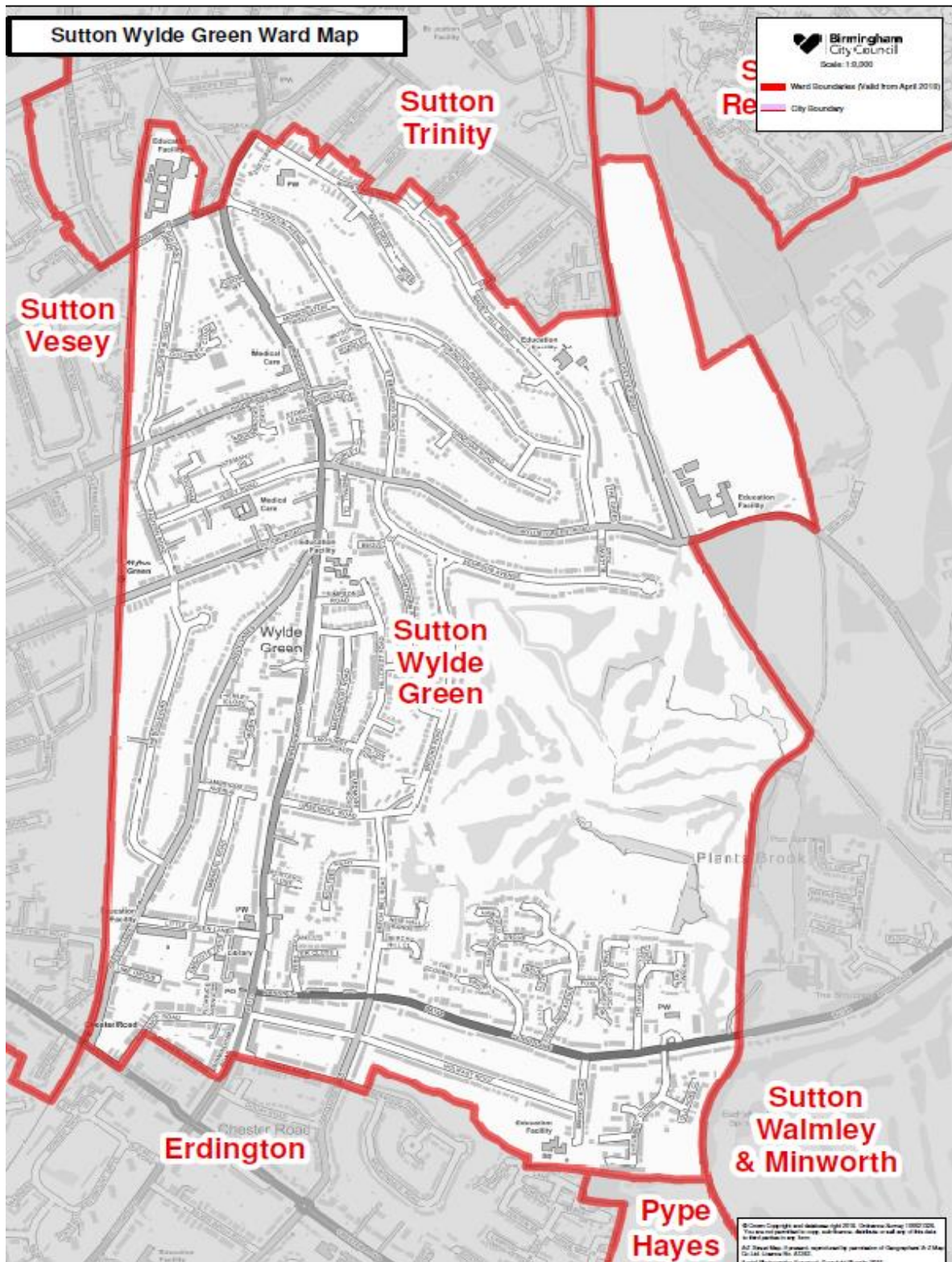


## SUTTON WYLDE GREEN WARD PLAN 2023 to 2026

V2 uploaded June 2023



**Contents**

Action plan author:..... 3

Background: ..... 3

Ward historical background:..... 3

Ward description:..... 3

Significant resources in the ward include: ..... 4

Index of Deprivation\* ..... 4

Funding available ..... 5

Policy Context ..... 5

Ward Tracker Priorities 2018- 2022 ..... 5

Funding/Budgets- funds used 2018- 2022..... 7

Ward Priorities 2023- 2025:..... 8

Wylde Green Ward Action Plan 2023- 2025 ..... 9

Local Innovation Fund Priorities:..... 11

Local Community Safety Partnership and/or Neighbourhood Tasking Group Priorities: ..... 11

Appendix:..... 12

Useful Links: ..... 12

Acknowledgments:..... 12

Declaration..... 12



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**Background:**

This ward plan sets out what we will do to improve Wylde Green, sets out the direction of the ward, help shape its future with key stake holders in the, and will be instrumental in supporting projects or activities which complement the plan.

**Ward historical background:**

In the 16th century, this area of barren common land was known as the Wylde and was sparsely populated with the name likely deriving from 'Wild' meaning 'uncultivated/ desolate'. After the Enclosure Act of 1825, there was some development and in 1840 the growth of the population to about 60 led to the building of the first school. There are two Grade II\* listed buildings on the Wylde Green Road, The Stone House one of the few surviving Vesey houses built by Bishop Vesey in the early 16<sup>th</sup> Century and the New Shipton Farm dated to summer 1434 and spring 1435. In the 1850s substantial Victorian mansions began to appear along the Birmingham Road. Highbridge Road and Station Road were laid out in 1858 in anticipation of the coming of the railway. The railway with its station at Wylde Green railway station in 1862 (now on the Birmingham to Lichfield suburban line) Emmanuel Church on the Birmingham Road was built from 1909-16 by W H Bidlake.

**Ward description:**

Sutton Wylde Green is a suburban ward located in the north of the city. It has a population of 9,433 making it the 5th smallest ward in the city in terms of population. The ward has an older age profile than the city as a whole and a lower BAME population share. Sutton Wylde Green is one of the least deprived wards in the city and has the 2nd highest average income levels out of the 69 Birmingham wards.

Resident employment rates in the ward are well above the city average and claimant count unemployment proportions are well below the Birmingham average. The ward is largely residential with little in the way of industrial development. It benefits from a number of primary schools and two of Sutton Coldfield's seven secondary schools as well as a large private golfing course with over 100 years history

Wylde Green benefits from a prominent business High Street with many independent businesses, eateries, shops and chains. In recent years local banks have withdrawn its branches despite protests and campaigns from their local councillor and residents. The High Street stretching from the Birmingham Road to The Parade, Little Green Lanes is a central part of the ward, its identity and community.

### **Significant resources in the ward include:**

- There are 5 schools within the ward: Three Primary schools and two Secondary:
  - Wylde Green Primary School
  - Penns Primary School
  - Highclare School
  - Bishop Walsh Catholic School
  - Sutton Coldfield Grammar School for Girls
- Walmley Golf Club
- Emmanuel Church,
- Wylde Green Station, Chester Road Station

Key stakeholders within the ward include:

- The local Member of Parliament for Sutton Coldfield Constituency within which Wylde Green Ward is situated is Andrew Mitchell MP: [andrew.mitchell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrew.mitchell.mp@parliament.uk)
- Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council  
The Two Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council Town Councillors representing Sutton Wylde Green Wards are:
  - Cllr Amy Millichope: Email: [Amy.millichope@SuttonColdfieldTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Amy.millichope@SuttonColdfieldTownCouncil.gov.uk)
  - Cllr Leeford Allen: Email: [Samuel.Hodgins@SuttonColdfieldTownCouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Samuel.Hodgins@SuttonColdfieldTownCouncil.gov.uk)
- Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum Committee

### **Index of Deprivation\***

The ward of Wylde Green is as the second lowest in the City on the table of the indices of deprivation in Birmingham and is ranked as the 5979<sup>th</sup> ward nationally

(\*Deprivation measures are markers of socio-economic status used in public health include: income, occupation, years of education, housing, health & various alternative indicators such as ownership of various goods such as car, washing machine etc.)



## **Funding available**

What funding is currently available to community groups in our ward?

Community Chest

Community First

Help through the Council Ward Support Officer for external funding

## **Policy Context**

The Paper Localism in Birmingham: A Framework for Future Policy, March 2018 set out objectives for future ward-based working which will focus on: improved service delivery in neighbourhoods, an agenda of “Neighbourly Neighbourhoods” and a commitment to a “Whole Place” and “Whole System” way of working.

The new ward planning process is one of the main mechanisms by which citizens and communities can participate in setting local priorities themselves. The ward plan will be used to develop and enhance local engagement and community governance. The ward plan will highlight local priorities and planned actions.

The ward plan aligns with **Birmingham City Council Vision and Priorities**

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL VISION** – *A city of growth where every child, citizen and place matters.*

**BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL OUTCOMES** – *What we want to achieve:*

- **Birmingham is an entrepreneurial city to learn, work and invest in**
- **Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in**
- **Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in**
- **Birmingham is a great city to live in**

## **Ward Tracker Priorities 2018- 2022**

Below is an update Ward Priorities 2018- 2022 and an update of impact made.

### **Planning Concerns:**

“Residents have expressed disquiet and increased opposition on the number of applications for flat conversions, retirement flats/ homes and children care centres in the ward especially on the Birmingham Road. A substantial number of applications have been made and approved with each application taken in isolation while the impact on the ward overall has been neglected. A number of future applications have also seen the subsequent amending of permissions to increase them in scale. It is the hope that the Council and Planning Department will take into consideration the long term impact to the ward of these developments and note the resistance of residents and elected members against the further development of homes into multi use.”

Impact: A number of applications have been resisted by local residents which have then been overturned on appeal. Engagement from residents with planning consultation has increased thanks to better communication, an active Wylde Green News Facebook Page and a growing email list.

### **1. Road Safety**

“Priority is to include initiatives to make the Ward a safe place for residents and drivers. Improve parking around schools. Monitoring speeding on roads, 20mph where required, call for speed calming measures where required and speed awareness cameras. Parking congestion especially around: Station Road, Eastern Road, Green Lanes, Goldieslie Road.”

Impact: multiple speed awareness cameras have been brought in to the ward thanks to persistent campaigning and representation from Cllr Yip. These include those on Green Lanes, Birmingham Road and Penns Lane. Yellow lines have also been extended down Eastern and Station Roads to reduce congestion down these main roads due to on street parking. A Cycle Lane was brought in to enable the creation of a 20mph zone on Florence Road- Broadfields Road which has successfully reduced the speed and volume of through traffic and also (slightly) improved parking.

### **2. Health and Wellbeing.**

“Support and aid in the Health, Social Care and Well Being of residents to encourage a healthy and active lifestyle. Improve access for disabled. More dropped kerbs. Support walking groups. Support initiatives that tackle loneliness and isolation. Encourage volunteer visitor scheme. Support carers. Improve air quality.”

Impact: Air monitoring schemes have been brought in especially around schools to monitor air quality. Efforts have been made to bring in outdoor gym equipment into the ward on the back of the Commonwealth Games Community Grants. This has successfully been implemented by the Sutton Coldfield YMCA.

### **3. Environment and Street Scene.**

“To create a clean and pleasant locality for residents. Stop parking on grass verges and double kerb where possible. Need for more frequent grass cutting. More tree planting and floral displays. Cut back overhanging trees. Support more community clean-ups involving active citizens. Cleaner streets, more litter bins, more action on dog fouling, more benches and improved/ repainted benches. Improve pavements and condition of roads. Support calls for improved floral scene, Permanent Christmas Tree.”

Impact: funds have been deployed to protect grass verges at certain areas, some public bins have been replaced and added with graffiti rapidly tackled by the local City Councillor. Funds have also been used to reduce on street parking. The Town Council have recently funded improvements on public benches and funded Christmas decorations for the ward.

#### **6. Policing and Community Safety.**

“Build more extensive network of Neighbourhood Watch schemes building on Brooks Road. Run regular ‘Speedwatch’ events. Experiment with possible Streetwatch (high viz) projects. Ensure stronger links between local Neighbourhood Groups and local Police including Tasking input. Monitor and diarise Anti-Social Behaviour; Street issues. Participate in communicating police tasking wins across the ward now held at Emmanuel Church and coordinate with Ward meetings/ surgeries.”

Impact: regular police meetings, supporting the creation and sustaining Neighbourhood Watch Schemes. Speed watch patrols with local residents.

#### **7. Supporting local businesses to thrive and grow**

“Businesses and the independent shops along Birmingham road are important as a community centre and the vibe of the ward. A general decline in high streets nationally will affect these businesses which needs supporting. Encourage trade and visiting, beautification of and promotion of the area, combat Anti Social Behaviour, aggressive begging and drug use.”

Impact: Efforts have been made with the WMPolicing team to combat antisocial behaviour and local teams to rapidly remove graffiti. The installation of bollards on Birmingham Road have also helped reduce the amount of parking on pavements. Flytipping and overflowing bins have also been rapidly removed and cleared.

### **Funding/Budgets- funds used 2018- 2022**

There is a limited amount of ward funds for single member wards which can be used to have a direct impact on local communities. 2020-2022 funds have been deployed in consultation with Birmingham City council residents and in line with delivering an impact along the priorities outlined in the Wylde Green Ward plan. A summary of these improvements are outlined below:

#### 2020-2021

- **STATION ROAD TRO** – Introduction of waiting restrictions in a section of Station Road to address visibility and congestion issues in the vicinity of the train station.
- **HIGHBRIDGE ROAD PEDESTRIAN DROPPED KERBS** – Introduction of waiting restrictions in a section of Station Road to address visibility and congestion issues in the vicinity of the train station.
- **MINOR WORKS** - Allocation for small measures including disabled bays, H-marks, signs and markings.

#### 2021-2022

- **Birmingham Road Enhanced School Signs** – Enhanced and relocated school signs outside Highclare School to address safety concerns.

- **Birmingham Road Footway Protection** – Introduction of bollards in Birmingham Road to prevent vehicular access in the vicinity of a number of shops.
- **Highbridge Road - School signs and SLOW markings** – Introduction of a school warning sign and SLOW marking on the approach to the railway station pedestrian route.
- **MINOR WORKS** - Allocation for small measures including disabled bays, H-marks, signs and markings etc

2022-2023

- **Birmingham Road bollards** – Introduction of 2 no. bollards to prevent footway parking.
- **Monkseaton Road etc Pedestrian Dropped Kerbs** – Introduction pedestrian dropped kerbs to improve accessibility.
- **Wylde Green Road etc Pedestrian Dropped Kerbs** – Introduction pedestrian dropped kerbs to improve accessibility.
- **Penns Lane Enhanced School Sign** – Upgraded sign to provide an enhanced warning to motorists.
- **Minor Works** - Allocation for small measures such as disabled bays, H-marks, signs and markings, pedestrian guard rails for PROW through golf club.

### **Ward Priorities 2023- 2025:**

CLlr Yip, Councillor for the single-member ward of Sutton Wylde Green co-authored the original 2018-2022 Ward Plan together with local residents with the plan approved at a ward meeting. Our 2023-25 ward plan looks to confirm, revise and build on these priorities.

What does our community want from the area:

#### **Priorities:**

- **Improved Community safety- multiple vehicle thefts from homes**
- **Better Community Safety- Less litter/fly tipping on the streets- cleaner and smarter streets, reduce anti-social behaviour, graffiti, and dumping**
- **Better beautification, consistent and wide reaching visibility of Wylde Green as a gateway into Sutton to support businesses, visitors coming in by public transport.**
- **Environmental protections, enhancements, green travel and reduction of emissions, promotion of public transport, cycle routes and integrated travel.**
- **Better waste collection service**
- **Better roads, prompt repairs of potholes and requests for full resurfacing schemes over partial patches**
- **Supporting local businesses, shops and the High Street highlighting Wylde Green as a gateway to Sutton**
- **Safer roads and communities- reduced speeding, better crossing facilities**





- Limits of development and conversions across Wylde Green.

**Secondary:**

- More community events.
- More support and/or activities for young and elderly people
- Improve the local High Street, support local businesses
- Improved job chances for local people

**Wylde Green Ward Action Plan 2023- 2025**

	What's the Issue?	Where is it?	What do we want to see done about it?
1.	Community Safety	Whole ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish more Neighbourhood Watch Schemes.</li> <li>• Stronger engagement with WM Police</li> <li>• Better reporting practices</li> <li>• Better anti-crime information for residents</li> <li>• Regular Police surgeries better advertised.</li> <li>• Calls for better and more regular patrols</li> <li>• Reduction of SB and aggressive begging at The Lanes.</li> </ul>
2.	Community Safety- including fly tipping waste and pavement parking, and environment.	Whole ward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better rapid reporting of fly tipping and enforcement efforts</li> <li>• Clean up crews</li> <li>• Better reporting of the MHRC</li> <li>• Beautification of the ward's street scene</li> <li>• Call for POC funds to support residents</li> <li>• Prompt removal of graffiti and fly tipping</li> <li>• Visual police patrols</li> <li>• Improvement of street scene</li> <li>• Support litter picking initiatives especially the Sutton Coldfield Litter Action Group and actions at primary and secondary schools.</li> <li>• More bins especially at bus stops and walking routes.</li> </ul>



	<b>What's the Issue?</b>	<b>Where is it?</b>	<b>What do we want to see done about it?</b>
3.	<b>Birmingham Road Public Transport Hub- encourage green travel, promotion of public transport connections and their use. Beautification.</b>	<b>Birmingham Road- in between Broadfields and Florence Road</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Investment to improve public transport use and cycle facilities as a Transport Hub connecting Chester Road Station, cycle paths, walking routes and bus interchange.</li><li>• Encourage public transport use, exchangeability between, promotion and highlight their availability at this location.</li><li>• Promotion of public transport, improve and enhance bus stops, cycle parking, signage, public transport especially on Birmingham Road/Broadfields Road/ Florence Road section.</li><li>• Improve greenery, encourage more trees and protection of grass verges</li><li>• Wildflower planting, more unified flowers and planters to create one unified entrance into Sutton to support businesses.</li><li>• Safer crossing points, bollards, clearer signage and signposting to encourage active travel.</li><li>• Improved signage to public transport alternatives and promotion of their use.</li></ul>
4.	<b>Waste collection service</b>	<b>Whole ward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improved and reliable refuse collections</li><li>• Clear litter from parks and High Street</li><li>• Ward based cleaning crew to keep streets clean and clear fly tipping in the ward</li></ul>
5.	<b>Road Resurfacing</b>	<b>Whole ward</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue calls for full resurfacing schemes over partial patches</li><li>• Continue petitions for road resurfacing</li><li>• Tree pruning and more effective action to cut back during seasons</li></ul>



	What's the Issue?	Where is it?	What do we want to see done about it?
6.	Road safety and speeding Neighbourhood policing / community safety	High Street and across Ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install dropped kerbs at certain locations where requested by residents</li> <li>• Following introduction of speed calming measures on the Birmingham Road and Wylde Green Road, monitor and support.</li> <li>• Speed watches</li> <li>• Parking concerns continue especially around Little Green Lanes, Goldeslie Road. Request for more and more regular Traffic Enforcement Officers.</li> </ul>
7.	Ongoing planning development	Across ward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns by residents around ongoing conversion of houses and centres into nursery, day-care and retirement flats. Significant number of conversions and expansion of homes into care homes and nurseries.</li> <li>• Advocate for a clearer ward-wide policy to influence planning officials and the planning committee when making their decisions.</li> <li>• Excess of cafes, takeaways and restaurants within a mile of the Yenton Pub. Efforts should be made to resist further fast-food establishments.</li> </ul>

**Local Innovation Fund Priorities:**

- Community cohesion, local engagement
- Vibrant street business scene and protecting the characteristic of the area
- Social care and older people's support; youth engagement.
- Street safety, supporting engagement of the local community

**Local Community Safety Partnership and/or Neighbourhood Tasking Group Priorities:**

- Community engagement- especially with local schools.
- Parking offences- parking across driveways and on double yellow lines, blocking access.
- Domestic burglary- the ward has seen an increase especially in car theft.



- Speeding traffic- heavily residential areas with wide roads leads to speeding traffic.
- Drugs dealing

### **Appendix:**

### **Useful Links:**

[Birmingham City Council](#)

[Birmingham City Observatory](#)

[Wylde Green Ward Profile October 2022](#)

### **Acknowledgments:**

Thanks go to Terry Wood, Pat Lines, Pat Brown and Amy Millichope, all longstanding members of the Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum Committee who have fed into and contributed into this Wylde Green Ward plan with their thoughts and comments.

Thanks also go to officers of Birmingham City Council, including Karl Randall, Iain Aitkin, John Mole, Leslie Bannister Melanie Coton and Karen Cheney for their assistance.

### **Declaration**

*This plan has been drafted following engagement and discussions with local residents and ward stakeholders. It has been agreed and adopted by Cllr Alex Yip in consultation with local residents and the Wylde Green Neighbourhood Forum at the ward meeting 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 with agreed amendments made.*

Signed [elected member) signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Alex Yip (signed) \_\_\_\_\_

Print: \_\_\_\_\_ Cllr Alex Yip \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022 \_\_\_\_\_