

2019 – 2021 Plan

Cars Area



Together



Cars Area Together – our new plan.

The new plan has resulted from 2 sessions held during March 2019 where we invited residents, neighbours, partners and stakeholders to get together to look at what we had done already and what we still need to do to make our community and neighbourhood a better place to live. We are grateful for their time, contributions and support. This made the whole process a lively series of debates to which everyone contributed.

As well as refreshing the priorities, Cars Area Together is proposing to adopt a new process for recognising and recording progress against these priorities. To date, an Action Plan approach has been used with each Priority being assigned a lengthy list of activities to be delivered. While this has worked to date as an aid for “getting things going”, the feeling is now that a more strategic approach is required to focus resources more effectively and helps to build key partnerships that will play a part in the long term success of Big Local – or as we prefer to call ourselves – Cars Area Together.

Each of the new priorities in our Plan will have a key theme with a strategic goal. The Partnership feel that they are ready to take this step towards more shared responsibility so that they are driving the plans for what the remainder of the funding can provide for in the Cars Area. The plan encourages us to learn new ways of working with key partners and will establish some fundamental building blocks for Cars Area Together to be sustainable post Big Local.

In response to our shift of approach and in preparing for the next phase of Cars Area Together, our vision statement is:-

Creating a greater sense of community spirit, ownership and responsibility

Priority One - Cars Environment Together



2019 Goal	Obstacles	What we need to do	Who? How?
To Save Bosworth Wood Field	Red Tape	We have to stay engaged in the planning process.	By regular links with the various local and central government departments. These include a list of organisations. Working group with Terms of Reference and reporting back to partnership quarterly.
		Find out who we need to be talking to.	Partnership to receive regular updates from the LA. Invite the "right" people to Partnership meetings. Keep in touch with local Councillors who have an interest in retaining the space for the community. These to include (list of named people)
		We have to be present at important meetings.	Ensure we are made aware of consultation events, public enquiries, information being shared, any updates.
		We have to be ahead of the timetable.	See timetable from Solihull MBC re Free School selection process. Make contact with preferred provider once process is underway.
	Not a loud enough voice	Get the right partners supporting us.	The new school – once the selection process has been completed (see timetable published via Public Realm department.), Solihull MBC, follow up visit of Leader of Council, keep local MP (Caroline Spellman) informed.
		Learn how to work with the media	Seek advice from others e.g. Local Trust? Develop relationship further of BCFC Community Trust who can advise on marketing.
		Clarity of our message	Publish regular updates/statements/agree joint statements with Solihull MBC. Develop a manifesto statement from Partnership regarding our position for the field.
		Sharing information with the community.	Via social media, newsletter updates, tweets, websites.
	Can we trust decision makers?	Goal posts keep moving	Make sure we keep on people's mailing lists – e.g. Planning, Education, Councillors, and Parish Councillors.
		Have to keep our integrity	Make sure our local "Field Group" – made up of local residents, councilors and staff are fully informed/share information so we always know the accurate current position.
		Have to keep up to date.	
		Manage being "stuck in the middle"	Team explain to residents and partners via social media, newsletter that we will pass on comments, recommendations, queries from local residents and in turn be the "conduit" for any information coming from the planners, education
	Are we ready?	Have we done all we can?	Keep the small projects going – litter collections, sports etc. Keep the field busy – events, sports, groups.



		Do we have enough funding?	Keep control of our spend, monies remaining and explore possibility of raising further funding via fund raiser.
		We are only as strong as our team.	Make sure that staff, residents and partners understand their roles. Explore Street Champions being based across our area to keep in contact at a street level. Make sure Street Connectors remain visible across the Cars Area.
		Encourage more people to become part of our Partnership	Accept that not everyone wants to be a full "partner" but many will help us to progress.



Priority Two – “Cars Traditions Together”

2019 Goal	Obstacles	What we need to do	Who? How?
To find more volunteers.	Communication	Message too general?	Request support from Local trust to develop a branding communication strategy.
		Keep in touch	Social Media (do we need extra help to get messages out via other media e.g. Instagram?)
		Personalise communication	Find ways of addressing people as individuals, recognizing contributions made.
		Once a year not enough	Keep in regular touch with volunteers – to plan how to stay in touch, how to find out what people want to do, identify training and “get together’s” for volunteers. (Local Trust may be able to help with suggested good ways from other projects)
	Nurturing	Valuing volunteers	Access to training courses, articles in the newsletter, meeting visiting dignitaries, yellow tops.
		Reward and celebrate	“Friends of the Cars”, recognizing and celebrating our “heroes”. Arrange awards evening/events?
		Adapt to interests of different volunteers	Encourage and support volunteers to come up with their own group and activity ideas. Develop a “ladder of participation” – encouraging people to do as much as they want.
		Matching	Skills audits – who is good at doing what?
	Engaging Our Existing Groups	Build on relationships	Group “Get Together’s” – team to arrange twice per year where possible to bring together groups delivering in our area.
		Help them to help us to find volunteers	Use resources from Colebridge Trust, Warwickshire CAVA, Solihull Stronger Communities, Smith’s Wood Partnership.
		Help groups grow	Funding advisor to be appointed to work with existing and new groups?
	Working with other partners	St Clements Church	Sharing ideas with the local church on what activities are being delivered at their venue, what can be delivered jointly? Ensuring we offer the best menu for our community.
		Solihull Active	Sports and wellbeing activities.
		Warwickshire CAVA	Support for groups. To be investigated.
		Solihull NSVCA	Support for volunteers
		BCFC Community Trust	Strands for developing various activities – using Field and other local venues e.g. schools.



Priority Three – “Cars Community Together”

2019 Goal	Obstacles	What we need to do	Who? How?
To show we are listening and responding	We have to keep our promises	Be honest about what we can and can't do.	Regular updates via social media, Partnership working – with the right partners.
		Don't over promise	Honest communication about Bosworth Field campaign
		Tell people what we have done	Update all means of notifying e.g. social media, Website,
		Evidence	Deliver specific projects in response to resident feedback – street lighting, collecting evidence, case studies,
	Communication	Case studies	To be collected by team and published via website, Facebook
		Video/Audio	As above
		Newsletter	Make sure goes out quarterly as requested and extend delivery area to neighbouring streets.
		“What's app” groups	Develop several depending on interest e.g. Car boots, activity groups etc.
	Respond to outside as well as to the residents	HS2 Funding/employment/social enterprise advice	Colebridge Trust will help with this. We need to make sure we do not miss out on opportunities. - not just funding, also new chances to be involved for our residents, employment, health & wellbeing.
		Active Communities – sports and physical activities opportunities.	CSW Sport and Solihull Active will support this development
		Getting our message out to a wider audience	Build an active circulation list (NB staff team and Partnership)
		Keeping membership of the right Partnerships	Ensure we are active, vocal members of the Smith's Wood and Solihull & east Birmingham Corridor group.
	Don't just do it ourselves	Encourage residents to do things themselves	Training opportunities, mentoring to be offered via partners, Colebridge Trust, Warwickshire CAVA and others.
		Educate/Training for all.	Have champions e.g. Street Champions, IT champions etc.
		“If you want this to continue.”	Getting the message out
		Learning how to work in Partnership	Looking at local delivery partners who could become part of the legacy strategy e.g. connections with other local centres in Smith's Wood.



Priority Four – “Cars Wellbeing Together”

2019 Goal	Obstacles	What we need to do	Who? How?
Get Everybody Doing Something (“Small Steps”)	How do we reach everyone?	Enhance what we have already got.	Luke, Sadie and partners
		Make it visible	
		Buddying system	
		Education	
	It takes resources	Partnerships	Local GPs, Police, CSW Sport, Solihull Active, BCFC Community Trust, Active Communities, St Clements Church
		Overcoming low income	Look for funding – via a fund raiser?
		We have to save Bosworth Wood Field	
		We have to save the use Auckland hall – or find another resource we can use.	
	Need to understand what “Well Being” means to The Cars	We have to start talking to residents and partners	Gateway Family Services? CCG?
		Talking makes a difference.	
		Small Steps programme	
		Small Talk programme	
	The will to do it.	Change the culture of The Cars with regard to Health & Wellbeing.	Work with Active Communities, Solihull Active, and Run Birmingham/Solihull.
			Gateway Family Services etc. – make contact with new providers



Priority Five – “The Cars Legacy Together”

2019 Goal	Obstacles	What we need to do	Who? How?
To make sure we are in the right place to take opportunities	We need to update our vision for the second half of Big Local. I.e. We are no longer getting started, we are now working towards legacy.	What are we good at now?	Annual Review completed April 2019
		Refresh our vision	Updated as part of review
		New priorities to reflect where we are now	New priorities agreed by Partnership and forwarded to Local Trust
		Annual plan to deliver these proprieties	2019-2021 (with mid-term reflection)
	Identifying a legacy model which fits Cars Area.	What resources will it take?	Looking at budget requirements.
		Time to start experimenting	Researching governance structures and identifying options.
		What are others doing? Local Trust legacy workshops.	Team including staff, partnership members, anyone interested in looking at ideas.
		Make sure we are working in wider context of smith’s wood	What are the Council/Developers planning for our area?
	Recognizing that we might not be big enough to go it alone.	Identify potential partners from Smiths Wood	Contact other community centres and neighbourhood organisations and set up a working group to make sure we are sharing ideas, groups. etc.
		Work with Strategic Partners to find out how we fit their long term plans.	SMBC, BCFC etc. Can we become a pilot area?
		Broaden membership of the Partnership	Who else could we bring on board?
		Is there someone/something we are missing?	
	We need to protect what we have already got.	Bosworth Wood Field	See priority 1(North Solihull Development Plans)
		Auckland Hall	As above- the Hall is part of LDP.
		Successful groups who bring our community together	Working with them and funding advisor to ensure their long term future.