the pavements bordering the site. It was not known whether there had been any updated plans from Highways, this had last been discussed with Paul Cowan, BCC Highways/Transportation Officer when he attended the January MRG meeting. After the meeting he had emailed the then currently approved s278 drawing. David Sandison said that he would aim to email the drawing to members.

DS

2.4 Plans for a workshop – members felt it would be helpful for the MRG to meet in a workshop to draft a strategic green travel/traffic management plan for Moseley. David Sandison and Alison Millward would draft a proposal and Emma Bowen said that she would be prepared to act as workshop facilitator.

DS/AM

3.0 Notes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2017 were approved and the following updates were noted:

3.1 Actions 1.1, 1.2, 1.5, and 4.2 had been completed.

3.2 Public lavatory (point 4.1) – Izzy Knowles had contacted JC Decaux (JC D) who had confirmed that the public lavatory had been closed due anti-social behaviour and was shortly due to be removed at the request of the Council. There were no plans to relocate the facilities. JC D declined to release any confidential financial information on the income generated from use of the facilities or from advertising. IK was following up JC D on how often the facilities had been used over the last three years and over how many instances of anti-social behaviour or damages had been reported. IK had forwarded JC D email responses to Cllr. Claire Spencer to ask the Council for background on the reasons for the removal of the lavatory and any consultation undertaken. Members felt it was important for

the Village to have a public lavatory and that if lost, an alternative arrangement would need to be made that allowed for disabled access.

ACTION: Izzy Knowles would follow up JC Decaux on outstanding questions and Cllr. CS for a Council response.

IK

4.0 Any other business

4.1 Licensing - there was some business outstanding that would be covered by the Planning Group at their next meeting.

FA

4.2 Planning – from the list circulated before the meeting, attention had been drawn to the following:

2017/03268/PA Kingfisher, 178 Alcester Road – PA refused for display of an advertising sign on the side wall by the car park.

2017/04920/PA o/s 93A Alcester Road – a new application for replacement of public phone kiosk/ATM for a retro style red box.

2017/04319/PA Ex Colours, 123 Alcester Road – erection of single storey rear extension

2017/05117/PA 2-4 Woodbridge Road – Variation of condition to allow opening 0700-2300 from current 7.00pm closing. The Moseley Society Planning Group had submitted comments and withdrawal of a previous objection.

2017/05302/PA 12-12A St Mary's Row – Variation of condition to extend opening hours to 0700 to 0100 on Fridays, Saturdays and Bank Holiday Sundays – an application for an extra half hour, a follow on application to the one opposed a few months ago.

2017/05255/PA The Village Inn, 179 Alcester Road – Retention of retractable awnings and glazed walls – retrospective PA for the gazebo in the car park

2017/05775/PA Moseley School of Art, 496 Moseley Road, Balsall Heath – Listed Building Consent for repairs, refurbishment and internal alterations.

It was noted that building work was underway at 2-4 Woodbridge Road, at the Colours and Village Carpets premises on Alcester Road. It was understood that work was shortly due to start on the Davenports hotel/restaurant at the former HSBC site.

Under the Enforcement Order served on Prezzo, the raised terrace and signage was required to be removed by mid-August.

4.3 Tony Thapar was still following up BCC Planning & Regeneration for the signing off on the Meteor Section 106 monies; this had been delayed by staffing changes.

TT

4.4 Chamberlain Highbury Trust had submitted a £4.8m bid to HLF for funding to undertake Phase 1 restoration works to the house and grounds and had begun to raise match funding from charitable trusts and private donors.

4.5 Izzy Knowles reported recent litter picks had been very well supported, particularly over the Moseley Festival and that an effective community litter picking network was being developed.

4.6 Fiona Adams, Tony Thapar and Mark Efthiou had met with new M&S manager. M&S were successfully employing staff locally.

4.7 Drug taking and needles – IK advised of a meeting later in the week with Rev Duncan Strathie and Community Policing, concerning a number of known street drug takers who used St Mary’s churchyard and other Village locations. The meeting was to discuss possible support and action against those who refused help offered. Community policing sought feedback through an on-line survey on the current state of begging and street drinking in Moseley and Kings Heath, to support continuance of the Public Space Protection Order in place since 26th September 2016.

4.8 Chestnut tree at M&S – Tony Thapar said that the Council’s tree officer and developer’s tree consultant had advised that the tree was leaning too much towards Oxford Road and that it would best be removed now and replaced in the Autumn, together with the planting of additional new trees within the site, along Oxford Road. TT asked for suggestions. Members proposed Turkish hazel, a blossom tree, silver birches, lime, Indian bean and chestnut. Jenny Brewer would seek the views of MiB.

JB

4.9 Windermere playing fields – proposals for a Sport England backed bid by Attock Cricket Club to develop an artificial cricket pitch, two grass pitches, a pavilion and additional parking had been withdrawn. A Friends of Windermere Fields group was to be set up to monitor the area and to liaise with Springfield police over reports of drug dealing in the car park; the wish was to enable access and appropriate use of the fields across the community.

4.10 Billesley Lane Allotments lease – first raised at the March MRG meeting, it was reported that the lease with Moseley Golf Course had now been signed.

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 29th August, 6.00pm at the Moseley Exchange.