



## Member Alert: Council Local Plan Update on Community Response



We had a fantastic level of community involvement from our last newsletter about the Solihull Local Plan and really appreciate your responses that resulted in what one councillor called a ‘tsunami’ of emails.

Your action has directly resulted in:

- [A response from Solihull Council](#)
- [A response from Knowle Ward Councillors](#)

Forum representatives subsequently held a meeting with Mark Andrews (Head of Planning, Design and Engagement Services) and Gary Palmer (Group Manager Policy and Engagement) to clarify a number of points raised in the responses.

### It was agreed that:

- the Member Alert newsletter circulated by the Forum is factually correct, although the Council has stressed it has not “ignored residents’ objections”.
- the Council’s response sets out the context within which recent Council proposals have been made, providing further explanation and justification for the increased housing numbers on the KN1 and KN2 site allocations; and

- the clear on-going commitment by the Council to providing a replacement Arden Academy, primary school and other necessary supporting infrastructure is welcome (assuming the allocations are confirmed) but as a community we await clarification of how and where such infrastructure will be delivered.

All this of course depends on the Inspectors report and recommendations and ultimately whether they consider the Solihull Local Plan to be sound – they have indicated that a timetable for reporting to the Council will be issued shortly.

In the meantime, you can see how the additional Independent Inspector’s Additional Hearing Session on 8 July went via this [link](#).

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## **Possible closure of Gate Lane to traffic!**

### **Proposal for an Active Travel Route - Blythe Valley Park to Dorridge**

The Council is proposing an Active Travel Route to connect Blythe Valley Park to Dorridge. An Active Travel Route promotes walking, cycling and use of public transport through high-quality shared footpaths and safer crossing points which link onto the wider network.

There are three options under consideration and an important consequence of implementing the Active Travel Route may see the closure of Gate Lane, Dorridge as this is the preferred route. Short notice face to face consultation meetings were recently held by the Council to gain feedback on the proposals. The Forum is aware this proposal is now generating a great deal of local comment so please make your views known to the Council.

**The consultation period closes on 5 August 2022 so time is very short to respond.**

**Please click on the following link to find out more and submit your comments:**

**[Proposal for an Active Travel Route](#)**

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## **Planning Updates**

**[St Johns Way Shopping Centre, St. Johns Way, Knowle, B93 0LE \(Knowle Precinct\)  
PL/2022/00064/PPFL](#)**

The current planning application is still being considered by the Council with parking a key discussion point with the applicants. The Council expects to receive some amended plans and comments from the applicant shortly who has expressed a desire to deal with all outstanding matters in one go. The Council have promised to consult with the Forum and other interested parties before determining the application. We will keep you informed.

**Widney Evangelical Free Church, Widney Road, Bentley Heath, B93 9BN:  
PL/2022/01356/PPFL**

Following the refusal of the application to demolish the former Church and erect 4 townhouses by Solihull Council on 8 March the applicant has submitted a new application that will now see three townhouses erected instead. We are currently considering this application although the reasons for refusing the previous application appear to remain valid.

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## **STOP PRESS**

### **Council propose to slice our NCIL funds by £10,771**

Just in - Communities & Leisure Committee Meeting - Monday 25 July 2022 to consider slicing 10% from KDBH Neighbourhood CIL funds. Please read the report submitted for review of treatment for NCIL bids that have cross boundary impacts. This could directly affect funds available for community projects in our Area. Let us have your thoughts before the weekend and we will provide a summary to the Council prior to the meeting.

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Grateful thanks to everyone who sent responses to the Council and the local Councillors on the Local Plan. Your input makes a huge difference to the way our community is regarded and shows how much you care about where we live, work and play. There is so much happening at present and your involvement is crucial and greatly appreciated.

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