



Appendix 4: Community Actions

In developing the Neighbourhood Plan, local residents and businesses have raised a range of issues not related to land use. Where these are important local matters, they have been included here as Community Actions.



Community Actions do not have statutory weight, but are nevertheless matters that the KDBH Forum wishes to pursue in collaboration with our Residents Associations, local businesses, Councillors, Solihull Council, other community groups, and relevant organisations. The latter might variously include GP Practices and other healthcare providers, schools and their Boards of Governors, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, Friends of the Earth, local ramblers' groups, cycling groups, transport user groups and infrastructure service providers.

The list is ambitious and needs community involvement to prioritise according to preferences and availability of resources.

Village Character and Natural Environment

1 Measures to **protect and enhance Knowle Conservation Area**:

- a. Review of "Article 4 directions" with a view to withdrawing further permitted development rights, where appropriate, in the Conservation Area. Consider whether this should also apply to Dorridge Conservation Areas.
- b. Prepare development briefs for the opportunity sites identified in the Knowle Conservation Area Appraisal.
- c. Consider opportunities for enhancement, particularly in the area between High Street and St John's Close.
- d. Review the list of listed buildings (in partnership with Historic England) to include buildings of local interest.
- e. Consider further work in the High Street area to include traffic calming, pedestrian priority and environmental enhancement.

2 Review heritage assets in conjunction with SMBC

3 Draw up a **Tree Management Plan** to provide a management regime for existing trees and plan ahead for future planting needs.

4 Promote a **Green Spaces Plan** directed at managing the future needs of existing green spaces, promoting new green spaces in new developments and providing more rigorous policing of littering, dog-fouling and fly tipping in and around green open spaces. Also review maintenance regimes to ensure that existing public sports, leisure and recreation facilities are maintained to their existing standard or, where possible, improved.

2 Explore the possibility of **measuring air pollution levels** on M42 Junctions 4 – 6. Use results to inform responses to new development proposals. Monitor the effects of new development on the local built and natural environments and on residents' living conditions over the Plan Period.

Traffic and Transport

1 **Parking:** press SMBC to review the following:

- a. On-street parking in selected streets with the overarching objective that major roads (see Appendix 8) and bus routes should be free from on-street parking, with limited exceptions, to facilitate highway safety and free flow of traffic.
- b. Resident/visitor parking permits in streets where off-street parking is not provided for residents.
- c. Effective policing by SMBC of off/on-street parking to reduce unauthorised parking.
- d. The need for Traffic Regulation Orders in key locations where on-street parking or traffic priorities need to be changed, especially at St John's Close and the adjacent car parks.

2 Walking: Review the condition of all footpaths and pavements/footways in KDBH and call for SMBC/landowners (as appropriate) to repair defects.

3 **Cycling:**

- a. Review the condition of all cycle paths/lanes/tracks in KDBH and call for SMBC/landowners (as appropriate) to repair defects.
- b. Lobby for the creation of separate cycle routes in appropriate places, that may include in public parks, to encourage cycling.



Appendix 4: Community Actions 2

Traffic and Transport (continued)

4 Roads:

- a. Review the condition of public roads and road signage in KDBH and call for SMBC to repair defects and to clean/clear obscured signage.
- b. Identify roads that lend themselves to one-way systems, draw up proposals and consult on their introduction.
- c. Identify roads that lend themselves to traffic calming measures, draw up proposals and consult on their introduction.
- d. Identify roads where speed needs to be reduced, draw up proposals and consult on their introduction.
- e. Consider the feasibility and desirability of a route to take through traffic out of the centre of Knowle.

Housing

In discussion with SMBC relating to planning applications that come forward on strategic sites, promote resident's strong preference for a higher percentage of affordable housing provision to be in the form of shared ownership to support more young people and families.

Communications Infrastructure and Utilities

- a. Identify areas where mobile phone and broadband coverage is poor and lobby providers to improve their infrastructure.
- b. Campaign for essential fibre to become possible for every home in KDBH.
- c. Identify areas where flooding has occurred in the past, or where surface water tends to collect during periods of wet weather, and lobby SMBC or STW as relevant to carry out remedial work for which they are responsible (e.g. clearing roadside ditches).

Public Transport: campaign for improvements to include:-

- a. Increased frequency of bus and rail services, and introduction of additional routes, to provide a more efficient and effective service to more destinations.
- b. Sufficient bus shelters and real time bus information at bus stops.
- c. Good value public transport and easier ways to buy travel tickets - e.g. Oyster style cards, contactless card payment on bus/train
- d. Creation of sufficient off-street parking spaces in Dorridge for rail users.

In addition, residents wish to:

- e. Ensure that Dorridge station remains staffed and continues to enjoy high frequency direct services to Birmingham and London
- f. Make KDBH's voice heard inside the West Midlands Combined Authority and other regional transport bodies.
- g. Enable and encourage more sustainable travel, eg electric charging.
- h. Explore the possibility of KDBH hosting a pilot/trial of driverless vehicles e.g. for school run, or an "Uber" style on-demand taxi/bus service (could be useful for certain user groups such as pensioners.)

Education and Community Facilities

- a. Press for ongoing appropriate access to schools within the KDBH Area for local young people within the Area.
- b. Support initiatives that improve the planning and coordination of, and additional provision for, local preschool and childcare.
- c. Support schemes intended to increase the number of healthcare professionals working in the Area providing services to the KDBH population.
- d. Support schemes intended to increase the consistency of healthcare services in the Area and/or reduce the need for travel.
- e. Encourage the establishment of a local base, or bases, for lifelong learning opportunities.
- f. Encourage provision of additional resources, including voluntary staffing, to maintain and further develop learning centres, libraries and other points of community access to information, knowledge and cultural resources.