

Birchfield Big Local Plan

Years 7 & 8 (April 2020 – March 2022)

Big Local
Birchfield



Introduction

Birchfield was part of the second wave of Big Local's announced early in 2012. The Getting started phase was in 2013 with the first plan beginning February 2014. This plan therefore covers Years 7 – 10 and ends in March 2024. As shown in the costed vision on page 13, the expectation is that the remaining Big Local funds will be spent by end of March 2024. Part of the legacy of Birchfield Big Local will be the setting up of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation which will eventually run the proposed Community Hub and continue and develop the work started through the Big Local programme.

The journey so far

The purpose of this section is to highlight some of the milestones in the development of Birchfield Big Local and some of the learning along the way.

Where is Birchfield?

One of the challenges that BBL has faced - and still faces - is that residents don't always identify with Birchfield as the area where they live. Residents are more likely to say Handsworth or Perry Barr because these areas are better known. It didn't help that in the 1960's an expressway was built splitting the area known as Birchfield in two, so that Birchfield Library and Birchfield Community School are now in Aston Ward.

When Birchfield Big Local started it was part of Lozells and East Handsworth Ward but since the reorganization of Ward boundaries in 2018 is now a separate Ward. The Birchfield Big Local area comprises about half the area of the new Ward and almost four fifths the population. The existence of Birchfield Big Local may well have been a factor in the creation of the new Ward.

In 2019 Birchfield was nominated as a Pioneer Ward, one of ten across the city. This was in recognition of Birchfield Big Local's resident-led approach and partnership working – “an attempt to do things differently to make a better place to live”.

The creation of the Birchfield Ward has helped raise the profile of the area and this is likely to grow even further with the Commonwealth Games in 2022. Birchfield is where the Birchfield Harriers started whose home turf is now the Alexandra Stadium where the opening and closing ceremonies will be held and the athletics. Birchfield is also close to the athletes' village and will benefit from some major infrastructure projects associated with the Games.

Volunteering

Promoting and supporting volunteer activity has been a key element of Birchfield Big Local from the start - providing a structure through which local people could contribute their gifts, skills and time, meet others and learn new skills. Early on, the partnership decided to appoint a Volunteer Coordinator with the role of recruiting and supporting volunteers. Suki Sohi took on this role in 2014 and was followed in 2017 by Tippa Naphtali and since June 2019 Mehnaz Afzal, a resident and former volunteer, has taken on the role.

It is the volunteers that run most of the Birchfield Big Local activities including:

- English Conversation Classes
- Elders group
- Women's group
- Secret Garden play sessions

It is also the volunteers who help organize the community events including the Family Fun Day, Christmas meal and Summer Coach Trip.



English Class celebrating Eid

Inevitably volunteers come and go. Many volunteers have moved on to employment - either full time or part time - or further education and training but many continue to remain in contact with Birchfield Big Local. Volunteers have benefited not just from the opportunity to contribute to the community and learn new skills but also from training accessed through Birchfield Big Local. Our longest serving volunteer, Mehnaz Fatma, started in 2014 and is now a tutor for the English Conversation Class having completed a TEFL course in 2019 funded through BBL. Mehnaz has had many roles over that period including receptionist/administrator, play worker and now English tutor.

Social Enterprise

Promoting and supporting social enterprise has also been a feature of Birchfield Big Local from the earliest days. It was realized that there is an appetite for social enterprise and the scope for local people to set up ventures to address the priorities in the area.

The first sessions took place at Holy Trinity Primary School and were organized by two partnership members, Claudette Dawson, who runs Revelation Training and Development, and Carol Reid, who is coordinator of ATHAC a local CIC. We were also able to draw on support from the Digbeth Trust and the now defunct City Council's Enterprise Catalyst Team. The partnership successfully applied to be one of 15 Big Local areas to work more closely with UnLtd on the Star People's Programme. This was followed in 2017 by a successful application to be one of 19 Big Locals on the Resilient Communities programme, again with support from UnLtd. The partnership agreed to invest £50,000 in this three-year programme to be matched by UnLtd. This arrangement will come to an end in December 2020.

Carol Reid took on the role of Enterprise Hub coordinator in 2018 and this role will continue to be funded through this revised plan.



Enterprise Hub members and the graphic record they created with Anna Geyer – New Possibilities

Since 2014 twelve awards have been made through the Star People's programme and thirteen awards through the Resilient Communities programme with a total of 23 recipients.

There was an event in December 2018 to celebrate social enterprise in Birchfield and to find out what kind of support people would like from the social enterprise hub. A Social Enterprise Directory has been produced with details of twenty-two social enterprises providing services in the area.

Community Hub

Based on consultation with the local community, it has been the aspiration of residents to see the creation of a community hub for the Birchfield area – “a shared space for building common ground”. In March 2016 Birchfield Big Local appointed Gavin Orton Architects and Wellside Business to conduct a Community Asset Survey of the Birchfield area to identify potential sites and buildings that might be suitable for a Community Hub. Several sites/buildings were identified including the former Caretakers House at Westminster Primary School.

In 2017 Gavin Orton Architects were commissioned to develop a Project brief (RIBA stage 1) for the proposed Community Hub. This included workshops with groups of residents already participating in activities run by Birchfield Big Local at Grosvenor Road Studios and other venues and a postal/online survey. Following on from this a concept design (RIBA stage 2) was created for the proposed hub building, the plans for which have again been shared widely for

comment. A design team has been assembled with the aim of producing a developed and technical design for the building (RIBA stages 3 & 4) and again this will be shared with residents for comment.



Concept design for the Community Hub

The partnership is in the process of commissioning someone to produce a business plan and funding strategy for the Community hub as additional funds will be required to achieve the partnerships ambitions.

Youth Work

Birchfield has a young age profile with 27.4% of the population aged 0 - 15. The partnership decided towards the end of 2016 to employ a part-time youth worker to develop Birchfield Big Local's work with young people in the area. This was included in the plan for Years 4 and 5 and Russell Green was appointed to the post in June 2017.

In 2019 Birchfield Big Local teamed up with local charity, Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust on the My Endz project. With additional funding from the Heritage Lottery they worked with young people on a mural for the Secret Garden and to work on a booklet sharing their thoughts, feelings and experiences of living in the area. The young people were also able to explore the rich history and cultural heritage of the area. Some of the young people also performed at the Birchfield Jazz Festival.



Launch event for My Endz mural project at the Secret Garden



Creative Civic Change - Hard Times Require Furious Dancing

A joint proposal from Welsh House Farm Big Local and Birchfield Big Local was selected as one of the projects for the Creative Civic Change initiative. The project is about reaching out and engaging the gifts and talents of local people to bring about positive changes in both communities, extend people's horizons and to share that journey. It is also about changing the relationship and narrative between communities and arts organisations at a local and national level so that they are more inclusive.

Both Big Local areas had launch events in 2019. The one in Birchfield was at Church Vale, a small shopping centre where several roads meet. It was very well attended and is a likely location for future

events as part of project is about reclaiming and making more creative use of public spaces. There are also residencies at schools in both Birchfield and Welsh House Farm to support arts and creativity. This includes music workshops at St Clare's Catholic Primary School and work with a visual artist at Westminster Primary School. The intention is also to enhance existing events in both areas including the Welsh House Farm Carnival and the Birchfield Jazz Festival.



Launch event for Creative Civic Change at Church Vale

Developments in the area

When Birchfield Big Local started in 2013 the land alongside the Birchfield Road was still vacant following the demolition of three 16-story tower blocks in 2010. This land was eventually redeveloped as part of a housing scheme by the City's own Municipal Trust Housing Trust. Just over 100 new properties have been built and are now occupied. Private developers built new housing along Wellington Road and a large housing estate is being built just on the other side of Wellington Road - off Wood Lane - on the site of the former Lea Hall allotments.

Again, about 100 new properties are being built.

However, this is nothing compared to what is about to happen to the area with the Commonwealth Games. This is both a challenge and an opportunity. It will mean significant disruption over the next couple of years, especially with road works on the A34 Birchfield Road. This includes the proposed demolition of the flyover opposite One Stop shopping centre, the upgrade of Perry Barr Railway Station and the development of a bus/rail interchange and major developments around the Perry Barr island.

Birchfield Big Local has been working with other local groups to ensure that residents are well informed about the proposed developments and that there are opportunities to meet with City Council officers and elected representatives, National Express, West Midlands Travel, and representatives from the Commonwealth Games, to ensure that the concerns of local people are heard and taken into account. There are different opinions over what is being

proposed and there is still the opportunity for people to influence decisions as the master plan for the area is debated.

The Commonwealth Games is also an opportunity for the area. There will be opportunities for both employment and volunteering. As Birchfield Big Local we have contacted Lendlease, the company managing the athletes' village and have also been engaging with those responsible for the cultural activities that will be happening around the Games including the opening and closing ceremonies.



Computer generated images of Birchfield Gateway

Community views

This will be Birchfield Big Local's fifth plan. Each plan has been based on views gathered from residents through a variety of means including:

- In-depth conversations with individuals
- Conversations with groups
- Online surveys and paper-based questionnaires
- Feedback at events
- Consultation events and community conferences
- Feedback through social media

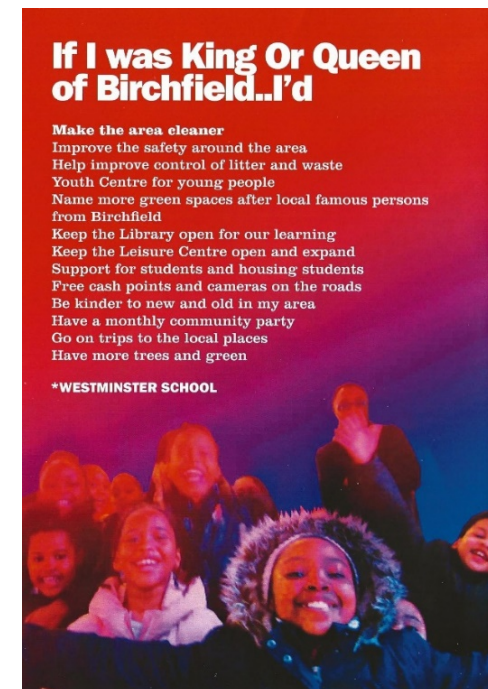
Staff and partnership members are in regular contact with groups such as the Women's group, English class and Elders group that provide a sounding board for what is happening in the community and local priorities.

Birchfield Big Local also hosts regular public meetings including the Ward Forum and Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum, sometimes attended by up to 100 people, where residents raise issues of local concern. To resolve some of these issues requires residents, local groups/organisations to work together with the City Council for example concerns around Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) and environmental issues such as fly-tipping. Birchfield Big Local can and does work with others to influence these issues.

Formal consultations have often focused on specific projects. For example, the Community Hub where at each stage of the

development residents and potential users of the hub have been asked for their ideas and views on their expectations for the building. There will be another opportunity once the developed designs are ready for people to express their views so that the final design reflects the views of as many people as possible.

The ideas generated by the Social Enterprise Hub members were captured by graphic artist, Anna Geyer, of New Possibilities - see page 4. Young people have expressed their views through the My Endz project run by Birchfield Big Local and Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust in 2019. The plan is to set up a Youth Forum that will enable young people to take a lead on issues that concern them.



Birchfield Profile

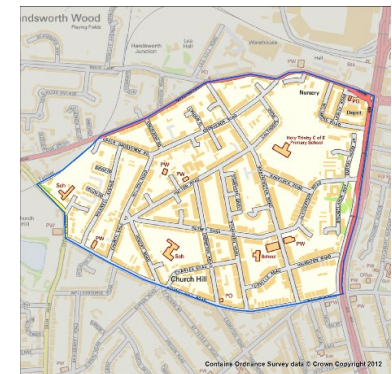
Birchfield is a multi-cultural inner-city area located to the north west of Birmingham City Centre. The Birchfield Big Local area has a population of 8,915 according to the latest figures from Local Insight*. This comprises about 2500 households. The area is a densely populated residential area with a very mixed housing stock owing to its historical development. Birchfield was once a wealthy, semi-rural area on the edge of Birmingham with some large houses. For example, just outside the Big Local area on Heathfield Road lived James Watt and the house where Birchfield Big Local is currently based was once home to James Henry Stone, Brass Foundry owner and brother of MP and photographer, Sir Benjamin Stone. About half of the housing stock dates from before 1900 and is a mixture of Victorian terraced housing for the working class and Victorian villas built to house the growing middle classes. There has been a gradual infilling of vacant land which continues even to the present day.

From the nineteenth century onwards there has been inward movement into Birchfield starting with people moving from the rural shires into the expanding city including people from Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Post Second World War many people moved here from the Caribbean and a little later from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. More recently the area has welcomed people from various Eastern European countries. There continues to be inward and outward movement but many people who have moved to Birchfield have remained and made it their home.









*Local Insight - Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI)

www.ocsi.co.uk

The Birchfield Big Local area is now part of Birchfield Ward, created following boundary changes in 2018. The Big Local area is about one half of the new Ward by area but almost four fifths (78%) by population. The population of the Ward is 11, 465 and is one of the smaller Wards in the city with a single Councillor - Councillor Mahmood Hussain. It has a younger age profile than the city as a whole - which is already a young city! - with almost 30% under 18 and 43% aged 24 and under. It is the 90th most deprived Ward nationally according to the Deprivation IMD index and is ranked 7th on the IMD out of the 69 Wards in the city. It has the 14th lowest average income in the city and employment rates are much lower than the city average and unemployment claimant counts are well above the city average.



On the next two pages we share some of the data from OCSI which relates specifically to the Birchfield Big Local area and some information from Public Health, Birmingham City Council, about the Birchfield Ward.

Population 	<p>There are 8,915 people in Birchfield</p> <p>A younger population compared to the West Midlands average with 27.4% aged 0-15 and 8.5% aged 65+</p> <p>A diverse multicultural community with 54.2% Asian, 25.9% Black, 8.3% White British and 5.1% White-non-British</p> <p>Many faiths are represented including 45% Muslim, 29.6% Christian, 5.2% Sikh, 4.1% Hindu and 0.6% Buddhist</p>	Education and Skills 	<p>30.5% of people have no qualifications compared with 26.6% across the West Midlands</p> <p>13.1% have a Level 1 qualification compared with 13.7% in the West Midlands</p> <p>12.5% of working age people have 5 GCSEs or Level 2 equivalent compared with 15.4% for the West Midlands</p> <p>19.6% of working age people have Level 4+ (degree) qualifications compared with 23.3% for the West Midlands.</p>
Vulnerable groups 	<p>33% of children are living in poverty compared with 20.3% across the West Midlands</p> <p>1,240 (22%) working age DWP benefit claimants who need additional support due to low income, worklessness, poor health, caring responsibilities, bereavement or disability</p> <p>A significant number of lone pensioners - 209 households of one pensioner</p>	Economy 	<p>21% of people aged 16 – 74 are in full-time employment compared with 37% across the West Midlands</p> <p>685 Unemployment benefit (JSA/UC) claimants - 12% compared with 3.7% for the West Midlands</p> <p>Youth unemployment (JSA/UC) is 11.5% compared with 4.8% for the West Midlands</p> <p>695 (25.5%) households are living in 'Fuel Poverty'</p>
Housing 	<p>Tenure:</p> <p>41.7% properties are owner occupied</p> <p>7.4% properties are Local Authority rented</p> <p>27.2% properties are Housing Association rented</p> <p>19.5% properties are Private rented</p> <p>18% of households are overcrowded (6.8% in the West Midlands)</p> <p>3.4% households lack central heating</p>	Health and wellbeing 	<p>16.9% of people have limiting long-term illness compared with 19% across the West Midlands</p> <p>29.7% of children (Year 6) are classified as obese and 28.8% of adults compared with 22.3% and 26.4% respectively for the West Midlands</p> <p>Emergency hospital admissions are higher than expected for conditions such as coronary heart disease, stroke and heart attacks</p> <p>Levels of physical activity (52%) are lower than the West Midlands as a whole (60%)</p>
Crime and safety 	<p>The overall crime rate is lower than the average across the West Midlands</p>	Access and transport 	<p>49% of households have no car compared with 24.7% across the West Midlands</p>

BIRMINGHAM BIRCHFIELD

WORKING TOWARDS A HEALTHY CITY: HEALTH INEQUALITIES



Public Health, March 2019
Numbers have been rounded

BIRCHFIELD PICTURE

11,465

Birchfield
Population

Birmingham
1,137,123
Est. Population

BIRCHFIELD
WARD IS RANKED

90th
MOST
DEPRIVED

OUT OF 7,511 WARDS
NATIONALLY

LIFE EXPECTANCY

MOST DEPRIVED
WARD

77.8y

+
0.9

BIRCHFIELD

78.7y

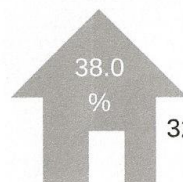
MOST AFFLUENT
WARD

84.1y

-
5.4

TENURE

BIRCHFIELD

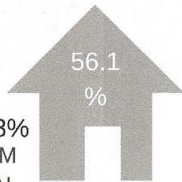


OWNER/
OCCUPIED

32.0%

RENTED FROM
OTHER SOCIAL
LANDLORD

BIRMINGHAM



LIFE AT THE BOTTOM

People who live in the
most deprived 10% are

3x



MORE LIKELY TO

BE ADMITTED FOR
PREVENTABLE
CONDITIONS

DIE
PREMATURELY
FROM PREVENTABLE
CONDITIONS

People who live in the
most deprived 10% are

3x



MORE LIKELY TO

BE IN CONTACT
WITH **MENTAL**
HEALTH
SERVICES

HAVE A
LONG TERM
CONDITION

128,655

CHILDREN IN
BIRMINGHAM LIVE
IN THE **MOST**
DEPRIVED 10%
aged 0-15 years

1 IN **4**

CHILDREN IN
BIRMINGHAM LIVE
IN **POVERTY**



LIFE COURSE

PERSONS AGED 0-15
YEARS IN
BIRCHFIELD

26.6%

PERSONS AGED 0-15
YEARS IN B'HAM

22.8%

CHILDHOOD
OBSESITY

BIRCHFIELD
RECEPTION
4-5 YEARS

13.7%

YEAR 6 10-11
YEARS

30.5%

PERSONS AGED 16-64
YEARS IN
BIRCHFIELD

64.4%

PERSONS AGED 16-64
YEARS IN B'HAM

64.3%

UNEMPLOYMENT

BIRCHFIELD

18.2%

BIRMINGHAM

11.1%

PERSONS AGED 65+
YEARS IN
BIRCHFIELD

9.0%

PERSONS AGED 65+
YEARS IN B'HAM

12.9%

LONE PENSIONERS

BIRCHFIELD

7.5%

BIRMINGHAM

11.6%

Data sourced from: population Census 2011 and Census population estimate 2015; life expectancy 2013-2015, Public Health Outcome Framework; Deprivation IMD index; and Exeter GP Registered population data; Poverty, Hard Edge Report; Graphics: Canva; The Noun Project

Community assets

The Birchfield Big Local area has several community assets. This includes four Primary Schools, places of worship such as Churches, Mosques and a Sikh temple, a recording studio and a dance centre. There is also a large allotment – Livingstone Road Allotments. In addition to the schools and faith organisations, other local groups include Birchfield Residents Action Group who run a community allotment project, Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum, Handsworth Helping Hands and the Allotment Association.

Not all these assets are as accessible to the community as others. For example, schools can be reluctant to open their facilities at weekends or during school holidays. Finding venues in the local area for larger community events can be a challenge. As a result of government cuts, Birchfield Children's Centre has closed and the local library (just outside the Big Local area) has restricted hours.

Additional assets have been created since Birchfield Big Local started in the form of social enterprises. There are now more social enterprises active in the area due in part to the work that Birchfield Big Local has been doing with UnLtd. A directory of local social enterprises has been produced which lists 22 social enterprises offering services from gardening, sports coaching, music therapy, activities for over 50's, health and fitness training. Through Birchfield Big Local we have also been able to bring back into use a community garden and children's play space located behind houses on Grosvenor Avenue, Westminster and Hutton Roads. First created by residents in 1996 the garden fell into disuse and became overgrown

and fly tipped. From 2015 work started on refurbishing the garden and regular free play sessions are now held there during the spring and summer.

In March 2016 Birchfield Big Local commissioned Gavin Orton and Wellside Business to carry out a community asset survey of the Birchfield area to identify potential sites and buildings for community use, either for a community hub or children's play area. Thirty sites or buildings were located of which eleven were deemed worth further investigation. Of these the former caretakers house next to Westminster Primary School was considered the best option for developing a community hub. Many of the sites found were either limited in size or inaccessible.

In the appendix we have listed the details of some of the key assets in the area.



Secret Garden before (2015) and after at the mural launch in 2019

Associational Life in Birchfield

LOCAL COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS

- Birchfield Residents Action Group
- Birchfield Big Local Partnership
- Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum
- Handsworth Helping Hands
- Crick Gardens CIC
- ATHAC CIC

GROUPS FOR OLDER PEOPLE

- Wilton Road URC
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- BBL Elders Club
- Women's Over 50's Go-Getters Group

GROUPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- ATHAC CIC
- School's Out
- BBL – Youth Worker
- Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts
- SDA Pathfinders
- Bloom Tuition

HEALTH, DISABILITY AND WELFARE GROUPS

- ATHAC CIC
- Impact4Life Wellbeing CIC
- Golden Sparkle CIC
- Communities Engage and Thrive CIC
- Vegan Vibes CIC

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

- Birchfield Residents Action Group
- Handsworth Helping Hands
- Livingstone Road Allotment
- Crick Gardens CIC

RELIGIOUS GROUPS

- Masjid-e-Nimra Mosque & Community Centre
- Putney Road Mosque
- Church Vale Mosque
- Sachkhand Nanak Dham Sikh Temple
- Seventh Day Adventist Church
- Wilton Road URC
- St Mary's Church
- Holy Trinity Church
- St Theresa's Catholic Church
- Redeemed Christian Church of God

ARTS & CULTURAL GROUPS

- Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust
- Grosvenor Road Studios
- Creative Civic Change
- Black Arts Forum
- ATHAC CIC
- Birchfield Jazz Festival
- Broadway Dance Centre

WOMEN'S GROUPS

- BBL Women's Group
- REP Furnace Theatre Group

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE GROUPS

- Birchfield Social Enterprise Hub – 22+ members
- Local corner shops
- Shopping precinct at corner of Wellington and Birchfield Roads
- One Stop Shopping Centre - not in area but an important shopping area for Birchfield Residents
- Hirons Garden Centre - Wellington Road

Costed Vision

The costed vision for Birchfield Big Local assumes that there will be approximately £430,000 remaining to spend. This includes £392,155.83 that has yet to be allocated and any underspend from the current plan which ends on 31st March 2020. This is currently estimated to be £37,159.

The costed vision is divided into five priorities as follows:

- The Partnership and Community Ownership
- Community Hub and Social Enterprise Hub
- Community Cohesion/Engagement and Developing Children and Young People
- Environmentally Conscious and Active
- Health and Wellbeing

Expenditure of the remaining Big Local funds is weighted towards the first two years and will then taper off in years 3 and 4 with the expectation that the Big Local funds will be spent by the end of March 2024. In 2020/21 it is planned to commission a bid writer who will start work on fundraising initially for the community hub development but thereafter other activities associated with the hub and the wider community.

2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
£151,170	£151,170	Other funding sources	
		127,660	



Priorities for the Action Plan

Priority 1: The partnership and community ownership

This priority area includes building the capacity of the partnership and ensuring that partnership members are well informed and proactive. It is also about how the partnership interacts with the wider community:

- How it communicates more effectively
- How it ensures that the community is more informed, engaged and responsive.
- How it builds strategic partnerships with other groups and organisations in the area.

The partnership will continue to be supported in this process by one full time and two part-time staff. The partnership is also intending to put out to tender two roles:

- A business plan and bid writer to help the partnership develop a business plan and funding strategy for the proposed Community Hub
- A Social Enterprise Hub Coordinator to build on the work started with UnLtd to support social enterprises and entrepreneurs in the area.

Priority 2: Community Hub and Social Enterprise Hub

Community Hub

The Birchfield Big Local partnership is proposing to develop a former caretaker's house at Westminster Primary School into a community hub. This will involve refurbishing the existing building and adding an extension to the rear which will more than double the space available. In 2017 Gavin Orton Architects were commissioned to produce a Project brief in consultation with residents and potential users. Following from this a concept design was created and shared widely for comment. The architect has assembled a team to work on the next stage, which is creating a developed and technical design, but before starting this phase we plan to commission someone to develop a business plan and funding strategy. This person will help with funding bids to Reaching Communities and other funders to secure the additional funds required to complete the project. Alongside this process is the formation of a CIO that will manage the building and continue the work of Birchfield Big Local after the Big Local programme finishes.

Social Enterprise Hub

Promoting and supporting social enterprise has been a key part of Birchfield Big Local almost from day one. The partnership has teamed up with UnLtd on two initiatives: A project with 15 Big Local areas looking at area based working and Resilient Communities. As a result, twenty-five UnLtd Awards have been made to twenty-three different social entrepreneurs.

As part of the Resilient Communities initiative a social enterprise hub was set up with support from Carol Reid and ATHAC CIC. This has

provided training and opportunities for one-to-one mentoring. With the support from UnLtd due to come to an end in December 2020, the partnership is planning to commission a person or persons to continue to coordinate the hub and develop an ongoing programme of training and support.

Priority 3: Community Cohesion/Engagement and Developing Children and Young People

Birchfield Big Local has a well-established programme of events and activities with the aim of bringing people together and breaking down barriers between communities.

Community events include:

- An annual Family Fun Day
- Volunteer celebration as part of Volunteers Week each June
- A family seaside coach trip
- Christmas meal for elders and other residents

In addition, there are annual events where Birchfield Big Local is represented such as the BRAG Spring and Autumn Fetes at Livingstone Allotments, the Westminster School Summer Fete, and the Birchfield Jazz Festival on the last weekend of July. In December 2019 we also took part in the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church, Handsworth.

We plan to continue with these events and with the start of Creative Civic Change in partnership with Welsh House Farm there may be

opportunities to add value to some of these events and develop new events to engage the gifts and talents of residents and celebrate heritage, arts and creativity in the area.

There are also regular activities such as English Conversation Classes and Women's group meetings that create opportunities for local people to socialise and learn new skills.

Developing children and young people

The partnership has identified two champions to work with the Youth Worker on setting up a children's and young people's task group and youth forum/panel. There are also plans to organize detached youth work sessions to engage with older young people in the area and signpost them to opportunities.

Regular play sessions will continue in the Secret Garden during the spring and summer months and a Play streets event will be held with support from The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS).

Priority 4: Environmentally conscious and active

The environment has always been a high priority for residents. This includes concerns about fly-tipping; facilities for recycling waste; the impact of vehicle emissions on air quality and the shortage of safe spaces for children to play. The partnership plans to continue to support Bloom in Birchfield, the campaign led by Birchfield Residents Action Group with the aim of encouraging greater pride in the

environment. This is part of the national It's Your Neighbourhood Awards run by the Royal Horticultural Society.

BBL has also been working with residents to refurbish and maintain a community garden and children's play space – the Secret Garden – which is one of the few open spaces in the Birchfield area. The aim is to set up steering group to help manage and maintain the site in the longer term.

Birchfield Big Local continues to meet with partners including Birmingham City Council, Midland Heart, BRAG and Handsworth Helping Hands to tackle issues around waste, litter and fly tipping in the area. Regular meetings are held of the Birchfield Environment Strategy Group; an action plan has been produced and there are plans to widen the group still further. Other issues which the group has campaigned on include the conversion of family homes to Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO's). This issue has also been taken up by the Neighbourhood Tasking Group which also includes representatives from the local Neighbourhood Forum and the police.

Through the Creative Civic Change programme there is the potential for engaging more residents in projects to enhance sites that are in the public realm but either underused or misused, for example Church Vale, which could be used more creatively to bring people together.

Priority 5: Health and Wellbeing

The focus of this priority is tackling health inequalities, the barriers to healthy lifestyles and promoting preventative actions aimed at such conditions as diabetes, cardiovascular health and obesity. Birchfield Big Local has been working with Adult Social Services in Birmingham through the Neighbourhood Network Scheme to promote activities that reduce isolation and loneliness and help older adults to continue to live independent lives. BBL is also working alongside other voluntary sector groups to engage with the NHS on initiatives that will enable greater community participation in promoting health and wellbeing, for example through social prescribing.

Much of this work will be delivered through the social enterprise hub or through projects supported through the small grants scheme.

Action Plan

Priority 1: The Partnership and Community Ownership					
Outcomes	Action	Who? (including potential partners)	Milestones	Resources (Year 1 & replicated in Year 2)	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People caring now and, in the future, Building capacity and skills in the partnership and wider community Partnership informed and proactive Community more informed, engaged and responsive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership improvement plan and training Recruit new partnership members Review communications and marketing strategy Update newsletter and website Continue to employ core staff to support partnership and work alongside residents 	BBL partnership and staff Residents Local community groups and organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership improvement plan implemented New and existing partnership members celebrated Communications strategy reviewed and updated Newsletter produced and distributed twice per year 	Staff - £55,420 Office costs - £7500 Room hire - £2500 Communications - £2000 Volunteer expenses - £1500 Training - £3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new partnership members recruited Numbers of residents participating and benefiting from training etc Visits to website/Followers on Twitter/Likes on Facebook page Feedback from newsletter and website
Priority 2: Community Hub and Social Enterprise					
Outcomes	Action	Who? (including potential partners)	Milestones	Resources	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A sustainable community hub that is a vehicle and resource for wider community activity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register as a CIO - Birchfield Community Association Commission a business plan and bid writer for the hub Progress with next stages of hub development - 	BBL partnership Westminster Primary School BCC and LEA Gavin Orton Architects and team National Lottery Community Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CIO registered with Charity Commission Business plan completed Developed and Technical Designs completed 	Community building - £30,000 Business plan writer and fundraiser - £10,000 Social Enterprise Hub Coordinator - £6,000 Loans - £3000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress with milestones for hub development Numbers of new social enterprises joining hub and numbers of training sessions held

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing income and community wealth through supporting social enterprise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> developed and technical designs (RIBA 3 & 4) Construction tender and Construction (RIBA 5) Handover of building (RIBA 6) Commission Social Enterprise Hub coordinator to develop a programme of training and support Establish a consortium of social enterprises to tender for commissions 	Social Enterprises UnLtd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of building project with handover Social Enterprise Hub Coordinator appointed Training programme in place Consortium of SE's formed, and bids made 	Job Club - £500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growth and sustainability of local social enterprises
Priority 3: Community cohesion/ engagement and Developing children and young people					
Outcomes	Actions	Who	Milestones	Resources	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breaking down barriers between communities Investing in future community leaders and active citizens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community events and activities to bring people together including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Family Fun Day Coach trip Birchfield Jazz Festival BRAG Spring & Autumn Fetes Christmas meal English Classes IT Classes Women's group Organise community conversations - opportunities for people 	Birchfield Big Local Volunteers and residents Ifa Yoruba Contemporary Arts Trust Boat House Café BRAG Livingstone Road Allotments St Mary's Church The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of community events agreed, planned and delivered Community conversations held 	Community events - £6000 English Class - £1500 Women's group - £1000 Play activities - £2500 Youth activities - £5000 Small grants - £5000 Community transport - £1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in events and feedback from people attending Participation in activities and feedback from participants Feedback from Community conversations

	<p>to come together and share what they would like to contribute</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a Children and Young People's task group & youth forum/panel • Detached youth work sessions • Youth programme including half-term and summer schemes • Develop regular play sessions at the Secret Garden and Play Streets event in partnership with others 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People's task group set up • Youth forum/panel set up • Regular Secret Garden play sessions established • Play Streets event held 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local young people engaged and feedback from participants in schemes • Number of detached sessions; young people reached and impact • Numbers of play sessions held and attendance
Priority 4: Environmentally Conscious and Active					
Outcomes	Actions	Who	Milestones	Resources	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People having pride and confidence in the area and wanting to live here 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bloom in Birchfield campaign • Widen membership of Birchfield Environment Strategy Group and Neighbourhood Tasking Group including actions on fly tipping and HMO's • Air pollution monitoring project with local schools • Projects to improve and maintain public spaces such as the Secret Garden and Church Vale for community use and 	<p>Birchfield Big Local Partnership Birchfield Residents Action Group (BRAG) Handsworth Helping Hands Crick Gardens CIC Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum Midland Heart Birmingham City Council Schools Kings College, London The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in IYN Scheme and Awards Event • Front Garden Competition entries • Successful completion of air pollution project • Management committee set up for Secret Garden 	<p>Bloom in Birchfield - £1000 Environment Strategy - Group/NTG - £1500 Green spaces e.g. Secret Garden maintenance - £1250 Heritage Trail - HLF bid</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's Your Neighbourhood Awards – Level achieved • Number of Environment Group and NTG Meetings held and attendance • Assessment of impact on environment • Feedback from children, parents and staff on air

	encourage community ownership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and engagement to raise awareness 	Creative Civic Change Statutory agencies - police and fire			pollution survey. Evaluation of impact on behaviour.
Priority 5: Health and Wellbeing					
Outcomes	Actions	Who	Milestones	Resources	Evaluation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing inequalities in health and the barriers to healthier lifestyles and promoting preventative and community-based approaches • A greater understanding of rights and people having a voice on issues affecting their health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a task/focus group with different ages to find out what people need • Engaging with initiatives such as Neighbourhood Network Scheme for older adults (50+) and the NHS on social prescribing etc • Supporting social enterprises and community interventions to promote healthy eating, exercise, better mental health and reduce isolation and loneliness. • Establish a consortium of social enterprises to tender for commissions • Work with Livingstone Allotments to improve community facilities at the Pavilion 	Birchfield Big Local ATHAC CIC Communities Engage and Thrive CIC Impact for Life Wellbeing CIC Golden Sparkle Broutal Impact Team Vegan Vybes Women's over 50's Go-Getters Group Neighbourhood Network Scheme GP practices Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG Livingstone Road Allotments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task/focus group set up • Meet and Eat set up • Consortium established • Pavilion building upgraded and available for community use 	Meet and Eat - £2000 Elders group - £2000 Pavilion project - bids to Veolia/Awards 4 All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Meet and Eat sessions held and attendance. Feedback from participants. • Number of Elders group sessions and attendance. Feedback from elders. • Examples of social enterprises engaging with NNS and NHS/CCG • Case studies of community interventions to promote health and reduce isolation

Vision and Legacy Statement

The partnership has remained true to the original vision statement, though some minor amendments were made following the away-day in 2018.

Birchfield Big Local Vision

Connecting

A well-served and connected community, providing new directions to break the poverty cycle and provide a lasting legacy.

Contributing

A community that is engaged, empowered, and enabled to address issues and 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 and stay.

At an away-day at the Midlands Arts Centre in October 2019, the partnership discussed their hopes and plans for the legacy of Birchfield Big Local and developed the following legacy statement.

Legacy statement

- A partnership of people who care about the future of the area and who communicate and engage with local people so that they know what is going on and who work with partners to achieve what's needed to make the community a better place
- A cohesive community brought together through a programme of sustainable events and community pride based on heritage, environmental activism and wellbeing, with space for young people to play
- A community that engenders opportunities for young people and supports them to become future community leaders, aspirational, creative and confident and interested in their community
- A community and enterprise hub creating local wealth, training, jobs and benefits advice and community capacity building

The legacy of Birchfield Big Local will be a combination of impact on the lives of individual people, new or strengthened relationships between residents, groups and organisations, and physical assets or activities that will continue. To facilitate this the partnership is setting up a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Foundation model) that will work alongside Birchfield Big Local and eventually take over running the proposed community hub and some of the activities. A draft constitution has already been produced and the partnership is recruiting trustees most of whom will be residents of Birchfield, starting with some of the existing partnership members.

Continuing support for the social enterprise hub is also crucial to the legacy as this is key to developing the skills and capacities of local people and providing a means for delivering future activities and services in the area. Funding for a Social Enterprise Hub Coordinator has been included in the plan for the next two years.

The partnership also plans to commission someone to produce a business plan and funding strategy for the community hub. This will include sources of funding for the building itself and for activities that take place at or from the hub. It is anticipated that the Big Local funds will be spent by March 2024, so the plan is to start fundraising now to meet any shortfall and to continue and develop new activities.

Appendix: List of Community assets

Schools:

St Mary's C of E Primary and Nursery Academy,
Hamstead Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 2RW
Head: Mrs Jo Booker
Tel: 0121 554 3751

Westminster Road Primary and Junior School
Westminster Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 3PR
Head: Mr Maneer Samad
Tel: 0121 464 2369

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School
Havelock Road
Handsworth, B20 3LP
Head: Mrs P Burns
Tel: 0121 464 9900

St Clare's Catholic Primary School
Robert Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 3RT
Head: Mrs Victoria Rivett
Tel. 0121 554 3289

Children's Centres – Lime Tree and Cherry Tree (both outside the Big Local area)

Faith organisations

United Reformed Church
13 Wilton Road
Handsworth,
Birmingham, B20 3RX
Contact: Rev Peter Little – Tel. 0121 327 6364

Muslim Foundation & Cultural & Social Centre Mosque
55 Hutton Road,
Birmingham, B20 3RA
Tel. Mobile 07811104801

Seventh Day Adventist Church
98 Hutton Road,
Handsworth,
Birmingham, B20 3RD
0121 344 3672

Putney Road Mosque
27 Putney Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 3PP
0121 551 9012

The Redeemed Christian Church of God (Salvation Theatre)
Westminster Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20
Contact: Dr Tunde Lawal
Tel: 0121 515 2125

Church Vale Mosque
53 Church Vale
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20
07957346064

Sikh Temple
Sachkhand Nanak Dham (International)
11, Churchill Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 3TN
0121 554 - 2422

Faith organisations based just outside the Big Local area but including the area as part of their parish or catchment

St Mary's Church
By Handsworth Park
Hamstead Road
Birmingham, B20 2RW
Contact: Rev Dr Bob Stephens
Tel: 0121 554 3407

Holy Trinity Church
213 Birchfield Road
Contact: Rev Canon Eve Pitts
Tel: 0121 356 4241

St Teresa's R C Church
273 Wellington Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 2QQ
Contact: Rev Fr David Newell
Tel. 0121 356 4402

Perry Barr Methodist Church
Aston Lane
Birmingham
Contact: Rev Samuel Uwimana
Tel: 0121 448 8033

Jame Masjid Mosque
2 Trinity Road
Aston
Birmingham B6 6AG
Tel: 0121 554 9157

Community groups

Birchfield Residents Action Group (BRAG)

Contact: Barbara Petris (Chair)

Tel: 0121 356 0859

Birchfield Neighbourhood Forum

Contact: Michael Tye (Acting Secretary)

Tel: 07791 379939

Handsworth Helping Hands

Contact: Linda Baddeley (Secretary)

Crick Gardens CIC

Crick Lane

Handsworth

Birmingham B20 2RJ

Contact: Abi 07757612728

Livingstone Road Allotment Association

Contact: Albert Russell

Tel: 07508 469316

ATHAC CIC

16 Grosvenor Road

Handsworth

Birmingham B20 3NP

Contact: Carol Reid

Tel: 07977 880132

Social enterprises

Birchfield Social Enterprise Hub - List of members

- ATHAC CIC
- Ashebo CIC
- Birchfield Jazz Festival
- Black HeART
- Breathe in Media
- Broutal Impact Team
- Communities Engage and Thrive CIC
- Crick Gardens CIC
- Disco Inclusive
- Eco Garden Services
- Golden Sparkle CIC
- Harper Nunes Associates
- Hope Acupuncture Clinic
- Impact 4 Live Wellbeing CIC
- Limitless Fitness Centre CIC
- New Beginnings
- OVP Coaching
- Phil Mckenley – Music Therapy
- Sonia's Unique Gift Shop
- Vegan Vybes
- Winston Harris
- Women's Over-50 Go-Getters Group

Parks/Children's Play Areas/Allotments

Livingstone Road Allotments

Secret Garden – off Grosvenor Avenue, Hutton and Westminster Roads

Just outside the area:
Church Hill Road Play Area
Handsworth Park
Victoria Jubilee Allotments

Other community facilities

Grosvenor Road Studios (formerly CMAT Centre)
16 Grosvenor Road
Handsworth
Birmingham, B20 3NP

Broadway Dance Centre
42 Livingstone Road
Perry Barr
Birmingham B20 3LL
Contact: Michael and Francis Dawson
Tel: 0121 356 4663

The Lighthouse – outside Birchfield but a potential resource for young people
100 Alma Way
Aston
Birmingham B19 2LN
Tel: 0121 464 3534

Local businesses

Local corner shops
Church Vale shops
Shopping precinct at corner of Wellington and Birchfield Roads including a Post Office
Hirons Garden Centre – Wellington Road
One Stop Shopping Centre – not in Big Local area but an important shopping area for Birchfield residents

Social housing providers:
Midland Heart
Trident Housing Association
Family Housing Association
Birmingham Municipal Housing Trust
Nehemiah Housing Association