

Residents consulted on Shenley plans



As part of Shenley Redevelopment Phase 1, we are considering laying out a recreational area for young people.

The area will be split into three with part of it fenced off as a place for ball games and part of it designated a play area for young children. A third section has yet to be designated a use.

"In order to involve the community in the redevelopment plans, over 50 people attended a consultation event designed to gain the opinions of local residents. Residents were invited to drop in and view the Trust's plans,

share ideas, fill out suggestion slips and feedback forms." BVT Community Services Director, Gloria Gain, told Outlook.

Also discussed at the event was the possibility of including a small skateboard park and a youth shelter and leaving the third section with flowerbeds and benches for pleasant walks.

"Feedback has been mixed; many residents praised BVT and wholeheartedly approved the Trust's plans... but some folk registered concern at the skateboard park idea," Gloria added.

BVT Trustees will be informed of all concerns, both positive and negative,

and once they have reached agreement on the layout for the development, the consultation process will be repeated. If and when planning permission is sought, Birmingham City Council will also consult with residents.

Gloria concluded: "I'd like to assure Outlook readers that all views will be seriously considered and we'd encourage everyone to have their say."

Finally, as a temporary measure, until a final decision has been made and planning permission sought, two five-a-side football pitches have been marked out on the land for the use of young people during the summer holidays.

Bells fall silent



One of Bournville's most famous landmarks is the Carillon and every few years it is necessary to paint the exposed steelwork. This is a very specialised job which ideally needs to be undertaken in calm, dry weather and when Bournville School is closed.

This summer sees the next re-painting and from July to September the tower will be covered in scaffolding with the bells being silent for the whole period. Once up there the painting team have to be very careful as it is necessary to ensure no paint drips on the bells as this could easily alter the tone.

The cupola (the proper name for this bell tower) was designed by Alexander Harvey in 1934 and uses 8 copper covered pillars and

a copper covered roof. To allow the sound of the bells to be heard, there are no sides to the cupola. The steel structure is therefore totally exposed and needs careful maintenance to keep it in good order.

The Bournville Carillon consists of 48 bells that together weigh 17.5 tons. This makes it one of the largest in the Country. The big bell weighs in at 3.25 tons, with the smallest only 12 pounds.

George Cadbury first installed the Carillon in 1906 with 22 bells which were increased in 1923 and again in 1934 when they were moved into the cupola. In 1950 the two big bells were moved higher. Almost all the bells include inscriptions or quotations, with several including reference to the memory of George Cadbury who died on 24 October 1922.

As part of BVT's commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the people living on its Estates, the Trust has available funding to support tenant-devised projects that will benefit the community.

In short, the Trust will sponsor projects that: improve the environments in which tenants live; improve the tenants' quality of life, or; reduce crime, neighbour nuisance and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

Funding will be made available for the project provided:

- there is a real need for it.
- it covers one or more of the above aims.
- it will benefit Trust tenants and the wider community.
- that the proposing tenants have the skills to deliver it, or are willing to undertake the relevant training to enable them to participate effectively.

Projects could include community gardens, crime prevention, play areas, environmental projects - such as recycling or tree planting - and training in computing, parenting, first aid, literacy or book-keeping etc.

You can apply to BVT for funding either directly - by completing an application form - or submit an idea to your local tenant association.

Your application will be passed to the 2000+ Group sub-committee for assessment and if it is successful and if needed, ongoing project support will be provided.

If it is unsuccessful you will quickly be told why and, should you so wish, be assisted in appealing against the decision or making a further application.

If you have an idea for a project and would like to discuss it further, please contact Zoey Stanton on 0121-415 6518 or via email at zoeystanton@bvt.org.uk

Got an idea and need funding?



All aboard for Oswaldtwistle

Did you know, if you have lived on the BVT Estate for more than 50 years, you are eligible to join the Trust's popular 50+ Club?

50+ Club members have just returned from an enjoyable holiday in Eastbourne, organised by BVT Community Assistant, Marie Docker.

In a letter to Marie, Hilda Elsmore and her sister Flo Beasley, of Kings Norton, wrote: "Just another word of thanks to express our appreciation for all your hard work, looking after us 'old dears'! You made a wonderful effort and we all agreed the holiday was a complete success. Good luck and many thanks once again!"

Marie is currently accepting bookings for two 'days out' to Oswaldtwistle Mills in Lancashire, the first in September, the second in November. These events are open to all Seniors on a first come, first served basis.

The September return executive coach trip will include a light lunch and tea dance and costs £19 per person and the November trip, costing £29, will include Christmas dinner and cake, coffee and mince pies and a Christmas carol sing-a-long!

If you have lived on the Estate for more than 50 years and would like to join the 50+ Club ... or you would like to book a place on either trip, please hurry and contact Marie on 0121-415 6481.