

NOTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE PARISHES OF BALSALL AND BERKSWELL held at The British Legion Club, Station Road, Balsall Common on Thursday 14th June 2012 at 7.45pm

Present: Cllr Graham Lock (Chair, Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Ian Hedley (Chair, Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Paul Lucas (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr James Hope (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Lionel King (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Raymond Ritchie (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Mike Longfield (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Peter Lea (Balsall Parish Council)
Cllr Richard Lloyd (Balsall Parish Council & Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Don Hitchcock (Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Kay Howles (Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Andrew Burrow (Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Sandra Benton (Berkswell Parish Council)
Cllr Tony Diccico (SMBC)

Bruce Brant (Neighbourhood coordinator – SMBC)

48 members of the public

Notes prepared by Ms Shafim Kauser

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. To accept apologies for absence

Cllr Judy Lea
Cllr David Bell

2. Observations, queries and suggestions from Electors of the Parishes with specific regard to increased co-operation between the Parishes of Balsall and Berkswell on particular and general matters

Cllr Lock opened the meeting. He explained the reason for calling the public meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The purpose of the meeting was to establish better working relationships between the two parishes. He asked the public to let the Parish Councilors know what they felt should be the point of focus for the two parishes.

Cllr Hedley echoed these views and stated that the intention was to make a list of key issues today and look at how we go about addressing those issues.

A lengthy discussion took place and several members of the public identified a number of areas. Below are the areas identified:-

1. **Planning**

The public regarded this as being a high priority. This took many forms to include the development of a neighbourhood plan/master plan, establishing a working party, protection of green belt, housing and development, external development threats, highways and services

2. **Communication**

In particular reaching younger residents in the parishes and working together to get more residents involved and informed of their parish

3. **Environment**

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment. Also to include maintenance of neglected areas, particularly the Centre of Balsall Common

4. **Public Transport**

Increase bus services in the parishes and look at alternative transport

5. **Play and Leisure Facilities**

Improve and provide facilities for young people and families

6. **Congestion and Parking**

Centre of the villages

7. **Pedestrian Access between Villages**

To look at opening up footpaths between the villages, provision of cycle lanes and safer routes to school

3. Agree actions to be taken forward by each Council

Cllr Hedley read out the final list to the members of the public. He advised that the Councilors would now go back to their respective parish councils and resolve to take action to enable the co-operation between the Councils to continue. The Parish Councils will report to the residents of the action agreed.

There being no further business Cllr Hedley closed the public meeting at 9.20pm

Balsall Parish Council

Berkswell Parish Council