



Annual Report (for 15 months)

May 2017- July 2018

Welcome...

to the second annual report of the Boldmere Futures Partnership! This year has seen many changes and we have been very successful on a variety of projects to support and develop our community. I was delighted to take up the role of Chair last year and would like to thank Emma Sykes my predecessor for steering the group so well and giving us a credible platform from which to plan for the future.

I am indebted to the hard-working Exec Committee members and all the volunteers who have helped us throughout the last 15 months.

Our main aims are:

- to promote and improve the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the Boldmere Neighbourhood Area
- to prepare a Community Plan for the Boldmere Neighbourhood Area

Who are we?

We have an executive committee which consists of the following roles and people:

- Chair – John Lymn
- Vice Chair – Pippa Goode
- Secretary - Diana Boateng
- Treasurer - Rebecca Clarke
- Birmingham City Council Rep - Rob Pocock
- North Vesey Neighbourhood Forum rep - John Heywood
- Boldmere Neighbourhood Forum rep - Ray Beech
- For the Traders Association - Martin Pedley, Edge Menswear
- Exec member - Paul Long

- Exec member - Rosemary Quickenden
- Exec member - Manish Puri
- Exec member – Robin Gray
- Special Advisor – John Mole, Birmingham City Council

Throughout the year we also co-opted John Mole, District Community Support and Development Officer, whose knowledge and expertise in community activities is having a significant benefit to our future outcomes.

In addition to the executive committee members we also have 69 general members giving a total membership of 83 people who either live or work in the Boldmere area. As we have been heavily involved in future planning, activities and interaction with the community has mainly been via our new website Boldmere.org and through the community planning project. We will be making use of Community Forums, Ward meetings, social media, the website and community notice boards to improve our reach to the community for ideas and to inform about our successes and future projects.

What have we been doing?

Our main activities over the year have been:

Boldmere Adult Education Centre

Through the professional knowledge of our Treasurer Becky Clarke and the support of City Councillor Rob Pocock, we were able to get Birmingham City Council to list the site as an asset of community value. A letter to Boldmere Futures Partnership from the City Council ensures that we can have a say in what happens to the site when it undergoes re-development.

During the bidding process we met with several developers to highlight the initial results of the 'Planning for Real' exercise, and to identify community projects that the development could support.

There are currently 29 active expressions of interest from developers and Boldmere Futures will endeavour to ensure that the community will benefit from the development.

Local Traders Association

We continue to work with our local traders to help ensure the sustained commerciality of the area. We are lucky to have such a great high street with a mix of corporate and local retail names. In addition, there are many significant businesses along Gate Lane and Little Boldmere and many above the shops.

It is well documented in the national press of the challenges of the high street and small businesses, and I would ask all of the community to support our traders as much as possible. We as a partnership receive much support and help with events from them, and I am sure we all want to retain our buzzing high street.

We are also benefitting from a great night-time economy with an array of restaurants and bars all offering something different to appeal to all our community members.

BCC Local Innovation Fund (LIF) – to help strengthen our work we were successful in our bid for LIF money. The funds released enabled us to do two things:

1. Set up Boldmere.org.

Boldmere.org is our own community website dedicated to providing information to our local community. There are lots of features that also include an events section where local groups can put their upcoming events.

The website gets 1,000 views a day through links to local community boards and around 400 individual visits per week. Amongst the information held is a list of all businesses in Boldmere and Little Boldmere. We strive to keep this updated, so if you are a business and don't see your listing, please e-mail us at info@boldmere.org

2. Community Plan

We are currently in the final stages of completing the community planning project, where members of our community can have their say in what they would like to see develop within the area.

For our community planning events three 3D models were created:

1. Of Boldmere High Street from just below Antrobus Road / Highbridge Road to just above Jockey Road at the top.
2. Of the Boldmere Adult Education Centre, a development site about which local residents' views for its future use were being sought and showed Boldmere Road / Cofield Road / Mossy Bank open space / Warden Road / St. Michael's Road.
3. Of Little Boldmere which included Chester Road to the South and stretched to Boldmere Drive to the North and included Chester Road Baptist Church, the row of shops on both side of Boldmere Road, Highbury Theatre on Sheffield Road, and the Boldmere Sports and Social Club facilities as well as the football pitches / club. It showed the railway line boundary to the East and included Firsholme Close to the West.

A set of pre-written, colour coded and blank "Your Idea" flags were produced under the following themes:

- Community Facilities
- Environment
- Health & Wellbeing
- Leisure & Recreation
- Transport & Movement
- Work, Training & Education
- And Development Options in relation to the Boldmere Adult Education Centre site.

The final part is a questionnaire to all the local businesses and a reaching out to the residents in Little Boldmere. We plan to have all of this completed by September 2018, where the final report will be available to all.

Boldmere Bear and the legacy

One year ago, Boldmere made a new friend and welcomed Boldmere Bear to the high street as part of the successful The Big Sleuth and now sits proudly outside The Harvester in his very own grassy porch! Today Boldmere Bear stands proud as a legacy of a fantastic summer of activities and fun as people of all ages went on a bear hunt around Birmingham and the West Midlands.

A key element of the Boldmere Bear project was to create a lasting legacy in the community and Boldmere Futures Partnership has been doing just that over this past year!

Over 90 pupils from Boldmere Infants and Junior School enjoyed a poetry and music day recently led by Joe Cook from Sutton Coldfield Arts Forum and Jobe Baker-Sullivan from Erdington Arts Forum. The children were involved in writing Bear-themed poems and also learning new instruments. Headteacher Samantha Kenny said, “the children had an exciting experience with fantastic music and literature links”.



On Friday 6th July, local historian, presenter and writer, Professor Carl Chinn (pictured left) held a talk at Age Concern's Communita Café called 'Making of the Modern World'. The talk was highly informative and presented in Carl's usual animated manner, which made for a very enjoyable afternoon. Communita was full and everyone enjoyed the talk along with their free tea and cake!

Boldmere Futures Partnership was awarded £2000 from the Tesco Bags of Help funding scheme to support the Boldmere Bear Legacy Fund. Tesco teamed up with Groundwork to launch its Bags of Help funding initiative, which sees grants – raised from the 5p bag levy – being awarded to thousands of local community projects every year.



(Left to Right: Maddi Bennett from Groundwork, Jo James from Tesco, Pippa Goode Vice Chair Boldmere Futures Partnership, and Paul Long Boldmere Bear Ambassador)

Boldmere Bear is supported by Mitchell & Butlers, Halls Garden Centre, EDGE Menswear, H2O Plumbing Services, The Deli in Boldmere and Little Ripley Day Nurseries. Donations have also been received from The Boldmere Bullets and Sutton Coldfield & Erdington Lions Club, as well proceeds from local people via raffles. We are still receiving generous donations from Boldmere Harvester through their fun Thursday quiz nights.

The Boldmere Bear legacy will continue to hold events for members of the community with continued support from Tesco and generous local traders and community members. Keep checking the Events Calendar on Boldmere.org for new events.



After a great day in the classroom, it's a visit to see the Bear!

From left to right, Jo Cooke, Jobe Baker-Sullivan and Jo James (Tesco Community Champion with Boldmere Bear)

The Boldmere Community Festival Summer 2018

On Sunday 17th June saw the return of Boldmere's famous Community Festival where over 5,000 people descended on to Boldmere Road to experience the best of Boldmere. The weather predominantly held fair and the couple of hints of rain did nothing to dampen the spirits of the families and friends who came along to enjoy what Boldmere had to offer.

The celebrations ran from 2pm to 8pm and festival goers could enjoy a range of food, drink, arts, crafts and community groups on a closed off section of Boldmere Road from Tesco right down to Jockey Road.



The music was split across two stages, the Angels Day Nursery Main Stage and the Band Hub Presents Stage. Musicians of all backgrounds and genres entertained the crowds throughout the day with one of the most diverse line-ups the Boldmere Community Festival has ever had.

Alongside the two stages, there was also an acoustic set played at the Boldmere Tap and a selection of community dance groups entertaining the crowd at the Los Banditos Dance Zone.

This year's festival was a huge success and it is down to the dedication of our voluntary organising committee and the support from our sponsors as well as the Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust. This extra funding allowed us to put a range of measures in place such as increased refuse provision, public toilets and an increased security presence. All these things and more resulted in one of our most popular events to date. 33 local volunteers helped to stage the event.

The grant from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust has enabled us to purchase equipment including gazebos, tables and radios. We have already been able to loan these out to Sutton Coldfield Community Games free of charge, and we are now planning how we can generate income from loaning or renting the equipment to other groups.

At the Ward meeting hosted by Birmingham City Councillors Rob Pocock and Kath Scott on 17th July I had the pleasure to present to 50 local residents about the festival and how we are bringing it closer to our community values. There was a complete support for the festival to continue to be deliver a great day for the community.

Festival Facts:

- Over 5,000 attendees
- An estimated £80,000 brought into our local economy
- 33 volunteers to support the event
- £15,000 of operating costs and £15,000 of capital costs, supported by Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust
- Main sponsorship from Angels Day Nursery, Halls Garden Centre, Los Banditos, Band Hub and The Lounge Boldmere
- 36 stalls together with street food traders

To keep up with news of the next Boldmere Community Festival this November and for everything else Boldmere, visit www.boldmere.org and follow the BoldmereB73 Facebook page.

Treasurers Report...

This year has seen a big increase in the revenues we have received of over £59,000 through sponsorship, grants and donations from the local community through raffles and collections at the local library.

We have raised the following through grants:

£30,000 from Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust for summer festivals

£9,000 from Sutton Coldfield Town Council for the Winter event 2018

£2,000 from Tesco's Bags of Help for Boldmere Bear legacy

£5,000 from the local community for the purchase of Boldmere Bear and the legacy

£12,500 from Birmingham City Council for the Boldmere.org website and the community planning project

We are focussed on building this momentum through long-term commercial sponsorship packages, commercialising Boldmere.org for advertisers and effective bidding for projects that our community tells us will add value and asset to our community.

And finally...

A massive thank you to all those who have been involved with the Partnership this year both in the executive committee, Sutton Coldfield Charitable Trust, Sutton Coldfield Town Council, local businesses and the wider membership. It wouldn't be a Partnership without you all!

It is very important that we engage more with the community and the Town Council to help us deliver more to our community through strategic partnerships and common goals.

We are in the process of formalising our strategic plan to enable greater funding opportunities through the Town and City Councils to help improve and support our community's needs.

We want to reach out to the community in many ways to get opinion on what matters to you, so please get in touch if you host community meetings or local groups where we can start to connect more closely.

John Lymn, Chair

Keep in touch...

E-mail info@boldmere.org

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