

Improving Your Local Area

*Working together to make
Birmingham more age-friendly*



Produced by Grace Wood, Professor Afroditi Stathi and Dr Jessica Pykett
in collaboration with Citizen Scientists and Community Stakeholders

Foreward

Improving Your Local Area

Improving your local area is an innovative public engagement project, conducted at the University of Birmingham, that explores urban influences directly impacting older adults' lives across Birmingham. With a focus on healthy and active ageing, we have collaborated with older adult citizen scientists and a range of community stakeholders in Birmingham to co-produce recommendations for improving local urban areas.



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- the 17 citizen scientists who guided the project and co-produced its outcomes for their time, effort and input.
- the 22 stakeholders who engaged throughout the project for their time, effort and input.
- the University of Birmingham Public Engagement team who provided funding and support.
- the Stanford Our Voice initiative, Professor Abby King and Ann Banchoff for their support.

We acknowledge that the views presented are not representative of all older adults and community stakeholders across Birmingham.

About us



Grace Wood is a doctoral researcher from the West Midlands, researching the interactions between urban environments and active and healthy ageing through citizen science methods.

Professor Afroditi Stathi is an expert in the field of physical activity and community health with research expertise in the design and implementation of community-based, active ageing programmes.

Dr Jessica Pykett is a social and political geographer with research interests in governance, knowledge practices, policy innovation and political subjectivities.

Engagement

We would like to extend our thanks to the people listed below, as well as all other people who were engaged throughout the project.



Citizen Scientists

Ann Beattie	Ian Ellis	Harriet Martin	Sue Silk
Douglas Beattie	Aart Heesterman	Julia Morris	Nicholas Tulley
Robert Cummins	Wiebina Heesterman	Jean Phillips	
Valerie Edkins	Sharda Lavingia	Richard Phillips	
Jean Elledge	Viren Lavingia	Lucy Sobrero	



Community Stakeholders

Jessica Allan – Bournville Village Trust	Councillor Fred Grindrod – Labour for Bournville and Cotteridge
Jo Bagby – Thrive Together Birmingham	Harry Guildford – Bournville Village Trust
Karen Bennett – Selly Oak Constituency Neighbourhood Network Scheme	Maria Hughes – Birmingham LGBT
Paul Campbell – Birmingham City Council	Helen Jenkins – Birmingham City Council
Karen Cheney – Selly Oak Constituency Neighbourhood Network Scheme	Ridhi Kalaria - Sustrans
Councillor Liz Clements – Labour for Bournville and Cotteridge	Councillor Mary Locke – Labour for Stirchley Ward
Lauren Deere – University of Birmingham	Dr Carlo Luiu – University of Birmingham
David Elliot – Office for Health Improvement and Disparities	Amy Parker – Birmingham City Council
Ian Ellis – Selly Oak Constituency Neighbourhood Network Scheme	Matt Powell - Kings Heath BID
Theresa Gordon – Bournville Village Trust	George Unsworth - Mortar
	Benita Wishart – Birmingham Voluntary Service Council

Contents

Introduction.....1

Citizen Scientists and Location.....2

Project Steps.....3

Stage 1 - Discover Together Groups.....4

Stage 2 - Discovery Tool Walks.....5

Stage 3 & 4 - Discuss Together Groups and
Improving Your Local Area Workshops.....6

Co-produced Recommendations.....7

Project Future Steps.....13

References.....14

Appendices 1- Co-produced Recommendations
for Local Areas.....15

Improving Your Local Area

Introduction

Improving your local area is a public engagement project that employed a citizen science co-creation approach to identify urban influences that impact active and healthy ageing across Birmingham. Citizen scientists aged 60 and above, alongside community stakeholders, were engaged to collaborate with researchers, direct the project, and co-produce outcomes for improving local urban areas.



Why Birmingham?

Although Birmingham is identified as having a younger population than the national average¹, by 2038 there will be an additional 43,700 individuals aged 65 and above in Birmingham. This is a 29.5% rise in those aged 65+ compared to a 6.5% for those aged 16 to 64². In Birmingham, the healthy life expectancy for those aged 65 and above is also lower compared to the national average, with older men living only 8 years in good health and women living only 9³. To address these current trends, tackling the wider determinants of health, wellbeing and improving older adult lifestyles is key for healthy ageing⁴.

It is well-understood that urban environments influence an individual's ability to be active and healthy as they age⁴. Birmingham Policy Commission's 2014 *'Healthy Ageing in the 21st Century'*⁶ report identified the significance of physical and social environments for older adults' health and wellbeing. What is still required though is a need for older adults to have a "louder voice"⁶ in relation to their local environments and communities. In doing so, the local level pathways between urban features and healthy ageing can be identified and effectively shape the opportunity to live and age well.

Why 'Citizen Science'?



To incorporate the voices of older adults into initiatives for their local urban areas, approaches are required that can engage directly with these individuals. In doing so, local knowledge and experiences can be shared with decision-makers and community stakeholders to enable relevant and wanted initiatives to be developed.

Citizen science can engage local residents in all stages of a project to co-produce its processes and outcomes⁷. It enables residents to direct the focus of a project, collect their own data, and take part in participatory discussion processes to co-create outcomes and solutions. Citizen science has been effectively applied in health and urban domains, with local expertise of older residents directing relevant outcomes for altering local urban spaces to promote health and wellbeing⁸.

Citizen Scientists and Location

Citizen Scientists

A total of 17 older adult citizen scientists were recruited via emails to community organisations and groups. Citizen scientists were engaged in the project from November 2020 to January 2022. The demographics of these individuals were:

- ❑ **Age Range** – 62 to 88 years (Mean age = 72, (7.5 SD))
- ❑ **Sex** – 11 Women and 6 Men
- ❑ **Ethnicity** – White British = 10, Asian British (Indian) = 2, White European = 4, and Mixed White American = 1
- ❑ **Work Status** – Retired = 14 and part time = 3

Location

Citizen scientists resided across 11 wards of Birmingham including:

- ❑ Shard End = 1
- ❑ Kings Heath = 2
- ❑ Sutton Four Oaks = 2
- ❑ Moseley = 1
- ❑ Selly Oak = 2
- ❑ Bournville & Cotteridge = 5
- ❑ Harborne = 1
- ❑ Acocks Green = 1
- ❑ Edgbaston = 1
- ❑ Perry Bar = 1

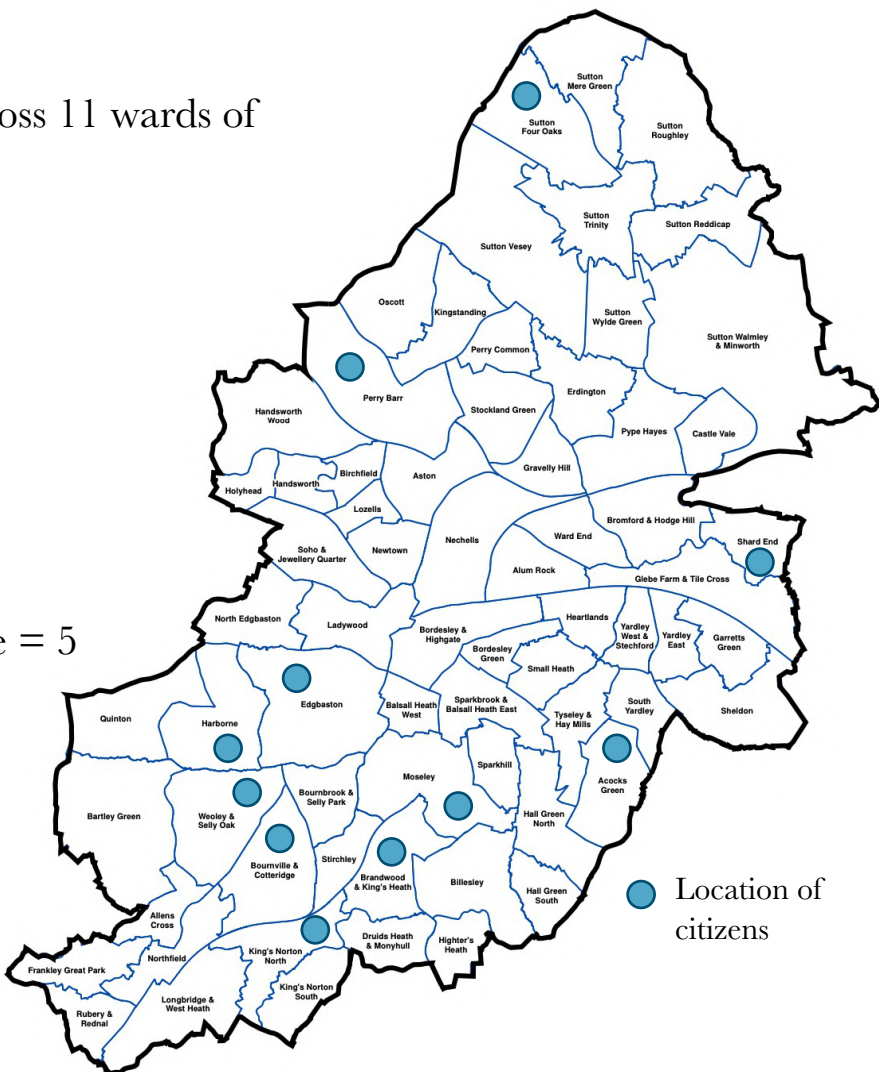
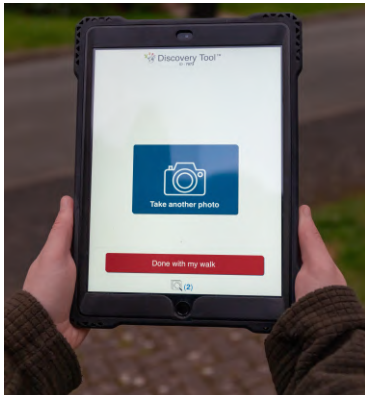
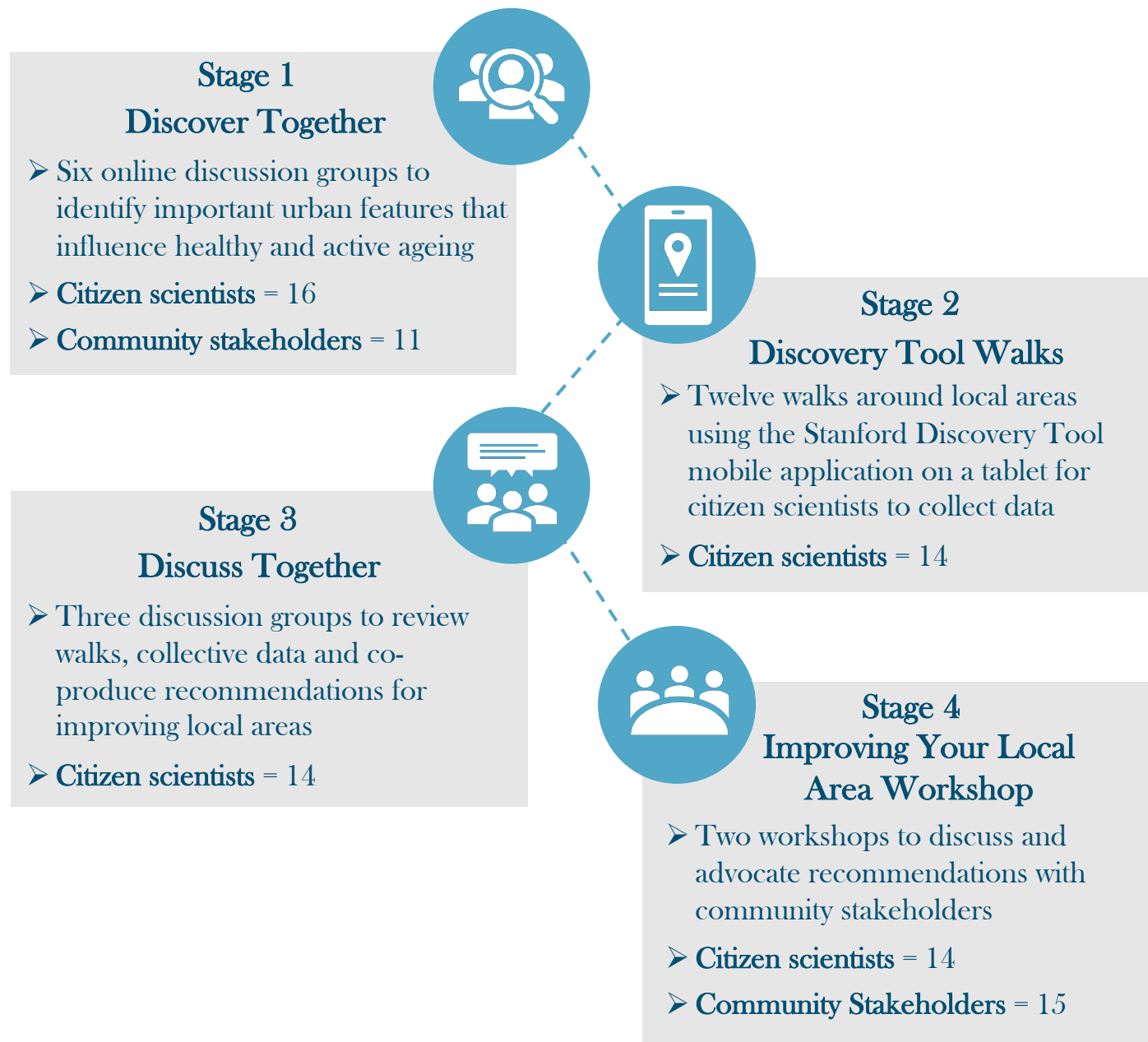


Figure 1. Ward map of Birmingham, UK.

Project Steps

The Improving Your Local Area project was based on the principles of the Stanford University *Our Voice Citizen Science Framework for Health Equity*⁵ and followed four stages:



Stage 1- Discover Together Groups



Six Discover Together groups were held with 16 of the 17 citizen scientists and 11 community stakeholders, aiming to discuss the barriers and facilitators of active and healthy ageing in Birmingham. Due to Covid-19, the discussion groups were shifted from in-person to digital via Zoom online video calls.

Barriers and Facilitators to Active and Healthy Ageing

A total of 13 barrier themes and 8 facilitator themes were identified by citizen scientists and community stakeholders. The themes highlighted a range of interconnected and multi-level barrier and facilitator themes across urban spaces. Some themes matched between citizen scientists and stakeholders whilst others differed.

The themes covered different elements of **personal** (e.g. *health and mobility, ageism*), **environmental** (e.g. *outdoor spaces and infrastructure, transportation*), **socio-cultural** (e.g. *lack or presence of community support and activities*), **economic** and **policy** (e.g. *transportation, technology*) domains of urban environments in Birmingham.

Some themes presented both a barrier and facilitator, such as

Covid-19. This theme was highlighted to increase physical activity and time outdoors for some citizen scientists whilst reducing it for others due to health risks.

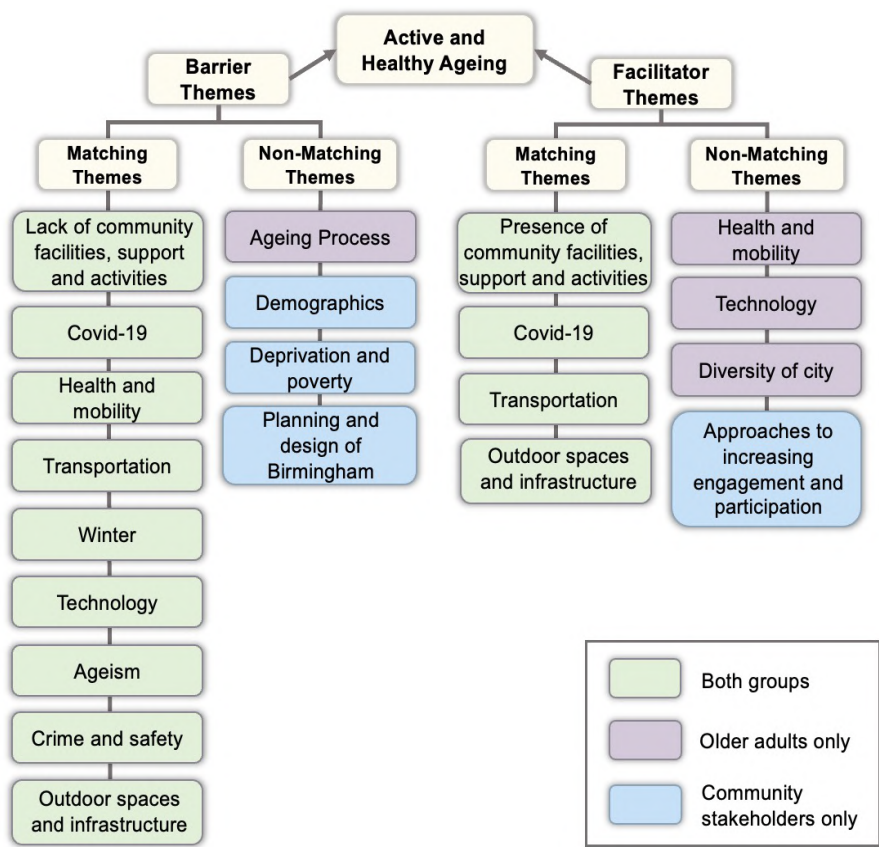


Figure 2. Urban barrier and facilitator themes influencing active and healthy ageing. Themes in green matched between older adults and stakeholders, whilst themes in purple and blue differed.

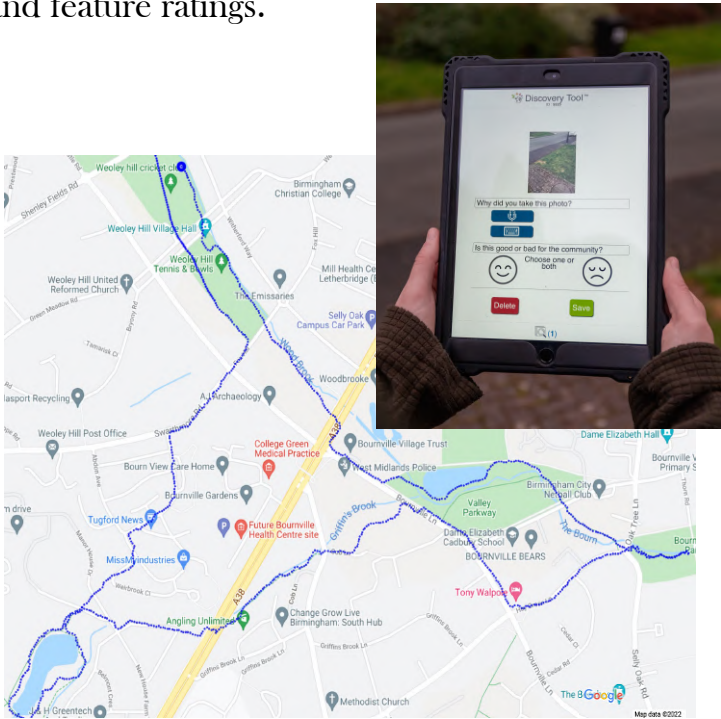
Stage 2 - Discovery Tool Walks



Twelve Discovery Tool walks took place with 14 of the 17 citizen scientists across 11 wards of Birmingham. The *Our Voice* Discovery Tool facilitated citizen scientists to identify and collect data about their local areas through geotagged photos, audio and text comments, and feature ratings.

Discover Together Walks

Citizen scientists were asked to choose the walks based on meaningful and everyday locations they use in their local areas. Elements of local urban environments were identified as barriers or facilitators by citizen scientists along the walk. These were photographed, provided with text or audio comments, and rated good or bad for their local community.



Facilitators of Active Ageing



Barriers of Active Ageing



Examples include the presence of facilities and well-managed green spaces as facilitators, whilst poor air quality and broken pavements from parked cars were barriers.

Stage 3 & 4 - Discuss Together Groups and Improving Your Local Area Workshop

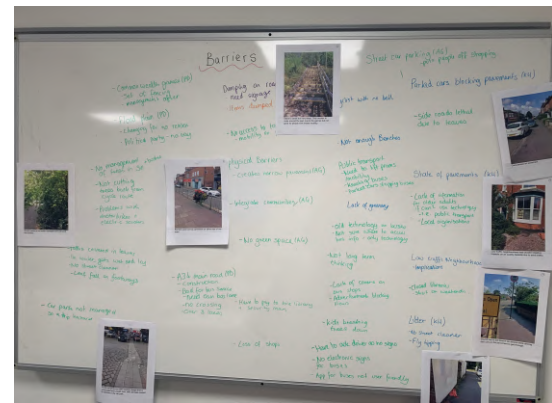


Stage 3 – Discuss Together Groups

Three in-person discussion groups were held with 12 of the 17 citizen scientists to discuss the data collected at stages 1 and 2. Two zoom online video discussions were also held with 2 citizen scientists. Each citizen scientist was invited to propose their own recommendation for their local area, which appear in appendix 1, and co-produce collective recommendations for improving urban areas of Birmingham.



Stage 4 – Improving Your Local Area Workshops



Two public engagement workshops with 14 of the 17 citizen scientists and 15 community stakeholders were held at The Exchange in Birmingham city centre. The 6 co-produced collective recommendations were discussed with stakeholders to develop ideas and feasible recommendations that can be actioned.



The following pages present the 6 co-produced recommendations and an ideas guide discussed with citizen scientists and community stakeholders for implementing recommendations through; 1) Local communities; 2) Public health and planning; 3) Businesses and private sectors; and 4) Public health policy.

Co-Produced Recommendations



1. “Provide funding for maintenance, services, and care for local spaces, and in particular green spaces”

- What?** To provide accessible and clean spaces.
- Why?** Increase or improve services including street cleaning, emptying bins more regularly, and incorporate care from local people and ‘friends of parks’ groups.
- How?** Cutting back trees and bushes from paths which prevents walking and cycling, and ensuring pavements are in good condition and curbs are easily visible.
- When?** All year round but with some maintenance services, such as street cleaning, particularly in winter.
- Who?** Active citizens, local community assets and groups, Birmingham City Council, local businesses and the private sector.

Citizen Scientist and Stakeholder Ideas



Ideas Guide



Guidance

Local communities

- “Prioritise important local services and spaces”
- “Set up a small group of like-minded people to pull things together”
- “Suggestions of Brownie groups and schools, and social media galvanising a different kind of energy”

- Empower citizens to develop a localism agenda and resident associations
- Be active citizens to guide councils and MPs
- Engage local volunteers and the community to provide maintenance and services

Public health and planning

- “The city council has got to let go and enable groups to do stuff ... if you want community activity, let communities get on with it.”
- “There is an educational piece here for young people who can contribute to this”
- “There is a programme of leaf cleaning after the main leaf fall, if you get this into the programme, at least it will get a once over”

- Work with and enable local groups to maintain spaces
- Consult Friends of Parks groups with budgets
- Connect with local assets and schools for maintenance services
- Embed maintenance services into current council programmes
- Engage with councils ‘match funding’ for projects
- Provide equal distribution of funding to local groups
- Develop more joined-up services

Businesses and private sectors

- “Look at the volunteer resources that come from the private sector”
- “A levy for private events ... that would create a pot of money that can be directly put back”

- Engage with private sector volunteers and services
- Impose private sector levy for green space events

Co-Produced Recommendations

2. “Provide toilets in public spaces, green spaces and local areas”

What? Provide greater access to public toilets in public spaces, high streets and green spaces.

Why? Older individuals can go to open spaces and drink water when they go out.

How? Provide accessible toilets and implement Community Toilet Schemes for access to toilets in shops and cafes.

When? All year round.

Who? Local groups, community stakeholders, younger age groups, local businesses and the private sector.



Ideas Guide

Citizen Scientist and Stakeholder Ideas

“There is a group like friends of Cotteridge park ... and they have a really dynamic fundraising programme”

“If you have community toilets you have to pay for, most people don’t mind paying 20p ... it’s a way of providing funding to keep them clean ”

“look at the wider benefits of bringing more people to the high street and developing relationships with local traders”

“Community toilet scheme is far more likely to be effective than expecting the council to put up public toilets”

“shop keepers found they benefited from it, so people who were coming to the toilet or have a seat became customers”

“one of our members of staff whose expert by experience and did some fantastic training around what to do for risks”

“If young people are doing this then there is a piece that goes back into education to show young people the knock-on effect of vandalism on toilets”

Guidance

Local communities

- Dynamic fundraising from local groups
- Develop funding to maintain public toilets

Public health and planning and Businesses and private sectors

- Implement a **Community Toilet Scheme**:
 - More effective for providing public toilets
 - Engage community assets and high streets
 - Provide good PR, signage and information
 - Get feedback from areas already implementing the scheme
 - Reduce business rates
 - Demonstrate incentives for shops
 - Identify the risks and available resources
- Provide port-a-loos in green spaces

Public health policy

- Re-educate younger people on the importance of public toilets
- Marry up issues of vandalism, younger age groups and public toilets

Co-Produced Recommendations



3. “More enforcement and regulation of parking in local areas”

- What?** Stop cars parking on pavements.
- Why?** Prevents pavements from being damaged and becoming a trip hazard and increases accessibility for walking and emergency services.
- How?** Stronger enforcement of cars parking on pavements, including in school zones, and use tarmac rather than slabs where pavement parking is required.
- When?** All year round.
- Who?** Active citizens, community stakeholders, schools, businesses and the private sector, Birmingham City Council and central government.

Citizen Scientist and Stakeholder Ideas

💡 Ideas Guide 💡

Guidance

Local communities

- Report drivers parking on pavements
- Introduce pilot schemes for school drop-off and pick-up
- Drivers taking personal responsibility

Public health and planning and Businesses and private sectors

- Increase parking enforcement
- Introduce local parking campaigns
- Provide a city car share scheme
- Increase confidence in public transportation
- Generate developments that reduce car ownership
- Tarmac or use resin on small sections of pavements where there are no other parking possibilities
- Adding more double yellow lines
- Develop shared spaces between pedestrians and drivers
- Manage available parking better

Public health policy

- Increase road tax
- Charge households with more than one car
- Decrease public transportation costs

“Do the reporting, you have got to do your bit”

“The primary school has a walking bus, there are 25 kids and parents drop them off in a local car park”

“It’s a journey that we are all on and actually people have to start taking some personal responsibility”

“Generating developments where owning a car is not essential”

“If we are going to reduce the number of cars then car share schemes have to be part of it”

“make it a genuine shared space... if it was just one surface level and bricked then people might feel more inclined to see it as a shared space”

“Tarmac one section and leave slab for the other so people can pull off without smashing pavement slabs”

“Impose a tax on households with more than one car”

“Making public transport free and frequent might persuade people to not have a car”

Co-Produced Recommendations

4. Provide access to local information and resources, including a digital and non-digital collective information point

- What?** Provide access to up-to-date information for relevant local resources, services and groups in Birmingham.
- Why?** Older individuals will feel connected and have access to much needed local information and support.
- How?** Develop one central collective point that provides up-to-date and accessible information for local groups and services. Libraries should be prioritised for non-digital access.
- When?** All year round.
- Who?** Local groups, community stakeholders, local businesses and the private sector, Birmingham city council and central government.



Citizen Scientist and Stakeholder Ideas

Ideas Guide

Guidance

“What do we mean by information...I think unpicking it [*the recommendation*] and thinking in terms of local community-based activity... thinking about things that are already in place and how to keep these up to date”

“Word of mouth is definitely still the best way people find out about good stuff ... conversation is much more important”

“Having a wide active community infrastructure, that’s libraries, community facilities, assets where people can go”

“Local places that become known as a source of up to date and current information become very valuable .. they are much better at connecting people”

“Projects older adults are involved in are super important, they share information out locally and people will chat to each other”

“if you have one central point that linked out to other places, it is going back to joined up thinking”

“It’s got to be bottom-up, too much top-down and people don’t pay attention”

Local communities

- Identifying what relevant information is needed in local areas and enhancing what is already in place
- Word-of-mouth important for sharing information

Public health and planning and Businesses and private sectors

- Develop an active community infrastructure:
 - Needs to be bottom-up
 - Use community assets for information points
 - Provide local groups and points of contact
 - Use community notice boards
 - Link with GP services
 - Engage local groups and neighbourhood schemes
 - Prioritise libraries for non-digital information
- Facilitate a ‘joined-up’ thinking and sharing of local information

Co-Produced Recommendations



5. “Green spaces and communication from council services need to be addressed and improved”

- What?** Park ranger and park services have been reduced, and individuals are unable to contact correct departments or receive a response.
- Why?** Increase the maintenance, cleaning and accessibility of valued green spaces, and provide more proactive and connected council services.
- How?** More management and care of green spaces, including clearing footpaths and emptying bins, and provide an effective communication system between services and individuals.
- When?** All year round.
- Who?** Active citizens, local groups, Birmingham City Council and universities.

Citizen Scientist and Stakeholder Ideas



Ideas Guide



Guidance

Local communities

- Devolve some services to the local level
- Engage with younger age groups, schools and local groups for services
- Residents need to proactively engage with counsellors
- Local groups need to lobby priorities

Public health and planning

- Reduce council risk adversity to devolving services to volunteers
- Provide accessible and proactive services:
 - Maintain non-digital services
 - Make services more accessible and proactive
 - Provide a proactive communication system with responses
 - Communicate baseline of council services to set expectations
- Engage universities to research the cost gaps between resident needs and current services

“Some maintenance jobs volunteers are happy to do”

“Devolve it locally but it has to be funded somehow”

“make proactive use of councillors ... that is one way of engaging, and councillors get service contact links for services”

“a really active friends of parks group ... they are constantly lobbying to have the footways resurfaced”

“sometimes the council needs to be less risk adverse”

“the schools, the brownies and the guides, if you are getting children to maintain green spaces, they are more likely to use them”

“The best way to do this is in a planned maintenance way and not in a reactive way because reactive isn’t going to cut it”

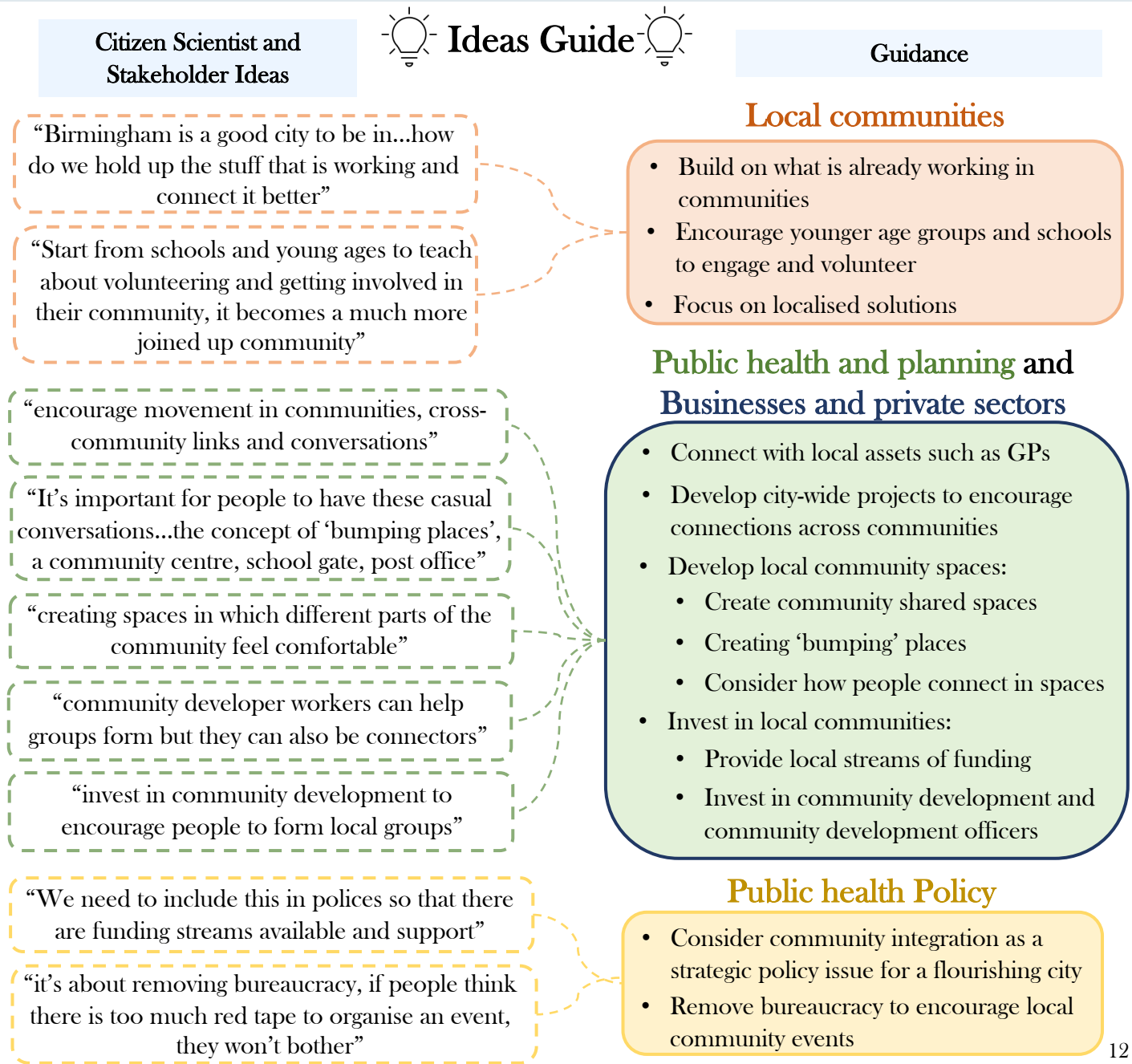
“If you get an answer to say we don’t have a budget but it’s on the list, that is all you want as it means you feel acknowledged”

“People in the 80+ bracket, it’s not unusual to find they have no computer ... we have to maintain a way to engage with them”

Co-Produced Recommendations

6. “Improving and enhancing community integration”

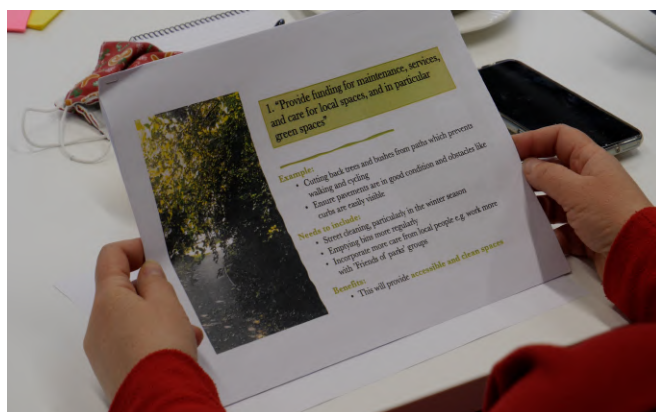
- What?** Finding ways to integrate communities better across different age groups and ethnicities.
- Why?** Provide more connected communities that care for local areas and engage younger generations to continue the work older adults are currently doing in local spaces.
- How?** Develop a plan that has joined-up and long-term thinking for local services, supports all age groups and open spaces, and focuses on integrating younger people.
- When?** All year round.
- Who?** Active citizens, local communities and assets, businesses and the private sector, Birmingham City Council and central government.



Project Future Steps

Providing supportive local urban spaces is key for enabling individuals to be healthy as they age. The co-produced recommendations captured the voices of older adults and identified a range of interconnected urban elements that influence active and healthy ageing across Birmingham. The recommendations require consideration and alteration across the environmental, social, cultural, economic and political domains of urban areas as a way of promoting age-friendly spaces. The co-produced recommendations also fit well within the city's agenda for future actions, including 'Route to Zero' for tackling climate change, 'Our Future City Plan' for greener and inclusive growth, and as we continue to evolve from the impacts of Covid-19.

It is our aim that these recommendations are shared and implemented across local urban areas by community members, stakeholders and organisations as a way of promoting active and healthy ageing.



The project processes and resulting recommendations provide a strong foundation to further build on and engage the voices of a wider group of older adults across Birmingham. This is crucial for continuing to co-produce recommendations and initiatives that encompass a diverse range of voices, experiences and needs in urban spaces of Birmingham.



Measuring Impact

We would like to capture and measure the impact, dissemination and implementation of the co-produced recommendations. Please could you contact us if the recommendations are incorporated into literature, plans or actionable changes via the details below.

Contact Details



If you have any questions or would like to discuss the project or its outcomes further, please contact us via email: urbanwellbeing@contacts.bham.ac.uk

References

1. Birmingham City Council (2021) *Mid-2020 Population Estimates*. Birmingham Demographic Brief 2021/1. Inclusive growth Directorate.
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/downloads/file/9854/2020_mid-year_population_estimate
2. Birmingham City Council (2020) *2018 Population Projects*. 2020 Birmingham Demographic Brief/2018 Projection.
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4609/2018_population_based_projections
3. Birmingham City Council (2022) *Healthy Life Expectancy*.
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50263/supporting_healthier_lives/2451/your_health_-_aged_50_to_65/3
4. Birmingham City Council (2019) *Older Adults 2019 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*. Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board.
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/9854/2020_mid-year_population_estimate.pdf
5. World Health Organization (2007) *Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide*. Geneva, World Health Organization.
6. Birmingham Policy Commission (2014) *Healthy ageing in the 21st century: The Best is yet to come*. University of Birmingham.
<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/research/policycommission/healthy-ageing/Healthy-Ageing-Policy-Commission-Report.pdf>
7. King, A. C., Winter, S. J., Chrisinger, B. W. et al. (2019) Maximizing the promise of citizen science to advance health and prevent disease. *Prev Med*. 119, pp. 44–47.
doi:10.1016/j.ypmed.2018.12.016.
8. King, A. C., King, D. K., Banchoff, A. et al. (2020) Employing participatory citizen science methods to promote age-friendly environments worldwide. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 17(5) p.1541. doi:10.3390/ijerph17051541.
9. Cadbury Barn Trust (2022) Our Plans. <https://www.cadburybarntrust.org.uk/#OurPlans>
10. For more information about the *Our Voice: Citizen Science for Health Equity* initiative developed at Stanford University, please visit <https://med.stanford.edu/ourvoice.html>



Appendices 1

Co-produced recommendations for local areas



Local Co-Produced Recommendations

Each citizen scientist was invited to propose their own recommendation for their local area. The following section presents the recommendations proposed and represents the views of citizens scientists only.

Acocks Green

Provide a plan for integrating communities that can support older and younger groups, employment services and provide park maintenance.

- ☐ There needs to be consideration for a 'joined up' thinking about local services.
- ☐ The local authority and council, through central government funding, needs to make these changes for the greatest impact.
- ☐ This needs to be considered through long-term thinking.
- ☐ Local and non-political groups need to help make this change happen in local communities.

Kings Heath

1) Re-think the setting of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods so that Kings Heath high street and other major routes move more freely, and 2) Stronger enforcement of parking areas.

- ☐ This will 1) improve the air quality of local areas and produce less particulates, and 2) will make pavements accessible for wheelchair users, and prams/pushchairs.
- ☐ These changes need to be made on Kings Heath high street and surrounding streets.
- ☐ The changes need to be made urgently and have the involvement of local councillors and 'altruists' in the community.
- ☐ Possible solution: Putting in a one way system round Kings Heath.

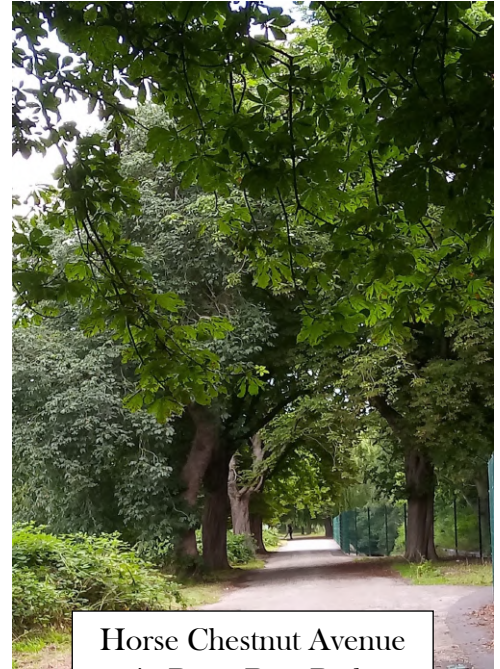


Parked cars blocking pavement

Perry Barr

To encourage local communities to be proud of their green spaces and how important they are to the environment.

- ❑ If green spaces aren't used, the land will be sold for building. However, future families need to be able to access open green spaces.
- ❑ This change needs to happen with the council, parish councils and local communities, who need to come together to make a plan for green spaces.
- ❑ This needs to be done as soon as possible and everyone in the local community and neighbourhood needs to be involved.



Horse Chestnut Avenue
in Perry Barr Park

Shard End

Clear pedestrian areas and footpaths (owned by the council) of fallen leaves, bushy areas and cut back trees.

- ❑ This will enable easy access and reduce falls, as well as reducing conflict between people and wheeled transportation e.g. prams, bikes, scooters.
- ❑ This change needs to be made along the 'country' park areas and side streets.
- ❑ This needs to happen in autumn and winter to clear the end of the year leaves and needs to be done by the parks department and road sweeping.

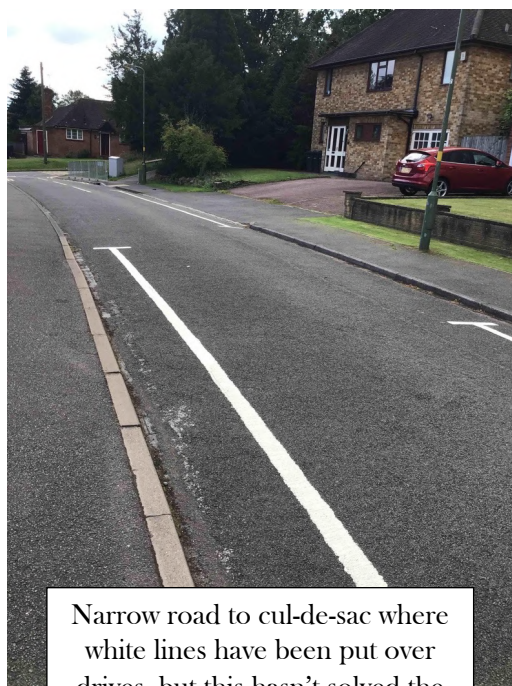


Route needs to be better
managed, and bushes need to
be cut back.

Bournville

Stop parking for school pick-up and drop-off in residential cul-de-sac

- ☐ This will make children 'more active' and reduce the congestion and pollution from cars.
- ☐ This change needs to be made by lots of schools to make the greatest impact and needs to be made as soon as possible.
- ☐ The local councillor, Bournville Village Trust and the school need to help make this change happen.



Narrow road to cul-de-sac where white lines have been put over drives, but this hasn't solved the problem.

Shenley Green

Put in a café, toilets and community hub for a community meeting space at Manor Farm Park.

- ☐ This would attract a wider range of users as other parks such as Rowheath park.
- ☐ This change needs to be made in the Manor Farm park car park area.
- ☐ Bournville Village Trust, Friends of Manor Farm Park, the city council, and the Cadbury Barn Trust all need to be involved to help make this change happen.



The Cadbury Barn Trust in partner with Birmingham School of Bell Ringing are currently in the process of providing a café and toilet facilities for Manor Farm Park⁹. More information available [here](#)



Area of car park which could be established to provide toilets and café facilities.

Cotteridge High Street

Pavements need to be mended and maintained.

- ❑ This is a health and safety issue, with 3 accidents occurring in one month due to the unsuitable pavement.
- ❑ This change needs to be made on the high street and is urgently needed to stop more accidents.
- ❑ The council, Kier, and shops who own the paving outside their shops need to help make this change happen.



Broken slabs on high street

Weoley Hill

There needs to be publicly available toilet facilities.

- ❑ Many people can't go to open spaces as toilets are frequently needed.
- ❑ This change needs to happen in green spaces and shopping areas.
- ❑ It needs to be budgeted for and have council involvement.
- ❑ Local community groups, campaigns and the council need to help make this change happen.



Green space in Weoley Hill that has no access to toilets

Kings Heath

1) Greater access for public conveniences, which is vital for older residents, and 2) Continued and maintained development of the beautiful green spaces across Birmingham.

- ❑ 1) Older residents need greater access to loos, and 2) The resources (including people) to maintain green spaces are dwindling - this must stop.
- ❑ Access to toilets is a general and ongoing issue.
- ❑ Birmingham City Council need to be involved to make these changes happen, but there could be solutions in local centres to encourage trade to allow people to use toilet facilities.



Unsuitable public toilet in Kings Heath

Bournville

1) Stop cars parking on pavements in areas where they don't need to park on pavements, and 2) The pavements should be tarmacked and not paved with slabs.

- ❑ This has been a recurring problem for over 40 years.
- ❑ Pavements should be tarmacked if cars and vans persistently drive over and park on them. Inevitably this means dangerous and broken paving slabs.
- ❑ Tarmacked strips between the slabs and the roads could also be used. If the strips are wide enough, this can stop slabs being broken up.
- ❑ This change needs to be done around many of the residential areas of Bournville.
- ❑ Local Councillors may be able to help communicate this issue to the local council.



Paving slabs loose and broken on a corner between Newant Road and a drive. The only solution here is tarmacking.

Moseley and Sparkhill

1) There is a need for clean and pleasant walking areas that are maintained, and 2) A bicycle pathway is needed in the Moseley and Sparkhill area

Recommendation 1)

- ❑ Areas are needed for walking, especially during and after the lockdown that have pleasant surroundings and are clean.
- ❑ When spaces are dirty, such as parks, individuals don't feel like walking there. This is important for those who can't do any other sort of exercise and rely on walking.
- ❑ The spaces need to be well-maintained by Birmingham City Council.

Recommendation 2)

- ❑ There needs to be a safe and well-connected cycling pathway to connect areas for those who want to cycle and be safe.
- ❑ Need to provide areas by pathways that allow individuals to cycle with enough room. For example, shop keepers need to remove their items and groceries for sale off the footpath outside their shops so that there is enough room.
- ❑ Individuals are not going to the gym as much due to Covid-19, so individuals want a safe space to cycle.

Bournville

Stricter enforcement of speeding cars and a 20mph speed limit in residential areas

- ❑ This is a recommendation for across Birmingham as well as local residential areas in Bournville and Weoley Hill.
- ❑ Solutions include 20mph zones, enforced with speed cameras, signs and more gradual speed bumps.
- ❑ This would need to include the police, as this requires the enforcement of law, and the city council to enforce this change.



20mph speed enforcement zone in a residential area of Bournville

