

**Village Centre Working Group meeting**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2019 – 10.30 to 12 am in Westlake Room**

**Agenda**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the meeting is to develop “definitive” list of infrastructure requirements that SMBC should finance and provide to accompany the housing proposals in its draft plan for Balsall Common. Following validation by both PCs this will form the basis of the objective for the ward Borough Councillors and the parish councils to secure. It does not cover infrastructure more appropriately delivered by the parish councils using their 25% of CIL payments by developers.

- 1. Apologies**
- 2. Approval of minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019**
- 3. Review of contact list for the consultation of local community organisations** (Not published for GDPR reasons but see minutes of last meeting for the organisation list without contact details)
- 4. Agree items of proposed “infrastructure” that will not form part of the consultation because they are out of scope of CIL money and/or are already Section 106 (or similar) accepted issues**
  - 4.1. Develop Holly Lane playing fields (not a specific proposal)
  - 4.2. Bypass (a Highways issue already within the draft Solihull plan)
  - 4.3. Improved facilities at rugby club (private members club not a local authority facility)
  - 4.4. New primary school (already in the draft Solihull plan)
  - 4.5. Enlarged medical centre (an NHS issue not a CIL issue)
  - 4.6. Police station (a Police authority issue)
  - 4.7. More litter bins (a day to day spending issue not capital infrastructure)
- 5. Consider the structure of the survey**
  - 5.1. Update on the option of making the residents’ survey online
  - 5.2. Review of harmonised/categorised list options for infrastructure for consultation with possible cost categorization (attached)
  - 5.3. Consider questions that will be asked within the organisational questionnaire
- 6. Next steps and other actions**
- 7. Date of next meeting**



**Andrew Burrow – Working Group Chairman**

Note this joint working group is not a formal committee of the two councils but has been established to help the councils with infrastructure issues arising from the proposed significant expansion of Balsall Common proposed within the draft Solihull Plan. Members of the public are permitted to attend for the meeting and at the Chairman’s discretion voice opinions on items on the agenda

## Options for residents' infrastructure questionnaire

The purpose of this questionnaire is to allow residents and organisations to indicate their priorities for new infrastructure as Balsall Common expands taking account of the likely cost!

	<u>Very high cost</u> over £1 million	<u>High cost</u> in the hundreds of thousands	<u>Medium cost</u> in the tens to low hundreds of thousands	<u>Low cost</u> in the tens of thousands or below
<b>1. Connectivity</b>				
<b>Make the Balsall Common area a cycle/mobility scooter/walking friendly area linked to its satellite rural settlements with safe connectivity from housing to key facilities such as shops, schools, medical centre and the station. The aim being to minimise the need for using cars within the area by providing a safe and pleasant alternative</b>				
1.1.1. Walking and cycling opportunities in/through the new developments to key Balsall Common facilities				
1.1.2. Deliver the promised commuter link of the greenway into Balsall Common				
1.1.3. Construct a cycle commuter route into Coventry				
1.1.4. Construct a cycle commuter route to the NEC/airport				
1.1.5. Cycle/foot connection Balsall Common to Berkswell village and its school/pub/church				
1.1.6. Deliver a cycle route along the Kenilworth Road from Kelsey Lane to Hall Meadow Road (the length of Balsall Common)				
1.1.7. More cycle racks at Berkswell station				
1.1.8. Marked separation of new cycleways from footpaths as per Hallmeadow Road				
1.1.9. Cycle priority at road junctions to make cycling across them continuous and safe (CF Denmark and Holland)				
1.1.10. The existing pleasure cycle routes within the Berkswell and Balsall parishes to be surveyed, marked and upgraded to be truly cycle friendly				
1.1.11. Bushes to separate cycleway from motor vehicles to reduce airborne pollution for cycleway users				
1.1.12. Designate Meeting House and Baulk Lanes as "safe" cycle routes				
<b>1.2. Improve specific footpaths within Balsall Common</b>				

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1.2.1. Provide a continuous lit path/cycleway from entry to Lavender Hall car park to Hallmeadow Road				
1.2.2. Improve surface of footpath from Kenilworth Road to Lavender Hall park				
1.2.3. Extend the pavement from St Peters on Holly Lane to the allotments to encourage walking to them				
1.2.4. Reduce hedge height etc to improve safety of Link from Kenilworth Road to Meeting House Lane, particularly at night				
1.2.5. Extend the permissive footpath within the land to the east of Hallmeadow northwards to a position where it will join the gate into Lavender Hall Park				
1.2.6. Remove flooding on Lavender Hall paths at the car park and by Catherine's wood				
<b>2. Community facilities</b>				
<b>2.1. Provide a new community building that will both increase village hall capacity within Balsall Common to reflect its growing size but also provide new facilities</b>				
2.1.1. Designed to allow theatrical/music productions within a flexible space				
2.1.2. Indoor gym equipment				
2.1.3. Swimming pool				
2.1.4. Cyber-café where students can undertake work				
2.1.5. Multi-purpose sports hall (gym, five aside football, handball, dance etc)				
2.1.6. A large hall				
2.1.7. Smaller well-equipped meeting rooms for smaller meeting that are well equipped with visual aids etc				
2.1.8. Badminton/squash courts				
2.1.9. Youth provision, snooker, table tennis, etc				
<b>2.2. Provide enhanced outdoor sports facilities either on the new Barratt's Farm development open green space or an existing location such as Lavender Hall Park or Holly Lane playing fields</b>				
2.2.1. Public tennis courts				
2.2.2. Outdoor adult gym equipment (in addition to that at Willow Park)				

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2.2.3.Astro turf pitch for soccer and hockey etc				
2.2.4.Children’s traditional play areas (swings etc) on new developments				
2.2.5.Adventure playground for children				
<b>3. Balsall Common Centre</b>				
3.1. Add as many more parking spaces as the limited land will permit (unlikely to be as many as 20)				
3.2. Reduce parking spaces on the road to improve its visual appeal				
3.3. Introduce parking time restrictions to reduce demand and deter airport or station parking in Balsall Common centre				
3.4. More trees and other living features to improve the environment				
3.5. Radically remodel the public space in the centre to improve its visual appeal and bring it up to date				
3.6. Provide public toilets				
<b>4. Living environment</b>				
To develop within the public greenspace on the new developments multi-purpose green spaces which meet the outdoor needs of residents but make a significant contribution to the ecological sustainability of development				
4.1.1.Communal site for village events				
4.1.2.Green area close(ish) to Balsall Common centre				
4.1.3.Wild areas for the protection of ecology, nature reserves				
4.1.4.Wildlife corridors linking to the countryside				
4.1.5.Allotments				
4.1.6.Public flowers areas where you can just sit				
4.1.7.Picnic areas				
4.1.8.Ponds and lakes				
4.1.9.Dog walking routes				
4.1.10. Toilets in the larger green area				
4.1.11. More dog waste/litter bins than is the norm in Willow/Lavender Hall Parks				