

## **Emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Forum & Plan** **Consultation Events Summary**

### **26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 393 Coventry Road Conference Rooms**

The first consultation was hosted at Conference rooms at 393 Coventry Road at the Offices of Hanif & Company Solicitors based in the centre of the Small Heath/Bordesley Green Wards. With a local presence of over 24 years, the firm provides pro bono and free legally aided advice to the community in the legal areas of crime, immigration and welfare, and is a well-known community hub.

The event was hosted from 4.30pm to 8pm, to allow for the needs of attendees with different working patterns and circumstances. A significant number of groups, community activists and residents attended. The event was also attended by Councillor Shabana Bano, Birmingham City Council NDSU representatives and representatives from AECOM who provide technical support to the project, through Locality and the government Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUH). Local Members of parliament Jess Phillips MP and Liam Byrne MP were invited and sent their respective apologies.

Engagement at the event took various forms, with printed maps of the wards of Small Heath and Bordesley Green displayed, for participants to discuss and engage with. The ward boundary was available on numerous print-outs, with participants able to outline on maps their own views on potential Forum boundaries. The drop-in had 3 main areas of discussion, namely: What is a Neighbourhood Plan; What should be the boundary of a potential Neighbourhood Plan Area; and What is the potential case for a Neighbourhood Plan to benefit the local area.

Long meaningful discussions were had with positive feedback, supporting the need for a Neighbourhood Plan for Small Heath, with an emphasis on unifying the issues of Bordesley Green and Small Heath. Participants completed questionnaires with boundary feedback taken and contact details to add to the growing list of interested stakeholders and residents. Local community representatives who attended included Mr Zualfiqar Hussain of the Khidmat Community Centre (Small Heath), Clarita Campbell from Bethnal Church Small Heath, and Ajmal Lone who is chair of the Friends of Small Heath Park, to name but a few. All were positive about the Plan and have joined as members.

The event was posted on the official emerging Forum website and posted on the Birmingham Live website (see links below).

### **31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at Love Chaii**

The drop-in event was hosted at Love Chaii at Bordesley Green St Andrews Shopping Park – which incorporates Morrisons and several major stores. The venue is located on the Coventry Road Highstreet, at the centre of one of the areas' busiest shopping hubs, and very close to Small Heath Green Lane Mosque.

The event was open to all and ran from 5:30 – 8:30pm. The event attracted a large number of businesses and organisations based on the Coventry Road. Attendees including representatives from Kingswood Solicitors, The Small Heath Somalian Alliance, The Zawiya Centre, The Khidmat Centre and Purpanat CIC – all organisations and stakeholders in and around Small Heath and Bordesley Green. The event was an opportunity for new interested parties to meet current members and explore how a neighbourhood plan could benefit the local community and local organisations. Additional feedback was also taken on boundaries and ward plans.

The event was marketed on the website of the emerging Forum and on local community radio station Unity FM.

### **16<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Small Heath Library**

The event was hosted at Small Heath Library which is situated in the centre of the proposed neighbourhood area and between the centres of the two respective wards of Small Heath and Bordesley Green. This public venue is accessible to the community, as well as constituting a neutral venue which is not affiliated with any particular organisation or religious, political, or community grouping, and acts as a hub for a variety of residents.

The event was a listening exercise allowing residents and stakeholders discover more about what a Neighbourhood Plan would involve, its benefits and how residents can get involved. The event was attended by representatives from Small Heath Neighbourhood Policing Team, Shreen Mahmood from Muslims Connect, Murad Khan from Small Heath based Bengali community organisation Purbanat CIC, staff from Jess Philips MP's office, and others.

The event was marketed on Twitter, Eventbrite and the library's own website.

### **7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Small Heath Wellbeing Centre**

The emerging forum team were invited to attend Birmingham City Council's planning team's 'Vision for Birmingham 2040' drop in session. We had the opportunity to discuss how the emerging Small Heath Neighbourhood Plan would feed into the wider City Plan and vice versa and how residents who attended could be involved. Those who attended were able to discuss what they wanted to see in the Council's future Vision Plan and also in the emerging Neighbourhood Plan for Small Heath.

### **18<sup>th</sup> August Al-Rahman Masjid**

We were fortunate to be granted permission to talk at the Friday prayers at one of the Coventry Roads busiest Mosque centres. Worshippers were briefly informed of what a Neighbourhood Plan was, what it involves and how to get involved. The congregation was diverse and hosted many from various backgrounds. The talk was well-received and many present were directed toward the emerging Forum's website to find out how to get involved. The congregation hosted 320 patrons.

### **16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Bethnal Church**

Representatives from the emerging Neighbourhood Plan forum were kindly invited to the Windrush Celebrations held at Bethnal Church. The team were able to give a brief presentation of the work on the emerging Forum and Plan so far and able to invite celebration attendees to get involved and give the team their views. Councillor Shabano Bano and Clarita Campbell were also in attendance and kindly contributed to the talk.

Many attendees commented on the positive work done thus far and the wider community engagement work carried out by members of the emerging Forum. Many credited how diverse groups that had not been engaged in any community engagement for some time were now starting to get involved.

### **28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the Khidmat Centre.**

Emerging forum members hosted a Small Heath Neighbourhood Plan Network Mixer from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Khidmat Centre in Small Heath. The event was a packed evening with many residents and stakeholders in attendance. Stakeholders who attended included representatives from Veola Eco Park based on Hob Moor Road, Birmingham City Council Youth Services, BYCA, and the Salama Somalian Advice Service. The event was well received by the public and stakeholders who attended, with Councillors Shabana Bana, Councillor Baber Baz and the team of MP Jess Philips in attendance.

The event started with a brief introduction to the emerging Forum and Plan and attendees were invited to give feedback and connect with members of the team for feedback and engagement.

The event was marketed heavily on social media including Facebook and Twitter and the official website. The event was also covered by local news organisations and received positive press coverage on Pakistani and Somalian TV and Radio channels. See the link below.

### **6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at SALAMA centre**

With the kind assistance of the representatives from the Small Heath/Bordesley Green Somalian and Eritrean community and of Dr Qaarey of the Salama Somalian Advice Centre, a drop-in session was held. This event was specifically aimed at engaging with Small Heath's large and growing Somalian and Eritrean community and was multi-lingual session, promoted on Roja radio, Birmingham's only Somalian station and located in Small Heath.

### **1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 Online Event**

For those who were unable to attend any of live events we arranged for 2 online drop-in events. They were marketed on the website and Facebook and were attended by members of the public online. Key themes discussed were: What is a Neighbourhood Plan? What does it involve? and How to get involved? Discussions were assisted by technical support and attendance from AECOM.

**11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 - Ladies only drop-in sessions at Love Chai:** Team member Shreen Mahmood hosted a series of coffee morning sessions at the Chaii wala at the St. Andrews Bordesley Green Shopping Park. She held women's only session that catered particularly for

local South Asian women who felt more comfortable at a ladies only session. The sessions were advertised on Instagram and helped capture and engage a group who can often be at risk of being under-represented.

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at the Sultan Hall, Whitmore Road Small Heath.**

Emerging forum members hosted a Small Heath Neighbourhood Plan Community Iftati event from 6 -8pm at the Sultan Hall in Small Heath. The event was a successful evening with many residents and stakeholders in attendance. Stakeholders who attended included representatives from West Midlands Police, Trading Standards, community group Inspire CIC based on Coventry Road, Birmingham City Councillor Ayoub Khan, Al-Rahman Mosque imam and delegates, and local stakeholders and residents.

The event started with a brief introduction to the emerging Forum and Plan and attendees were invited to break their fast and share in a community meal. Attendees were later invited to give feedback and connect with members of the pre-Forum team for feedback and engagement after the breaking of the fast.

The event was marketed on social media including Facebook and Twitter and was also covered by local news organisations. It received positive press coverage on community and Somalian TV and Radio channels (see the link below).

**Other events / coverage included:**

[Small Heath transformation schemes to be put to residents - Birmingham Live \(birminghammail.co.uk\)](http://birminghammail.co.uk)

UNITY FM Interview

CNI News interview and broadcast

[CNI News interview and broadcast](#)

Roja Radio

<https://youtu.be/Nk3VsR8Lv7g?si=gz0dqIYze230VAFb>

**Summary Table of Event Details:**

| <b>Event date</b> | <b>Event venue</b>           | <b>Event attendance</b>                      | <b>Event activities/ Issues discussed</b>      | <b>Publication of event</b>                     |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--|--|---|
| 26 January 2023   | 393 Coventry Road Conference | A significant number of groups and community | Discussed what a Neighbourhood Plan is and the | Event posted on official emerging Forum website |

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|-------------|---------------------|---|---|--|
|             | Rooms               | <p>activists and residents attended.</p> <p>The event was also attended by Councillor Shabana Bano Birmingham City NDSU representatives and representatives from AECOM.</p> <p>Individuals who attended included Mr Zualfiqar Hussan of the Khidat Community centre and Clarita Campbell from Bethnal Church Small Heath.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 72</p> | boundary of a potential Neighbourhood Plan. Participants engaged and discussed the ward boundary and drew on printed maps.  | and posted on Birmingham Live website  |
| 31 May 2023 | Small Heath Library | <p>The event was attended by representatives from Small Heath Neighbourhood Police Team and the Somalian Salama, amongst others.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 68</p>  | This was a listening exercise aiming to have residents and stakeholders discover more about what a Neighbourhood Plan would involve, its benefits and how residents could get involved. | Marketed on Twitter, Eventbrite and the library website.                           |
| 31 May 2023 | Love Chaii          | <p>The event attracted a large number of businesses and organisations based on</p>  | This drop-in event involved participants discussing the Neighbourhood Plan and sharing thoughts and   | Marketed on the emerging Forum website and local community radio station Unity FM. |

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|                |                              | <p>Coventry Road.</p> <p>Attendees included representatives from Kingswood Solicitors, The Small Heath Somalia Alliance, The Zawiya Centre, The Khidmat Centre and Purpanat CIC.</p> <p>All of these organisations and stakeholders are based in and around Small Heath and Bordesley Green.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 58</p> | ideas with one another.   |  |
| 7 July 2023    | Small Heath Wellbeing Centre | <p>A number of local residents attended the event. The emerging forum team were invited to attend Birmingham City Council's planning team's Vision for Birmingham 2040 drop in session.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 12</p>  | Discussed how the emerging Small Heath Neighbouring Plan would feed in the wider City Plan and vice versa. Residents who attended also discussed what they wanted to see in future Vision Plan and emerging Neighbourhood Plan. | Event was marketed on emerging Forum website |
| 18 August 2023 | Al-Rahman Masjid             | We were granted permission to talk at the Friday prayers at one of the Coventry Road busiest Mosques centres.  | Worshippers were briefly informed of what a Neighbourhood Plan was, what it involves and how to get involved.   | Marketed on the emerging Forum website       |

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|                   |                | <p>The congregation was diverse and hosted many from various backgrounds.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 350</p>   | <p>The talk was well received and many directed toward the emerging Forum website to find out how to get involved.</p>  |   |
| 16 September 2023 | Bethnal Church | <p>Representatives from the emerging Neighbourhood Plan forum were invited to the Windrush Celebration held at Bethnal Church.</p> <p>Councillor Shabano Bano was also in attendance.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 312</p> | <p>The team gave a brief representation of the work so far and invited attendees to get involved and give the team their views.</p> <p>Councillor Shabano Bano also kindly contributed to the talk.</p> <p>Many contributors commented on the positive work thus far and community cohesion / inclusion of diverse groups that had not been engaged with for some time.</p> | Promoted event on emerging Forum website  |
| 28 September 2023 | Khidmat Centre | <p>The event was a packed evening with many residents and stakeholders in attendance. Stakeholders who attended included Veola, Eco Park based on Hob Moor</p>   | <p>Attendees discussed ideas and thoughts about the Neighbourhood Plan with each other. They also discussed what they wanted to see in the future and emerging</p>  | <p>The event was marketed heavily on social media including facebook and twitter and the emerging Forum website.</p> <p>The event was also covered by</p> |

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|-----------------|---------------|---|---|--|
|                 |               | <p>Road, Birmingham City Council Youth Services, BYCA, The Salama Somalia and Advice Service.</p> <p>Councillor Shabana Bana, Councillor Baber Baz and the team of MP Jess Philips were in attendance.</p> <p>Estimated number of attendants: 221</p> | Neighbourhood Plan.   | local news organisations and received positive press coverage on Pakistani and Somali TV and Radio channels. |
| 6 October 2023  | SALAMA centre | <p>Stakeholders and residents from Small Heath North African community attended this multilingual event to support accessibility and knowledge of a neighbourhood plan for Small Heath and how to get involved.</p> <p>Attendants: 22</p>             | <p>Key issues discussed where:<br/>         What is a neighbourhood plan? How can the community get involved?<br/>         Points of access to get involved</p> | Marketed on Social Media, African stakeholders website and on the emerging Forum website.                    |
| 1 November 2023 | Online event  | Attendants: 6   | <p>Issues asked and discussed were:<br/>         What is a neighbourhood plan?<br/>         How can I be involved?</p>  | Marketed on the official website and Facebook  |
| 2 November 2023 | Online event  | Attendants: 0   |   | Marketed via official website and Facebook   |



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|               |                            |   |   | People seemed to be more comfortable attending in-person events for info and feedback. |
| 30 March 2024 | Sultan Hall<br>Small Heath | <p>Representatives from the emerging Neighbourhood Plan forum were invited to the Sultan Hall for a free and open community Iftar Meal to break their fast during Ramadan</p> <p>West Midlands Police also gave an introduction to the evening and attended with local stakeholders and residents.</p> <p>Attendants: 129</p> | Attendees discussed ideas and thoughts about the Neighbourhood Plan with each other. They also discussed what they wanted to see in the future and emerging Neighbourhood Plan and hopes post application submission. | Marketed on Facebook, Eventbrite, community pages and local stakeholder networks       |