

Birchfield Big Local Plan – Year 6

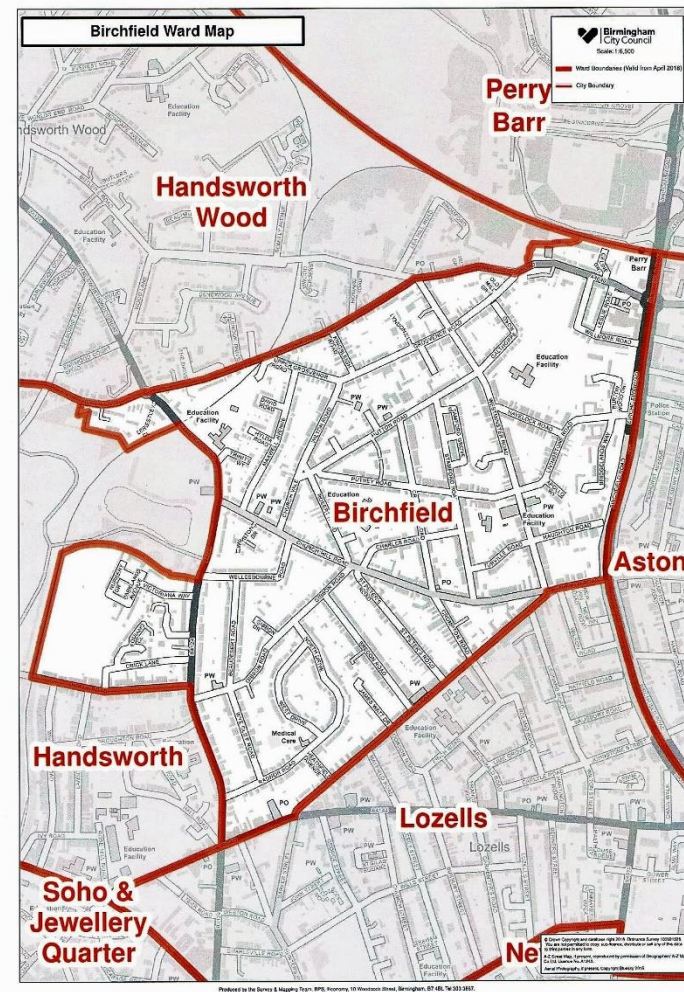


Introduction

In May 2018 Birchfield became a separate Ward with a single Councillor – Councillor Mahmood Hussain. Birchfield Big Local has been working with the City Council and other groups and organisations in the area to create regular Ward Forums where residents can come together and discuss issues of concern. There will also be Neighbourhood Tasking Group (NTG) meetings every three-months bringing together residents and representatives from key agencies such as the Police, Fire Service, Health Service and City Officers to respond to local issues. Birchfield Big Local has been instrumental in helping to set up these fora which provide an opportunity for residents to influence statutory services in the local area.

Birchfield Big Local retains its original boundaries and comprises about two-thirds of the new Birchfield Ward in terms of population.

Birchfield is likely to see further developments in the area. There is more housing to be added as part of a major development on the Birchfield Road funded through the Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust. There are also smaller housing schemes both planned and nearing completion for other vacant sites within the area, often by private developers. A major development is planned for the site currently occupied by the African Village (formerly the Crown and Cushion pub) on the corner of Wellington Road and Birchfield Road, which will include five-storey buildings with flats and retail outlets.



Commonwealth Games

Birmingham is to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022 with the athletics events happening just up the road from Birchfield at the Alexander Stadium. The former Birmingham City University site at Perry Barr is to become the athlete's village and work is already underway to demolish the existing buildings. There will also be major infrastructure developments taking place associated with the Games, including the removal of part of the fly over on the Birchfield Road, modifications to the Perry Barr island and the redevelopment of the train station at Perry Barr. All these developments provide opportunities for residents in the Birchfield Big Local area, and the partnership are keen to keep up to date on the proposals as they come forward and to work with others to influence developments for the benefit of residents where possible. For example, Birchfield Big Local has been represented at meetings to discuss the "Green Games" – how to ensure that the Games leave a lasting and sustainable legacy, including better public transport, and homes that are affordable and energy efficient.



Partnership

There are currently 12 voting partnership members, nine of whom are residents. Three new members have recently joined the partnership and efforts are being made to recruit new members through the website, newsletter and word of mouth. The partnership chair is Baljeet Singh Ghataora and the Treasurer, Tina Brown-Love. Annette McConnell left the partnership in 2018 following changes at the Birchfield Children's Centre where she was Community Outreach Officer. Annette served as Secretary and joined the partnership at the very beginning of Birchfield Big Local, so will be greatly missed. The Local Trusted Organisation – BVSC – is represented on the partnership by Jasbir Rai, Finance Director and Deputy Chief Executive.

The partnership meets every 6 weeks and in addition task or subgroups have been set up to lead on the Community Hub developments and progress the setting up of a constituted organisation. Developing a business plan for the proposed Community Hub and setting up a constituted organisation alongside the partnership are priorities for the coming year.

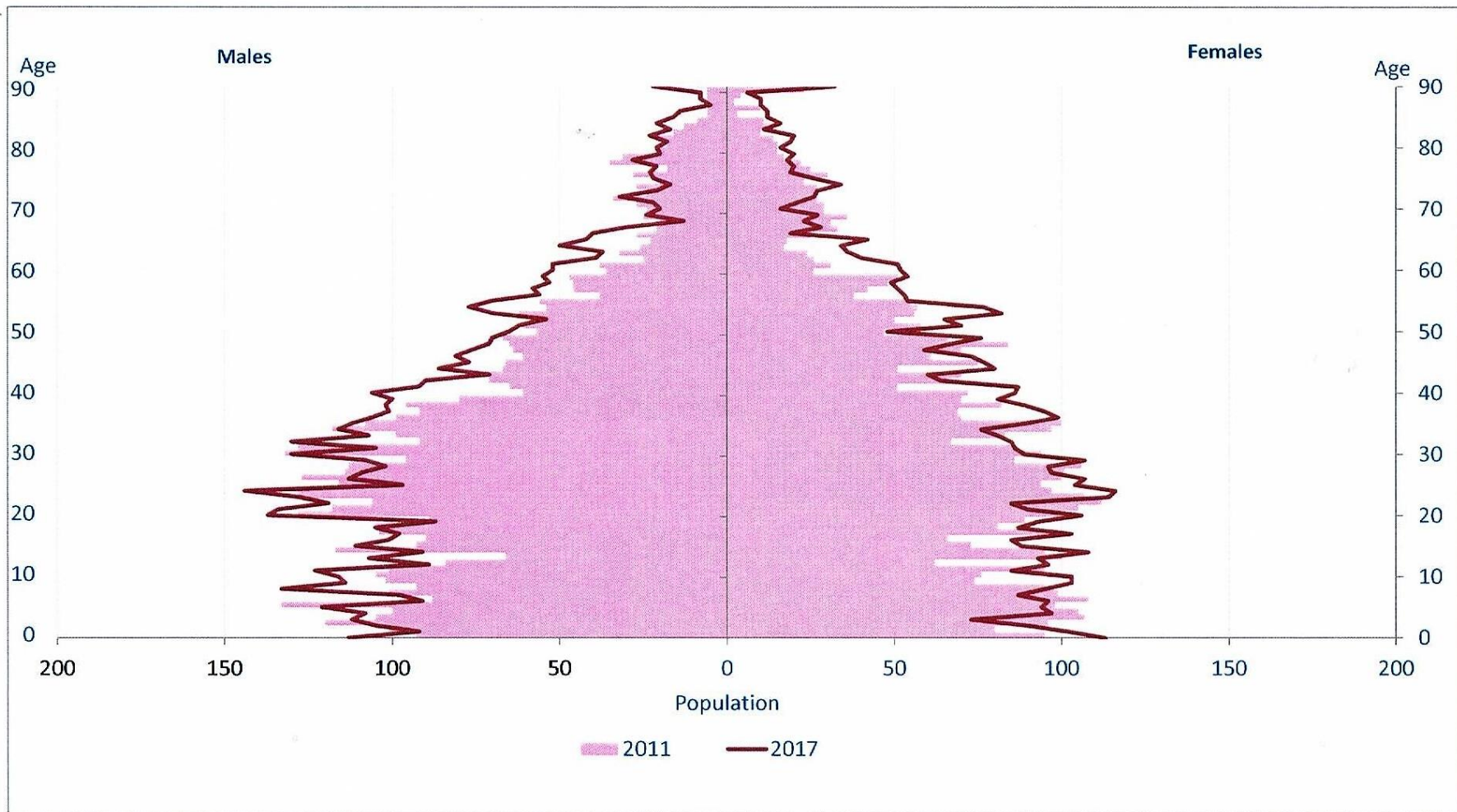
Baljeet Singh Ghataora with Councillor Hussain and Chris Church at the "It's Your Birchfield" Event



Birchfield Profile

Population	There are 8,325 people in Birchfield A younger population compared to the West Midlands average with 28% aged 0-15 and 8% aged 65+ A diverse multicultural community with 54% Asian, 26% Black, 8.5% White British and 5% White-non-British Many faiths are represented including 45% Muslim, 30% Christian, 5% Sikh, 4% Hindu and 1% Buddhist	Education and Skills	30% of people have no qualifications compared with 27% across the West Midlands 12.5% of working age people have 5 GCSEs or Level 2 equivalent compared with 15.4% for the West Midlands 19.6% of working age people have Level 4+ (degree) qualifications compared with 23.3% for the West Midlands.
Vulnerable groups	32.4% of children are living in poverty compared with 19.8% across the West Midlands 1,185 (22.3%) working age DWP benefit claimants who need additional support due to low income, worklessness, poor health, caring responsibilities, bereavement or disability 7,327 (94.1%) of people in Birchfield are living in the most deprived 20% of areas of England by Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Economy	21% of people aged 16 – 74 are in full-time employment compared with 37% across the West Midlands 565 on unemployment benefit (10.7% compared with 2.8% for the West Midlands) Youth unemployment is 7.1% compared with 3.7% for the West Midlands 625 (24%) households are living in 'Fuel Poverty'
Housing	Tenure: 41% properties are owner occupied 7% properties are Local Authority rented 28% properties are Housing Association rented 24% properties are Private/Other rented 18% of households are overcrowded (7% in the West Midlands) 4% households lack central heating	Health and wellbeing	16.7% of people have limiting long-term illness compared with 19% across the West Midlands 28.4% of children are classified as obese and 28.8% of adults compared with 21.5% and 26.4% respectively for the West Midlands Emergency hospital admissions are higher than expected for conditions such as coronary heart disease, stroke and heart attacks
Crime and safety	The overall crime rate is lower than the average across the West Midlands	Access and transport	49% of households have no car compared with 25% across the West Midlands

2011 to 2017 population estimates - Birchfield

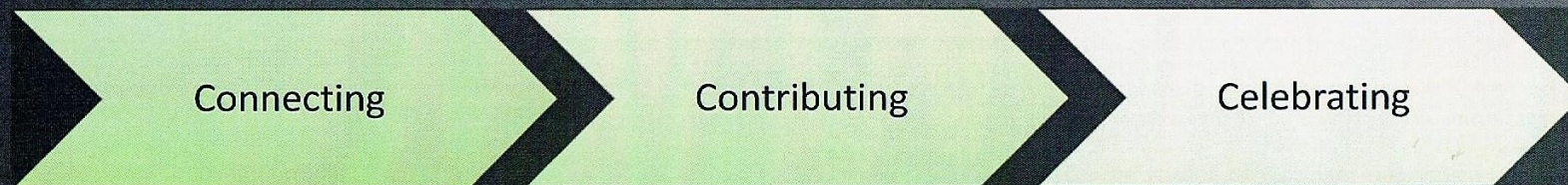


Source: mid-2017 population estimates, Office for National Statistics, Crown Copyright 2018

Service Development, Transportation & Connectivity,

Birchfield Big Local Vision

Vision



- **Connecting** – a well-served and connected community, providing new direction to break the poverty cycle and provide a lasting legacy;
- **Contributing** – a community that is ***engaged, empowered,*** and ***enabled*** to address issues to create a prosperous and regenerated area;
- **Celebrating** – a place where citizens are equal, are nurtured and have a collective sense of ownership to make the area somewhere people want to come to and stay.

Community views

It's Your Birchfield Event

With the creation of the new Birchfield Ward it was decided to organise an event at Holy Trinity Primary Academy on 23rd June to look at the strengths and assets of the area and the priorities for action under the following four headings:

- Health and well-being
- Local Economy – Jobs, Skills and Enterprise
- Young people
- Environment

The event also looked at how the community is making a difference in the area.



The event was organised with Angus McCabe and colleagues at the Third Sector Research Centre, Birmingham University and was filmed as part of the Our Bigger Story multimedia evaluation project. The aim was to invite residents and key stakeholders from the new Birchfield Ward together with the Big Local area. The new Ward Councillor – Mahmood Hussain attended as did the Lead Officer for Perry Barr Constituency – Neil De-Costa.

About 40 people attended the event which was divided into workshop sessions the first of which looked at strengths and assets in the area.

The participants were also asked to share examples that showed how the community is making a difference in the area. Here are some of their responses.

- Bloom in Birchfield
- Birchfield Big Local Small Grants Scheme – helping people in the community get involved
- Environment Group and regular environment walkabouts
- Volunteers supporting other residents e.g. English Classes, Job Clubs
- Mosques encouraging children to set a good example e.g. Litter
- Groups working together to make the area cleaner
- Community events e.g. Park events, school and faith events
- Social media and newsletters
- Disability and Skills Group advocating for disability awareness
- Elders groups at various venues

Strengths and Assets

- Cultural diversity of people who live here and sense of community
- Volunteers – people willing to give their time
- Motivated people doing things in their street or neighbourhood
- Caring schools (4 Primary Schools) and Children's Centre
- Birchfield Library (though outside Big Local area and Ward)
- Community gardens, allotments and other green assets
- Ever-changing – new housing and new people moving in
- Residents who have lived here a long time
- Good transport connections by bus, road and rail and shopping facilities
- Diversity of faiths and interfaith initiatives
- Variety of businesses in the area
- Heritage and history
- Social mobility
- Community spirit and resilience
- Local groups working together for a common purpose

The final session asked participants to agree priorities for action over the coming months.

Some priorities for action

- Leaflet on how everything connects in the environment and actions such as planting more trees, walking to school, measuring air quality etc
- Tackling speeding in the area e.g. campaign for 20mph zones
- Playing out – and working with residents to hold street parties
- Engaging and communicating with people door-to-door with help of volunteers – welcoming and informing people
- Working with stakeholders and holding people to account
- Engaging young people in decision-making – through existing meetings or a youth forum
- Widen contacts with GP surgeries and medical services
- Revitalise the BBL Stepping Forward project
- Reducing isolation – creating awareness and providing support e.g. mental health
- More interfaith activities e.g. exchange visits to local faith buildings
- Community Hub as this will help achieve and stimulate these activities

Community Hub

The proposed refurbishment and extension of the former caretaker's house at Westminster Primary School is seen by the Birchfield Big Local partnership as a key legacy of Big Local. At each stage in the process efforts have been made to ask residents and potential hub users what their expectations are for the building.

Community Hub Survey

In 2017 Gavin Orton carried out a Community Hub Survey which focussed on the building and potential activities that the local community are interested in. The feedback from this survey has been used to inform the brief for the building. The consultation included workshops with teachers and parents from Westminster Primary School and the Birchfield Big Local Volunteer Group.

The consultation was open for the local community to comment on from 30 July to 30 September 2017 and launched at the Family Fun Day. The Community Hub Survey was also posted to all properties within the Birchfield Big Local area, as well as being available online. This ensured that as many people as possible were able to have an input into how the Community Hub can best serve the local community.

The Community Hub Survey (2017) received a total of 137 responses. Most of the responses (90% - 123 responses) were from residents. Responses were also received from local groups and businesses (6%) and previous residents of the area who still have family/friends within the area (4%)

The focus of the survey was to ask for input on the types of activities that the local community would like to be on offer at the Community Hub. It also asked for input regarding accessibility, use and travel.

Concept Design Feedback

The concept designs for the Community Hub were completed in summer 2018 and displayed at the Westminster School Fete on 6th July and again at the BBL Family Fun Day in Handsworth Park on 29th July. People were invited to feedback their comments on the proposed design using a simple feedback form. Gavin Orton has also met with the BBL Partnership to receive comments. Gavin is now collating this feedback and amending the design accordingly with the aim of producing a Developed or Detailed design.

Architect Gavin Orton at the Family Fun Day in Handsworth Park



Creative Civic Change

Birchfield Big Local and Welsh House Farm made a joint application for this three-year programme using arts and creativity to make positive changes in the local area. We were one of sixteen communities selected to take part. Over the next few months we will be working together with Welsh House Farm to undertake a period of consultation and ideas development with the local community, leading eventually to the development of a costed project plan to be presented to the Creative Civic Change panel in March 2019.

A performance of 'Our Feast' – a collaboration with Birmingham REP



Core

Staff

There are three staff currently employed through BVSC – the Local Trusted Organisation for Birchfield Big Local. There is a full-time Community Development Worker – Andrew Simons, and a part-time Youth Worker, Russell Green, who was appointed in June 2017. Tipa Naphtali joined Birchfield Big Local as Volunteer Coordinator in April 2018 following the departure of Suki Sohi in December 2017.

Accommodation

The partnership plans to continue renting two rooms at Grosvenor Road Studios – a downstairs office adjacent to the reception area, which is where the staff are based, and an upstairs office that has been converted in to an IT suite for use by volunteers, meetings, Job Club, IT and other classes. A decision was taken in 2018 to lease a photocopier/printer which has helped to reduce printing costs.

Room hire

There will continue to be a need to rent additional space for meetings, classes and other events as and when required. This includes the main studio, training room and green room at Grosvenor Road Studios and facilities at the nearby United Reformed Church. Once the proposed Community Hub is open the need to rent office space and other facilities will be eliminated except for the occasional larger event.

Communication and engagement

A four-page quarterly newsletter is produced and distributed to every household in the Birchfield Big Local area. There is a Birchfield Big Local website, and this is reviewed and refreshed annually in response to feedback. There is also a Facebook page and Twitter account which are used to highlight up and coming events. There are currently 138 Facebook Friends and 734 Followers on Twitter.

Volunteers

There is a core group of regular volunteers managed by the Volunteer Coordinator. Existing roles include planning and delivering regular English Conversation Classes, supporting youth work sessions, receptionist, and IT support. Birchfield Big Local is actively recruiting for volunteers to assist with the Elders Group and with the Stepping Forward Job Club.



Volunteers Week Celebrations 2018

Well-Run Birchfield

Community events

Birchfield Big Local has a well-established programme of events which staff, partnership members and other volunteers help to organise. These include:

- An annual Family Fun Day
- Volunteer Celebration as part of Volunteers Week each June
- Christmas Choir event
- Elders Christmas Meal

In addition, Birchfield Big Local is represented at other local events such as the Spring and Autumn Fetes organised by Birchfield Residents Action Group (BRAG) and the Westminster School Fete in July.

For the past two years Big Local has also helped to promote the Birchfield Jazz Festival. Started in 2017 by two professional musicians and local residents, Kate Luxmoore and Lekan Babalola, the Jazz Festival takes place on the last weekend in July at St Mary's Church, Handsworth.

The plan is to continue with these events, and with the Creative Civic Change initiative in partnership with Welsh House Farm, there may be opportunities to expand these events and develop new events to engage the gifts and talents of residents and celebrate heritage, arts and creativity in the area.

Our Bigger Story

Birchfield Big Local is one of 15 Big Local areas participating in this multimedia evaluation project led by the Third Sector Research Centre at Birmingham University. Partnership members and staff attended an event at Birmingham University in April 2018 and worked with Angus McCabe and colleagues to organise an event on 23rd June to discuss with residents the priorities for Birchfield Big Local and the new Birchfield Ward. The event was filmed, and films have also been made of the plans for the new Community Hub, Livingstone Community Allotment Project and the Birchfield Jazz Festival.

*Milton Godfrey
at the Birchfield
Jazz Festival*

*Photo:
Herbert Walters*



Heritage Trail and Play Streets

We ran the Heritage Trail in September 2017 to coincide with Birmingham Heritage Week and there is renewed interest in this and the Play Streets event, so we plan to include them in the programme for 2019. Local historian, Tom Clements has recently joined the BBL partnership. Tom has a vast collection of photographs of Birmingham including the Handsworth area and runs a Facebook page "Up Yer Brum".

Well-Built Birchfield



*A concept
design for the
new
Community
Hub*

Community Hub

We are working in partnership with Westminster Primary School to refurbish and extend the former caretakers house on Westminster Road as a community hub. A condition survey was carried out to make sure there are no hidden problems with the fabric of the building. A measured survey has also been done to provide architect Gavin Orton with accurate measurements of the existing building and yard to the rear of the property, which will be used for the extension.

A concept design has been completed and a display produced for residents to comment on. The next stage is the creation of a Developed Design or Detailed Design. Solicitors, Shakespeare Martineau have agreed to assist with negotiating a long-term lease with the Local Education Authority who

are the landlords. The aim is to complete the next two stages – Developed Design and Technical Design in 2019 – with a view to starting construction in the following year.

Bloom in Birchfield

This campaign has grown year on year, especially the front garden competition. The results in 2017 and 2018 were once again a Level 4: Thriving Award, but in both years the points scored were just a few short of achieving a Level 5: Outstanding Award which remains the goal for 2019!



*Some
winners of
the front
garden
competition*

Birchfield Environment Group and Action Plan

Birchfield Big Local continues to meet with other partners including Birmingham City Council, Midlands Heart, BRAG, and Helping Hands to tackle issues around waste, litter and fly tipping on the streets and in front gardens. This is an issue across Birmingham but by working together, as in Birchfield, significant improvements have been made.

Another issue that has come to the fore is air quality, with concerns about the impact of pollution caused by vehicle emissions on people's health, especially children's health. Birchfield Big Local and BRAG are planning to set up diffusion tubes at locations around the area – for example, Birchfield Road and near the four Primary Schools – to measure Nitrogen Dioxide in the atmosphere. There are plans to introduce a Clean Air Zone in central Birmingham promoted by local Councillor and Cabinet Member for Transport, Waseem Zaffar.



BRAG members with the BCC Waste Management Team

Secret Garden

The Secret Garden is one of the few sites available in the area for children's outdoor play. The aim is to make the best use possible of this small site surrounded by houses and with access on Westminster Road, Hutton Road and Grosvenor Avenue. The next phase is to resurface the existing ball park area and to construct a shelter on site. Regular play and sports sessions will continue in the spring and summer months. Play training will be provided for residents interested in helping with the project.



Summer play session with support from ATHAC CIC

Clearing rubbish from the site with help from the National Citizens Service



Well-Served Birchfield

A key idea with Well-Served Birchfield is encouraging the use of locally based services by residents and supporting new and innovative services delivered where possible by local people. In this regard the partnership will continue to support the three projects supported in the initial years, though the level of financial support from BBL is reducing year on year. These projects have Service Level Agreements and produce mid-year and end of year reports with details of achievements.

Small grants scheme

Now in its second year, the scheme is intended to encourage individuals and groups to set up projects that will benefit other residents in the Birchfield area. There is a simple application form and applicants are invited to make a presentation to a panel of partnership members who can then ask questions. Recent projects funded include: Training in outdoor play; educational workshops for young people during the summer holidays; a summer play scheme and coach trip for families; and support for market place events at a local parish church.

The scheme will continue in 2019 with a total of £10,000 to be awarded in two rounds.

Health and well-being

Led by local medical practitioner, Dr Rhonda Lee, this project aims to improve the health and well-being of those residents living with long term conditions through providing access to a low-cost acupuncture clinic and other therapeutic treatments at local venues. A short film has been made with Dr Lee and patients for the Birchfield Big Local website.

Enhancing services for families with disabled children

Led by ATHAC CIC this project provides support to families with disabled children living in the Birchfield area. This includes after school sessions for children and young people, weekend family trips and activities, and family engagement and outreach support.

ATHAC Director, Carol Reid, also chairs the Jobs and Skills Disability Sub Group of the Perry Barr District Jobs and Skills Board.



A visit to RSPB Sandwell Valley



At Victoria Jubilee Allotments

Livingstone Road Community Allotment Project

As well as coordinating Birchfield In Bloom, Birchfield Residents Action Group also run a community allotment project at Livingstone Road Allotments. BRAG organise Spring and Autumn Fetes at the Pavilion building at the allotments which are well attended.

There is currently a vacancy for Allotment Project Officer – a part-time role which includes supporting Bloom in Birchfield and work with vulnerable adults at the allotment site.



Autumn Fete at the Allotment Pavilion – November 2018



Volunteers at the Livingstone Road Community Allotment

Community transport

As with previous years we have allocated a modest budget towards the cost of transport to help cover the costs of hiring minibuses and drivers to enable residents to access facilities or activities that are not available in the Birchfield area.

Thriving Birchfield

Stepping Forward (Job Club and English Classes)

Stepping Forward is for local people who want to take steps to improve their lives. Support is provided to enable people to access local employment, training, education and enterprise opportunities. Volunteers give one-to-one support with CV writing, job search, interview skills and run sessions in basic IT to help those wishing to access Universal Credit and other benefits and support which are increasingly online.

The English Conversation Classes are very popular and run two times per week during term times and provide opportunities for residents to practise their spoken English, meet other people, and discover useful information that will help them and their families.



English Class - sharing food from different countries

Women's Group

This meets once a month at Grosvenor Road Studios and provides an opportunity for local women to share their experiences, ideas and skills. In 2018 part of the group were involved in a project with Birmingham REP to create a performance - Our Feast – which was performed to a full house at Grosvenor Road Studios. We are planning to continue the relationship with Birmingham REP, possibly linked to the Creative Civic Change initiative.



Elders Group

There are plans to diversify the activities available to the Elders' group and engage with a wider audience. This will include a meal and drop in facility for elders in the area in collaboration with FoodCycle. Elders will be able to access information and assistance with issues that people may have and activities that would be of interest. With the start of the Neighbourhood Network Scheme there is the opportunity for additional funding to support activities for the elderly.

Community Learning and Training

Four of the volunteers have benefitted this year (2018) from training. Two volunteers attended a course in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) which has helped with their role running the English Class. Two other volunteers are doing qualifications at Birmingham City University as a teaching assistant and in youth work. The budget for training will remain at the current level.

Social Enterprise Support – Resilient Communities

Birchfield was one of 19 Big Local areas selected for additional support from UnLtd through the Resilient Communities initiative. Fifty thousand pounds has been allocated over three years to provide awards to people wishing to set up social enterprises. UnLtd are to put in match funding and provide a range of resources and activities. Two awards have been allocated so far; a venture to help young people at risk of offending, and a project to provide activities for the elderly.

An event was held in December 2018 to bring together existing award winners and people interested in setting up a social enterprise with a view to creating a network of social entrepreneurs in the area. There were lots of ideas about how best to nurture and support social enterprise in the area and the opportunities available for existing and new ventures. Network meetings will begin in January 2019. ATHAC CIC has agreed to act as anchor institution for this activity.



*Celebrating
Social
Enterprise in
Birchfield
Event*

Summary of proposed expenditure for Years 6

Theme	Project/Activity	Details	Budget 2019	Lead/Delivered by
CORE	Community Development Worker	To support Birchfield Big Local Partnership, manage the delivery of the action plan, engage with residents, groups and organisations.	23,400	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	P/T Volunteer Coordinator	To identify volunteering opportunities in the Birchfield Big Local area and develop a programme for recruiting, training and retaining local volunteers.	11,300	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	P/T Youth Worker	To develop youth activities, train and support volunteers, and help secure additional resources. The focus will be on developing a regular youth offer for young people from transition age upwards.	11,300	Big Local Partnership/BVSC
	Office costs including Public Liability Insurance	Renting of two rooms at Grosvenor Road Studios and associated office costs. One room is used as an IT suite for IT classes and other activities.	7,500	Big Local Partnership with Grosvenor Road Studios
	Room hire	Renting additional rooms for BBL activities as and when required either at GRS or other local venues	2,500	Big Local Partnership
	Communications and engagement	Publication of quarterly newsletter, maintaining and developing the website and communications using other social media, leaflets etc.	3,500	Big Local Partnership – Communications sub-group
	Volunteer expenses	Out of pocket expenses for volunteers assisting with BBL activities	1,500	Big Local Partnership
Sub-total			61,000	
WELL-RUN	Community events	Will include the following events in 2019: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Family Fun day (Date to be confirmed) — Volunteers Week (June) — Christmas choir event (December) — Christmas meal for elders (December) 	6,000	Big Local Partnership and partners including BRAG, Boat House Café, local faith groups, schools etc.

		Supporting events such as: — BRAG Spring and Autumn Fetes — Westminster School Fete (July) — Birchfield Jazz Festival (July)		
	Youth activities	Funding to enable the new part-time youth worker to cover the costs of venue hire, publicity, refreshments and materials. BBL will also be looking to supplement this with funding from other sources.	3,000	Birchfield Big Local
	Heritage Trail	Funding will cover refreshments and materials for participants	100	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Play Streets event	Date and location to be decided but suggestions include Brackley Avenue and Burton Wood Drive/Bridgelands Way. Funding will cover volunteer costs, play equipment and arts and crafts materials.	500	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers, Active Streets and ATHAC CIC
Sub-total			9,600	
WELL-BUILT	Community hub	Surveys have been completed and a concept design produced for consultation. Shakespeare Martineau are providing legal advice. Architect Gavin Orton is working to the RIBA 8 stage process. The first 3 stages are complete, and the aim is to complete the remaining stages which include the Developed and Technical designs, Construction and Hand-over by end of 2020. Work will begin on a business plan shortly to ensure that the Community Hub is sustainable.	70,000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership, LTO and partners including Gavin Orton (Architect), Westminster School and LEA
	Bloom in Birchfield	Resident interest is growing in this campaign and BRAG once again achieved a Level 4: Thriving Award in 2018. The plan is to continue this initiative in 2019 with support from other partners, as part of the Birchfield Environment Action Plan.	3,814	BRAG working in partnership with Big Local, BCC, Midland Heart and residents
	Environment Strategy/Action Plan	The Birchfield Environment Group continues to meet and organize regular walkabouts of the area including partners such as Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart, BRAG, Handsworth Helping Hands, local schools and faith organizations. In 2019 we are planning a project to monitor air pollution (Nitrogen Dioxide) using diffusion tubes. With the Commonwealth Games approaching there may be significant opportunities to enhance the quality of the environment locally.	1,000	Big Local working in partnership with BRAG, BCC, Midland Heart, Helping Hands and residents

	Tackling Fuel Poverty	A feasibility study was completed in June 2016 by Phil Beardmore (Calendula Consulting). A new fund – the Energy Redress Fund – is now open for energy saving projects targeting vulnerable consumers. Funds have been allocated to cover the costs of bid writing.	500	Big Local Partnership working with other partners
	Secret Garden Project	Further work required includes resurfacing the ball park area and constructing a shelter. Funding is also required for play sessions and community events on site. Funding will be sort from other sources to match the allocated budget.	3,000	Birchfield Big Local in partnership with residents, ATHAC CIC, BCC and others
Sub-total			78,314	
WELL-SERVED	Small grants scheme	This scheme encourages local individuals or groups s to set up projects that would benefit residents. The scheme will continue in 2019 with two rounds of £5000. Projects are expected to meet one or more priorities in the Big Local plan.	10,000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership
	Crèche facilities	A modest amount of funding has been allocated to cover the costs of child care for parents wishing to participate in BBL activities or training events.	500	Birchfield Big Local
	Enhancing services for families with disabled children	This project provides a range of services to families with disabled children living in the Birchfield Big Local area. The service is delivered by ATHAC - a locally based Community Interest Company.	5,120	ATHAC CIC
	Health and well-being	This project aims to improve the health and well-being of those living with long-term conditions by providing low-cost acupuncture and other therapeutic treatments at venues accessible to Birchfield residents. It is delivered by a local medical practitioner, Dr Rhonda Lee.	3,405	Hope Acupuncture Centre (Integrated Health Clinic)
	Livingstone Road Community Allotment	This community allotment project based at Livingstone Road Allotments provides opportunities for residents to engage in food growing and other outdoor activities. Participants include adults with specific needs. Run by BRAG, the project aims to employ a new Project Worker to begin in 2019	3,814	Birchfield Residents Action Group
	Community transport	Funding available for groups that require transport to events and activities that will benefit Birchfield residents but are outside the immediate local area.	1,000	Birchfield Big Local
Sub-total			23,839	

THRIVING	Stepping Forward Including Job Club and Conversational English Classes	Support is provided to enable people to access local employment, training, education and enterprise opportunities. It is delivered by volunteers who give one-to-one support with CV writing, Job search, basic IT and support on benefit issues. Twice weekly English Conversation Classes to develop skills in spoken English. Costs include room hire, refreshments and photocopying/printing.	3,000	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Women's Group	Meets monthly to provide local women with the opportunity to share their experience, ideas and skills. Costs include food and refreshments and professional fees and materials.	2,000	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Elders Club	The aim is to provide a meal and drop in facility for elders in the area in collaboration with FoodCycle. It will provide information to elders, help with issues that people may have and offer activities that would be of interest. With the start of the Neighbourhood Network Scheme there is the opportunity for additional funding to support activities for the elderly.	3,000	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers
	Staff and volunteer training	To fund training events for partnership members and other volunteers to help build skills and capacity in the local area. Includes costs of venue hire, trainer fees and refreshments.	3,000	Birchfield Big Local Partnership
	Social enterprise support	Birchfield Big Local is one of 19 Big Local areas working with UnLtd on an initiative to promote and support social enterprise in the area. A sum of £50,000 has been allocated by each Big Local area over a three-year period to be matched by UnLtd. The aim is to set up a social enterprise network with training and other support provided.	[16,667] Already allocated	Birchfield Big Local with UnLtd and other partners
Sub-total			11,000	
TOTAL			183,753	