

Background & Current State

Colleagues from Berkswell Parish and SMBC Neighbourhood Management have developed a positive working relationship over recent years. The Parish has a volunteering focus which supports the development of a strong community. In addition there is a commitment to the continuous improvement of the Parish area and assets. The Parish are open to the idea of identifying vulnerable community members and engaging in people based activities with locality partners.

Objectives

- To build a strong and cohesive local community
- To participate in Neighbourhood Planning
- To improve road safety through the village
- To protect and improve the key village assets
- To maintain a clean, green and safe environment
- To maintain excellent relationship between SMBC and the parish and other partners

Stakeholders and Partners

-Neighbourhood Management Team
 -Highways Planning
 -Neighbourhood Police team
 -Solihull Community Housing
 -Contractors, Balfour Beatty, Amey
 Balsall Common Parish Council
 Berkswell Society
 Berkswell Charities

Risks/issues

-Impact of HS2 construction
 -Impact of local development on Parish life and village centres.
 -lack of volunteers/expertise in small community
 -rural isolation
 -Parish Boundary across the village Centre.

Opportunities

- Availability of active, educated volunteers via the Berkswell Society
- Berkswell Charities have funding for young and elderly
- Possible boundary review could create a stronger parish

Priority 1 – Building a Stronger Community

- Maintain strong community volunteering
- Identify gaps and opportunities in community provision
- Further opportunities for community cohesion and capacity
- Improving communications on complaints/resident request for improved service on litter/grass cutting

Priority 2 – Planning

- Participating/communicating in the planning process affecting the parish.
- Neighbourhood Development Plan and new homes in Balsall Common.
- HS2 implementation including haul routes (working with Walter Bailey and the SMBC HS2 Working party)

Priority 3 - Environment

- Control of vehicle speeds/traffic calming through the village (currently working with consultants ARUP and SMBC Highways)
- Clean, attractive and well maintained village.
- Balsall Common planting scheme including Berkswell Station.
- Registering the Parish Council's land with the Land Registry
- Footpaths/Rights of way accessibility

Previous and on-going actions

- Fruit tree planting, roundabout planting and adoption, Station adoption all achieved by PC and supported by SMBC.
- Active on-going engagement between Parish and Neighbourhood Coordinator to resolve environmental issues
- 2012? Introduction by Berkswell Society of Village entry speed awareness features. Support funding from SMBC. PC Currently (currently working with consultants ARUP and SMBC Highways)
- 2017 Phone box joint funded as community information hub for Waste Lane area.

ACTIONS

Action	Update	Owner	Status/Target Date
1. Mapping/gap analysis for Building a stronger community Discuss with SMBC is the land on which sits the bus shelter on Kelsey Lane.	PC and Council work together to map what are expectations and what would it take to meet them. ie what training/support and resources would be needed. Parish have a conveyance for this but it appears on the Register as part of an SMBC verge.	all all	
Footpaths - Set up a meeting with David Keaney	Potential to create footpath obstruction letters which can potentially be delivered as required by the Parish.	BB	
Neighbourhood Development Plan	Arrange meeting between PC and Jessica Mc Taggart the SMBC NDP contact.	PC	
Parish Boundaries	Possible review of Balsall and Berkswell subject to criteria being met.		