

BE BOLD

BE BIRCHFIELD

**Ward Action Plan
2022 to 2026**

Please refer to 'Guidance for Completing the Ward Action Plan Template' document

Ward Information:



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Labour

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[Read](#) more about Councillor Mahmood Hussain

MP for Perry Barr:

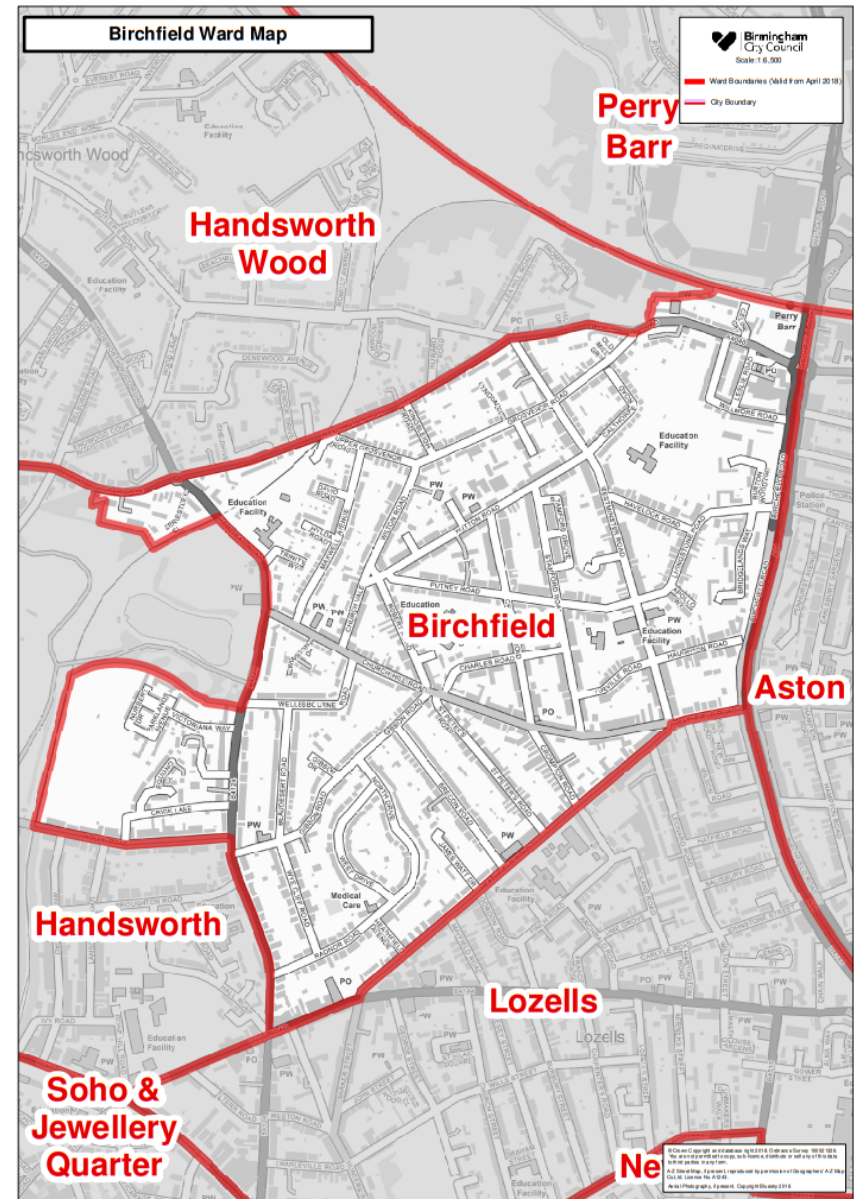
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Further Information

[View](#) the Ward Profile for more information about Birchfield ward



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A Bold Safe Birchfield

Priority 1:	The effective monitoring and regulation of Supported Housing and Housing in Multiple Occupation to ensure that they meet planning and other legislation and existing tenants are properly supported, and that the numbers of properties do not exceed that which the wider community can accommodate without negative impacts on community cohesion and safety.
Why has this been chosen as a priority?	Residents' concern about the impact of unregulated accommodation on both tenants and the undermining of community cohesion and safety within the wider community.
Who will own this priority?	Birchfield Environment Strategy Group with HMO Action Group
Which organisations and groups do we need to engage and/or work with?	BCC – Housing, Planning, Adult Social Care and PRS teams, Midland Heart, Residents' groups, Faith groups, providers of Supported Housing and statutory agencies such as Police and Fire Services.
What does good look like? How will we know we have achieved our ambition?	Fewer and better run and regulated Supported Housing projects that provide for the needs of tenants who have the opportunity to be part of the local community.

Set up to three clear, realistic goals that we want to achieve locally

	Specific: Clear and well defined	Measurable: With criteria for how progress will be measured	Achievable: Attainable and not impossible to achieve	Realistic: Within reach and relevant to your means and resources	Timely: With a clear timeline, including a target date
1	Identify Supported Housing and HMOs in the Birchfield Ward and check on their current status.	Data on numbers, location, and status of properties in the Ward.	Work with HMO Action Group and relevant agencies to achieve.		Late 2023/early 2024
2	Engage with relevant agencies to monitor Supported Housing and HMOs to ensure that they are properly run and meet the required standards and regulations.	Data on investigations/visits, actions taken, including licenses issued and closures.	Licensing scheme introduced and residents' groups to provide local intelligence to relevant agencies for further action.	Lobby for Birchfield to be included in pilots and initiatives.	Early 2024

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3	Join with others to lobby locally and nationally for greater regulation/licensing of HMOs and limits to numbers in any one area.	Increase in the proportion of properties in the Ward that are regulated/licensed and a limit on numbers.	Work with HMO Action Group on implementing a Charter for Supported Housing and Houses in Multiple Occupation.	Lobby for Birchfield to be included in pilots and initiatives to explore ways of better regulating Supported Housing and HMOs.	Early 2024

Set the actions needed to achieve each of our goals

Goal	What actions are needed to reach your goal?	Where in the ward do the actions relate to?	Who is responsible for the action?	Does action require additional funding? (Internal/External?)	When does the action need to be completed by?	Six Monthly Update
1a	Map Supported Housing and HMOs in the Ward and their status.	Whole Ward	Residents working with Councillor and relevant Council officers and departments. Providers of Supported Housing.		Late 2023/early 2024	
1b	Inform residents about how to report problematic properties and encourage them to do so.	Whole Ward	Councillors, relevant BCC officers, Police and Fire Service and community organisations	Yes, funding for information material	Ongoing	

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Goal	What actions are needed to reach your goal?	Where in the ward do the actions relate to?	Who is responsible for the action?	Does action require additional funding? (Internal/External?)	When does the action need to be completed by?	Six Monthly Update
2a	Work with relevant agencies to get problematic properties investigated and issues addressed.	Whole Ward	Councillor, relevant BCC officers/teams, Police and other statutory agencies, community organisations including HMO Action Group		Ongoing	
2b	Monitor and object to new HMO planning applications due to over representation in the area.	Whole Ward	Residents and community organisations in partnership with statutory agencies.		Ongoing	
3a	Work with HMO Action Group to establish a Charter for Supported Housing and HMOs and an effective licencing regime.	Whole Ward	Residents' groups working with BCC and other agencies including providers of Supported Housing that meet the required standards.		End of 2024	

A Bold Healthy Birchfield

Priority 2:	Improving air quality and reducing asthma
Why has this been chosen as a priority?	There is concern about air quality locally especially near major roads such as the A34 Birchfield Road. The incidence of asthma is high, especially in children, with one in eleven children living with the condition.
Who will own this priority?	Birchfield Big Local working with Birchfield Environment Group as part of an initiative with Flourish (West Birmingham Community Health Collaborative) and the NHS Integrated Care Partnership.

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Which organisations and groups do we need to engage and/or work with?	Flourish, NHS Integrated Care Partnership, local schools including teachers, parents and children, GP practices, BCC Environmental Monitoring and Transport and Connectivity.
What does good look like? How will we know we have achieved our ambition?	Schools and the community more aware of asthma and the causes of asthma. An improvement in air quality locally and reduction in the incidence of asthma and other respiratory problems in the local population.

Set up to three clear, realistic goals that we want to achieve locally

	Specific: Clear and well defined	Measurable: With criteria for how progress will be measured	Achievable: Attainable and not impossible to achieve	Realistic: Within reach and relevant to your means and resources	Timely: With a clear timeline, including a target date
1	Awareness of asthma starting with a programme in schools – Asthma-friendly schools	Number of local schools participating	Programme developed and interest of local schools already established	Potential funding from NHS as part of Integrated Care System.	Start in 2023 and ongoing
2	Reduction in traffic around schools and a reduction in car journeys to and from schools with an increase in walking, and cycling.	Number of schools signing up to Mode Shift Star and School Streets. Potential pilot project with Holy Trinity Primary School on Havelock Road	Many challenges but has been achieved elsewhere – including schools in Birmingham.	Support available from BCC including small grants. Possible funding through a Clean Air Fund?	Pilot in 2023
3	Better monitoring of air quality locally and its impacts on residents – especially children	Start with monitoring on school sites. Campaign for monitoring on main routes starting with Birchfield Road and Wellington Road.	Link to campaign by Clean Air Justice Network launched in January 2023 at Prince Albert High School, Perry Barr.	Possible funding through Clean Air Fund?	Early 2024

Set the actions needed to achieve each of our goals

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1a	Schools to sign up for programme.	Primary Schools and Secondary Schools attended by local children.	Birchfield Environment Group working with Flourish/NHS and local schools.	Yes, funding is required towards coordination of programme. Potential funding from Integrated Care Partnership via Flourish.	Ongoing	
1b	Programme delivered with teachers, parents, and children	Primary Schools and Secondary Schools attended by local children.	Birchfield Environment Group working with Flourish/NHS and local schools.	Yes, funding is required towards coordination of programme. Potential funding from Integrated Care Partnership via Flourish.	Ongoing	
1c	Asthma programme completed and champions established	Primary Schools and Secondary Schools attended by local children.	Birchfield Environment Group working with Flourish/NHS and local schools.	Yes, funding is required towards coordination of programme. Potential funding from Integrated Care Partnership via Flourish.	Ongoing	
2a	Schools sign up to Modeshift Stars travel plan programme and School Streets	Schools and streets adjacent to schools in the area.	Schools working with Birchfield Environment Group, Flourish and BCC – Transport & Connectivity	Grants available from Modeshift Star. Application to Clean Air Fund?	Ongoing	

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2b	Support schools to implement programme including measures to restrict cars at critical times of the school day.	Schools and streets adjacent to schools in the area.	Schools working with Birchfield Environment Group, Flourish and BCC – Transport Planning	Grants available from Modeshift Star. Application to Clean Air Fund?	Ongoing	
2c	Support to encourage cycling and walking e.g., Bikeability training.	Schools and streets adjacent to schools in the area.	Schools working with Birchfield Environment Group, Flourish, BCC – Transport Planning and TAWS.	Grants available from Modeshift Stars. Application to Clean Air Fund?	Ongoing	
3a	Air pollution monitors on school sites	Schools	Schools in collaboration with Birchfield Environment Group, BCC and Flourish.	Small grants through Modeshift Stars. Clean Air Fund?	Aim for first monitors to be in place late 2023/early 2024	
3b	Work with BCC on better air quality monitoring on major roads – A34 Birchfield Road	Major roads such as A34 Birchfield Road and A4040 Wellington Road	Birchfield Environment Group working with BCC – Environmental Protection.		Aim for first monitors to be installed 2024	

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A Bold Green Birchfield

Priority 3:	Residents having pride in the area – its streets and open spaces – and working together with others to reduce fly tipping, improve street cleansing and raise environmental awareness including about waste and recycling. Improve inclusive access to quality green space within the Ward for example the new Crick Lane Playing Fields.
Why has this been chosen as a priority?	Residents' concern about the levels of fly tipping and poor quality of the environment including street cleaning, front gardens, open spaces, and the public realm in general. The need for residents to take greater pride and engagement in maintaining the quality of the environment. Birchfield is one of 13 areas of the city in most need of support to achieve inclusive access to good quality green spaces, according to the recent City of Nature report
Who will own this priority?	Birchfield Environment Group including Birmingham City Council (Waste management, NDSU, Parks and Education), Midland Heart, residents, and residents' groups such as Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum, Handsworth Helping Hands, Birchfield Residents Action Group, Birchfield Big Local, and Crick Project.
Which organisations and groups do we need to engage and/or work with?	Birchfield Community Association/Birchfield Big Local, Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum, BRAG, Handsworth Helping Hands, BCC – Waste Management, NDSU, Parks and Education, Midland Heart and local faith organisations.
What does good look like? How will we know we have achieved our ambition?	More residents taking pride in the area and an environment that is cleaner and greener with clean streets, less fly tipping, well-kept front gardens with greenery

Set up to three clear, realistic goals that we want to achieve locally

	Specific: Clear and well defined	Measurable: With criteria for how progress will be measured	Achievable: Attainable and not impossible to achieve	Realistic: Within reach and relevant to your means and resources	Timely: With a clear timeline, including a target date
1	Regular reporting and timely removal of fly tipping and establishment of a pilot area for deep cleaning.	Regular walkabouts by Birchfield Environment Group and residents to monitor fly tipping and litter.	Has been achievable in the past.		March 2023

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	Specific: Clear and well defined	Measurable: With criteria for how progress will be measured	Achievable: Attainable and not impossible to achieve	Realistic: Within reach and relevant to your means and resources	Timely: With a clear timeline, including a target date
2	Participation by residents in Birchfield in Bloom and Front Garden Competition	Number of households participating.	Has been achievable in the past.		Spring/Summer 2023
3	Education, awareness, and enforcement campaigns to engage residents and increase recycling, reporting of issues and environmental action	Number of residents and schools engaged.	Achievable with commitment of residents, schools, BCC, Midland Heart		Early 2024
4	Develop Crick Lane Playing Fields as an inclusive open space for activities accessible to the whole community.	Setting up of steering group to include range of local community groups and sports organisations to develop and promote activities.	Level of interest already high.		Spring/Summer 2023

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1a	Residents briefed on reporting of fly tipping and timely response from BCC and Midland Heart.	Focus on hotspots for fly tipping in Ward.	Residents for reporting of fly tipping. BCC – Waste Management and Midland Heart for removal.		Ongoing	

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1b	Pilot area for deep clean agreed with all parties.	Pilot area mapped.	Birchfield Environment Group including BCC and Midland Heart.		April 2023	
2a	Birchfield in Bloom registered with RHS	Sites and streets to be agreed.	Birchfield Environment Group		Registration by March each year	
2b	In Bloom and Front Garden competition launched and publicised.		Birchfield Environment Group		Launch in April each year	
2c	In Bloom and Front Garden Competition assessed and results shared.		Birchfield Environment Group	Yes, cost of certificates, rosettes etc for Front Garden Competition.	Assessment in July each year	
3a	Leaflet with basic information and simple messages about recycling/recycling bins.	Pilot area or whole Ward?	Birchfield Environment Group with support from BCC. Schools to help distribute leaflets.	Yes, for printing and distribution of leaflets.	Early 2024	
3b	Process for emptying contaminated bins agreed and disseminated.		BCC – Waste Management		Early 2024	

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4a	Set up a steering group including local schools and community groups to facilitate community-wide involvement in plans and use of the playing fields and pavilion.	Crick Playing Fields and Sports Pavilion	Interested local community groups, sports clubs, and schools with support from BCC		Summer 2023	
4b	Secure funding for a feasibility study on the potential uses of the site and capital and revenue funding opportunities.		Steering group with support from BCC and others	Up to 5k to commission feasibility study	End of 2023 at latest	
4c	Ensure that the playing fields and pavilion are promoted and managed as an important community asset accessible to all.		Steering group with support from BCC and others	Feasibility study will identify potential revenue streams and capital and revenue funding opportunities	Ongoing	

A Bold Local Birchfield

Priority 4:	Developing a hub – or inclusive space - where residents can meet together and engage in activities that benefit the whole community.
Why has this been chosen as a priority?	It has been a long-term aspiration of residents to develop an inclusive and accessible space on common ground where all sections of the community can meet and engage in activities of mutual benefit to all.

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Who will own this priority?	Birchfield Community Association (BCA)/Birchfield Big Local (BBL) representing residents with Wilton Road United Reformed Church.
Which organisations and groups do we need to engage and/or work with?	Individual residents, Residents' groups, local faith organisations, Birmingham City Council, local social enterprises, and other potential partners.
What does good look like? How will we know we have achieved our ambition?	A sustainable community hub that is open and accessible to all in the community, run and managed for local people.

Set up to three clear, realistic goals that we want to achieve locally

	Specific: Clear and well defined	Measurable: With criteria for how progress will be measured	Achievable: Attainable and not impossible to achieve	Realistic: Within reach and relevant to your means and resources	Timely: With a clear timeline, including a target date
1	Produce a Business Plan for Birchfield Community Association (CIO) and community hub including income and expenditure and potential sources of capital and revenue funding.	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees to take lead with support from Shared Assets.	Within the next 3 – 4 months.	Funds already allocated within Birchfield Big Local budget. Support from Shared Assets provided free by Local Trust.	Aim to be complete by June 2023.
2	Set up, promote, and deliver a timetable of activities that respond to local priorities and needs	Timetable of activities populated and promoted.	In progress.	Activities already underway with funding from BBL and Perry Barr NNS. Potential for funding from Flourish/NHS.	Full timetable operational by April 2023.
3	Secure grants and other sources of funding to provide a sustainable income for the CIO and community hub.	Number of funding applications submitted. Target set for core and project funding.	Potential for bid writer to support with applications.	Some funding and support available in the short to medium term.	Ongoing – mid 2024 at the latest.

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1a	Produce cashflow forecast for BCA (CIO) and community hub	Community hub at Wilton Road URC and active Ward wide	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees with support from Shared Assets	Funds already allocated for Business Plan	Complete by June 2023	
1b	Agree key objectives for BCA (CIO) and how to be achieved				March/April 2023	
1c	Publish Business Plan				June 2023	
2a	Consult on local priorities and needs	Ward wide	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees with residents	Funds allocated for Business Plan	March/April 2023	
2b	Develop a timetable of activities with partners	Ward wide	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees with residents and partners		March/April 2023	
2c	Deliver a timetable of activities with support of partners and local providers	Ward wide	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees with other residents and partners	Additional funding required	March/April 2023	
3a	Targets set for core and project funding	Ward wide	BBL partnership and BCA Trustees		June 2023	
3b	Submit applications for grant funding		BBL partnership and BCA Trustees	May require support of bid writer	Ongoing	
3c	Work with partners to develop larger grant applications and secure commissions		BBL partnership and CIO Trustees with other residents and partners		Ongoing	