Druids Heath Together

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Resident & Community Engagement Summary Report

Delivery Phase 3: April 2022 – May 2022

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This phase built on the feedback gathered from the earlier Big Conversation, and involved residents, stakeholders and community organisations in a consultation to shape the emerging thematic priorities and outline vision for Druids Heath.

Key Highlights

- The Pioneer Group Engagement Team organised and delivered several family and community engagement events over the Easter period to continue 'good life' conversations.
- The 3D model was a centrepiece used at the events and with stakeholders.
- Exploration of open spaces, children and young people's issues and sport and wellbeing.
- Funding secured from the PropTech Innovation Fund to support digital citizen engagement within the planning process to include a website, digital representations of design concepts and augmented reality tools.

Outcomes

- Delivery of two family Easter events in discussions to develop thematic priorities and providing family friendly events.
- Engagements in a variety of community and stakeholder meetings across the estate.
- Engagements at Bells Farm/Spearhead Trust and Manningford Community Centre and Fruit and Nut Village stakeholders.
- Exploration of thematic priorities and how they can shape design principles for the regeneration.
- A series of digital solutions were developed including website (www.druidsheathtogether.co.uk) and VR headsets.

Activity Summary

The primary engagement activity in this period were the two events organised over Easter – the 'Explore the Dell' Event on 13th April 2022 and 'Family Open Day' on 23rd April 2022.

Both events were advertised across the estate with fliers distributed to every home, disseminated to all the community venues and promoted on the Druids Heath Together social media platforms.

In April 2022 Birmingham City Council were successful in access funding from central government funding from the PropTech Innovation Fund designed to support the adaptation of digital citizen engagement within the planning process. A digital specialist was commissioned to work alongside the Council, its engagement specialist the Pioneer Group and retained architects, BM3.

Over a six month period a series of digital solutions were developed and trialled in the engagement process to enhance and make more accessible the engagement process in the development of design concepts that would help shape the masterplan for the regeneration of Druids Heath including a website, digital representations of design concepts generated at that point (with the ability to develop these further as the master plan was progressed), the provision of augmented reality tools via QR totems placed in various locations on the estate and VR headsets which could be used portably in various locations across the estate to illustrate developing design concepts.

(a) Explore the Dell Event - 13th April 2022

This was held at the Dell and outside Manningford Hall in the afternoon of 13th April and was well attended with some 120 residents participating in the activities and engaged by the team. The activities included sports, outdoor games, den building, gardening and crafts.

The activities were used as a platform to engage residents on the principles of the forthcoming masterplan using our established theme areas as well as using the Big Conversation questions. Central in the engagement was the use of the 3D scale model of Druids Heath, which proved to be an inspirational way of capturing residents' interest and enthusiasm.

This generated enthusiastic discussions with both adults and children and The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) and the Fruit and Nut Village Group supported the event. BM3 Architects worked alongside The Pioneer Group and Birmingham City Council's Regeneration Team. The event provided learning for future engagements for the remainder of the engagement programme.

(a) The Family Fun Open Day - 23rd April 2022

This event used the same methods as the 'Explore the Dell' event over the morning and afternoon of the 23rd April. Through the day, the weather was particularly windy so we were unable to deploy the Bouncy Castle. Events included arts and crafts in the library, face painting and outdoor games. Free refreshments were available at Kath's Café.

Whilst overall attendance was lower than the first event with around 90 over both sessions, the number of completed engagement forms was about the same with around 50 completed giving a yield of 100 over both events.

A video recording was produced as a first episode of the *Druids Heath Engagement Video* focussing on meeting the Druids Heath Regeneration team. This is available to view on *druidsheathtogether.co.uk*.

(b) Open Spaces Stakeholder Discussion – 27th April 2022

A discussion group was facilitated between active local stakeholders such as the Fruit and Nut Village, members of Manningford Hall Committee engaged in open space activity, The Pioneer Group Engagement Team, BCC regeneration team and BM3 Architects. The group discussed the phasing of the regeneration and how they could work around this, for example avoiding planting in areas that may be developed. They produced an open spaces manifesto that could help inform the regeneration. This included:

- A large central/focal area of green space.
- Small local nodes of green space e.g., associated with each road.
- Networking and "connectivity" between the separate green spaces.
- Designed-in polyculture food systems and forest gardens.
- Foraging trail, adventure trail, fruit loop.
- Fruit loop avenue – Bells Lane.
- Areas for children designed around plants rather than around metal and plastic equipment.
- Clever use of the landscapes/slopes to display orchard trees/bushes.
- A dramatic area of fruit growing.
  Pedestrianised areas to encourage residents to move to the green spaces and spend time in them.
- Green space in every corner - even if the spaces are very small.
- Chinn Brook- clean and improve water quality - potential area for fishing
- Autistic-friendly sensory garden/ground area
- Involvement with Monyhull estate as a high number of residents use The Dell

Summary of Key Findings

From good life conversations, the team identified recurring messages about what was important for resident and communities.

This included the importance of open and green spaces in Druids Heath including green connections and usable green spaces, building of community infrastructure and services (community spaces, spaces and places for leisure, youth spaces and the library) to enhance the sense of community, good access to local amenities including a range of local shops and good schools.

By building on the information gathered from these conversations though further engagement as outlined in 'key actions' an emerging residents' vision can be established.

Key Actions for Next Phase

- To engage a wider group of resident stakeholders to gather more focussed views on thematic priorities through developing a door-to-door pilot.
- To undertake more in-depth resident survey to ascertain feelings towards regeneration and thematic priorities identified in good life conversations to date.