

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?

A ROUNDUP OF SOME UPCOMING CHANGES AFFECTING BIRMINGHAM AND NEIGHBOURHOODS IN AND AROUND KINGS HEATH



# UPDATES ON COUNCIL FINANCES, CUTS, SERVICES & LOCAL ASSETS



## COUNCIL FINANCES: CUTS, COUNCIL TAX & RECOVERY - WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- B'ham City Council announcement Sept 2023 - not enough income to cover spending. Commissioners appointed to oversee BCC's financial decisions. Aim = get BCC's income to cover spending before 2026/27 financial year.
- Do this by **reducing expenditure & increasing income** during 2024/25 & 2025/26.
- **Reducing expenditure/ savings** is mixture of cuts & efficiencies/ improvements in delivery.
- Examples of planned cuts (but not full list): library services, adult social care day centres, home-to-school transport for SEND 6<sup>th</sup> formers.
- BCC is legally required to consult on some cuts, but not all.
- Info about legally-required consultations on cuts on [BCC website](#)

Cont'd.....

# COUNCIL FINANCES – SLIDE 2

- **Increasing income** includes increasing Council Tax. Also increasing cost of services for which BCC already charges e.g. cremations & burials, sports & leisure.
- BCC also required to sell hundreds of £millions worth of assets – mainly commercial so far.
- New govt continuing similar approach but are still considering request to ease some aspects. See letter on [gov.uk website](http://gov.uk website).
- BCC still to finalise savings for 2025/26 and Council Tax rates for 2025/26.
- Plan is for draft proposals to go to BCC's cabinet on 14 Jan 2025 & to be reviewed by Corporate & Finance Overview & Scrutiny Cttee on 24 Jan 2025.
- Finalised budget (including savings & expenditure plans plus Council Tax rates for 2025/26) are due to be presented to meetings of BCC's cabinet on 11 Feb 2025 and City Council on 25 February 2025.
- See [report](#) to 12/11/24 cabinet meeting for more info.

# LIBRARIES

- Council reducing library services as part of cost-cutting programme.
- In last few months, has run 3 consultations about its plans.
- Most recent consultation 23/10 to 3/11/2024. Recommended proposal (“option 4”), plus the responses, to form the basis of a detailed recommendation on library cuts – **to go to Council cabinet in Jan 2025.**
- Per Council’s recommended option, Kings Heath & Druids Heath Libraries would both open 28 hrs a week, Balsall Heath 14 hrs, Stirchley 21 hrs, Yardley Wood 21 hrs.
- Info - <https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/revised-option-4-proposal/>
- 4th consultation now running till 12/12/2024. Same recommended proposal, but some tweaks to (non-recommended) “option 3”.  
<https://www.birminghambeheard.org.uk/bcc/lc24-co3/>



## WHAT'S HAPPENING ABOUT CHANGES TO COLLECTION OF RESIDENTIAL WASTE?

- BCC will be moving to **fortnightly** collection of **general household waste**.
- To be phased in over several months after March 2025, area-by-area, with aim of being fully implemented by 31/03/2026.
- Move to fortnightly will only happen once new **weekly** collection of **food waste** starts. **Recycling** will remain **fortnightly** (new bins). See [BCC website](#)
- BCC's cabinet approved expenditure to make the changes in [July 2024 decision](#).
- Work to implement the decision, includes procuring food waste containers and vehicles, new IT system, and monitoring finance (inc. funding from govt).
- No detailed info yet available about roll-out. BCC's Neighbourhoods Overview & Scrutiny Committee currently planning to look closely at both delivery & implementation at meeting on 8 Jan 2025 (See p9 [here](#)).
- BCC have promised to communicate with residents about the changes and we may start to hear more from Jan 2025 onwards.

## YOUTH SERVICE CUTS & ALL SAINTS YOUTH PROJECT

- Birmingham City Council are proposing to drastically reduce their youth services, as reported in the news recently.
- Kings Heath is **extremely lucky** in having the All Saints Youth Project at the centre of the Brandwood & KH ward.
- The All Saints Youth Project is entirely independent of the Council and only indirectly affected by the cuts (in that young people from other parts of South Birmingham may now need to rely on their services).
- It is financed by donations and grants from charities and government.
- They will have refurbished and extended facilities to be opened on 6 January but continue to be operational in the meantime.
- Links: All Saints Youth Project: <https://www.allsaintsyouthproject.org.uk>
- You can help by **donating** and by **volunteering**.

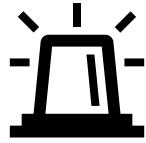


# A Vision for Kings Heath Community Centre



# HIGHBURY HALL

- Was due to start major restoration Oct 2024. Money for this included National Lottery funding & match funding from Birmingham City Council.
- Due to its financial restrictions, BCC withdrew the match funding, as [announced by Chamberlain Highbury Trust](#) in Aug 2024.
- What will happen about the restoration is unclear at present.
- Highbury Hall has recently become available for booking for events again – up to end of 2025 (via BCC website, in usual way).
- Too late for a Christmas craft fair to be reinstated this year, but they've announced dates for Spring & Christmas fairs in 2025.
- No info at present about whether the monthly house tours will restart
- Work on restoring gardens/ grounds may still go ahead.



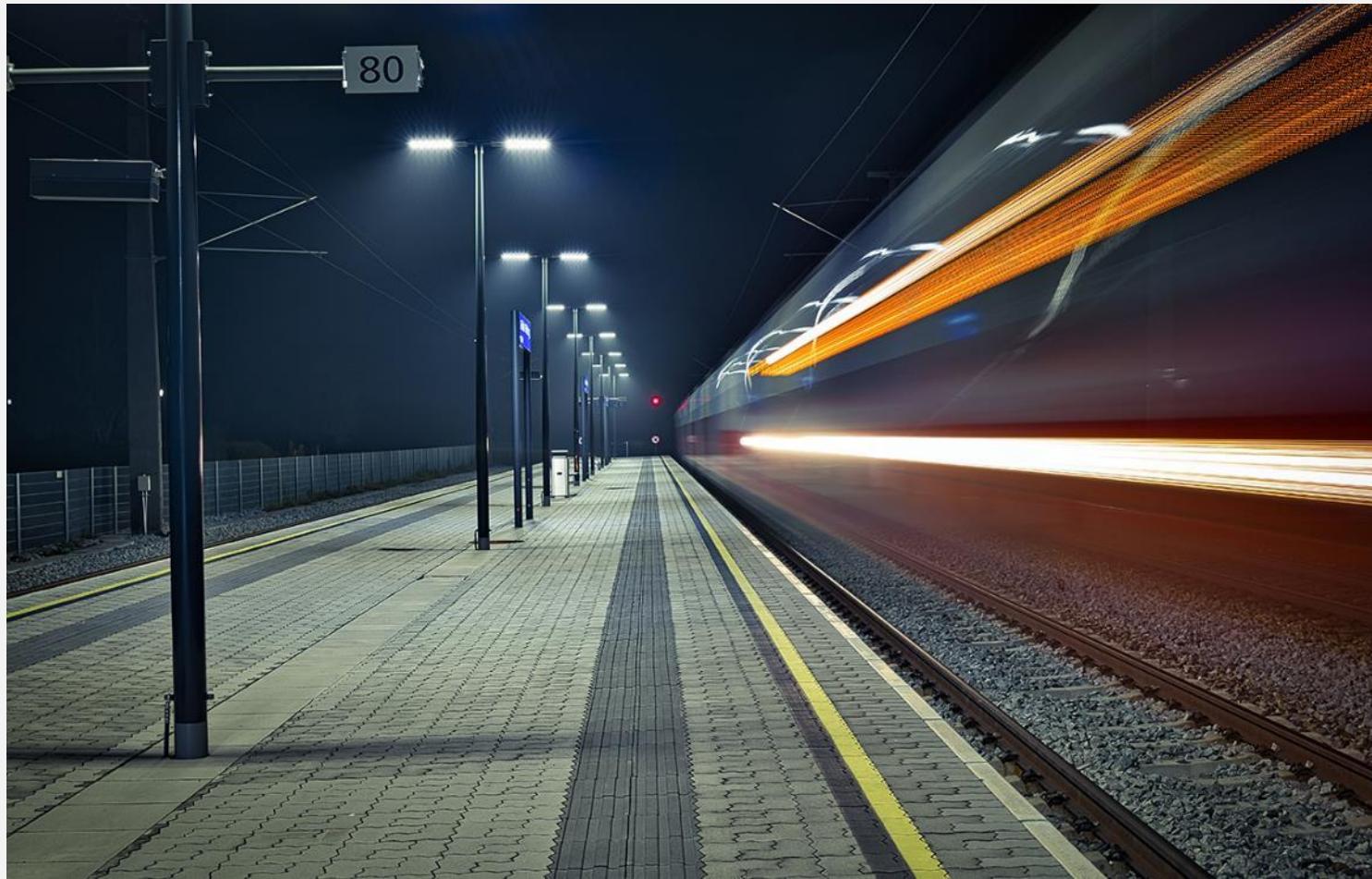
## LOCAL POLICING

- West Midlands Police are led by [\*\*Chief Constable Craig Guildford\*\*](#) since December 22.
- The work of the Police is overseen and scrutinized by [\*\*Police and Crime Commissioner Simon Foster\*\*](#), re-elected in May 24.
- The Brandwood and Kings Heath ward is covered by two Police districts: **Moseley & Kings Heath** (roughly up to Vicarage Road) and **Brandwood**.
- [\*\*Moseley & Kings Heath\*\*](#) is led by Sergeant **Louise Nicholls**
- [\*\*Brandwood\*\*](#) is led by Sergeant **Kasey Corbett**
- Thank you to **Sergeant Louise Nicholls** for coming to speak to us this evening about the work and approach of her team.

## BREAK FOR QUESTIONS



# TRANSPORT



KINGS HEATH  
NEIGHBOURHOODS' FORUM

# BUS FRANCHISING FOR THE WEST MIDS

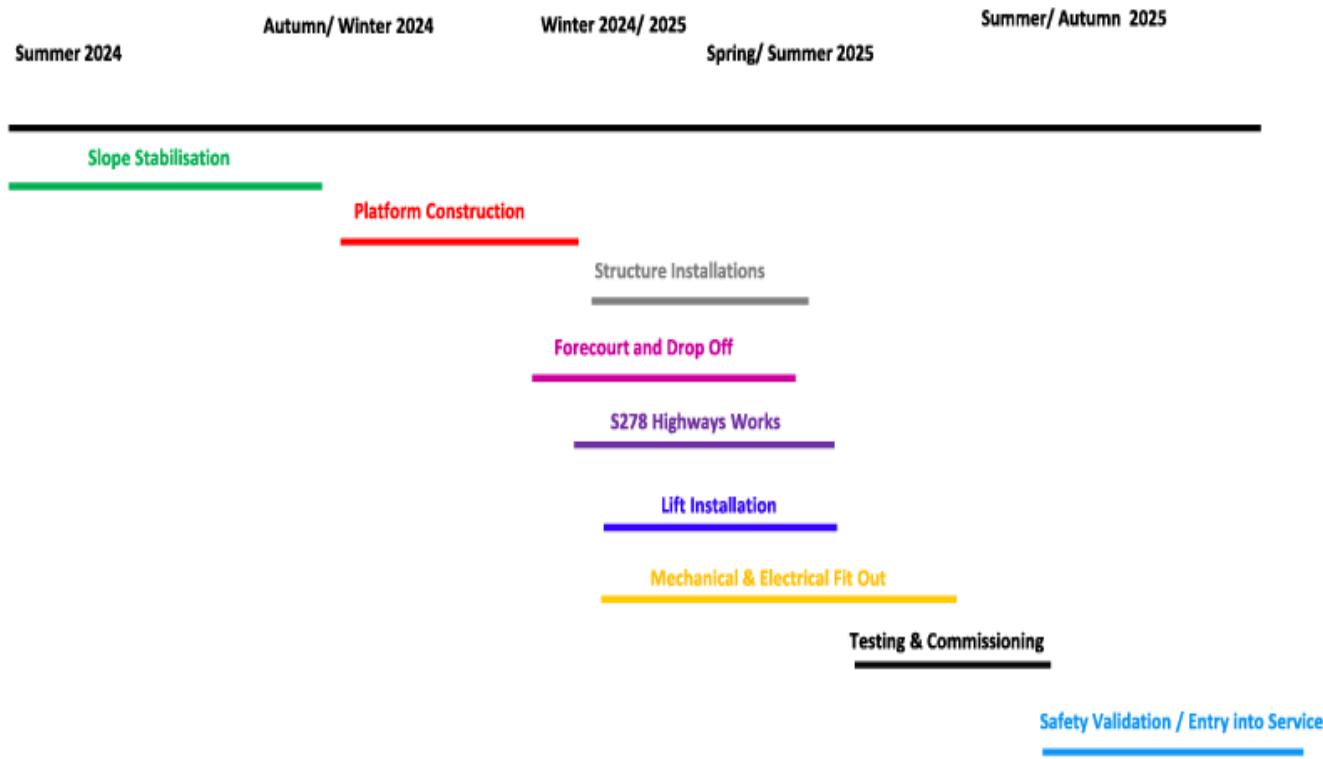
- Election promise from new WM Mayor, Richard Parker. WM-wide issue, being taken forward by WM Combined Authority (WMCA) & Transport for WM.
- Bus franchising = **entire network planned by TfWM and Bus Operators run services, to a specification set by WMCA.**
- London & Greater Manchester already do this.
- Full Franchising Assessment (FFA) report said bus franchising would enable better & more efficient delivery of bus services across the region.
- Following formal due diligence on the FFA, bus franchising is due to be considered again by the WMCA Board on **13 Dec 2024**.
- If things go smoothly, WMCA Board will be asked to agree to undertake a public consultation on the next steps towards bus franchising.
- More info on [WMCA website](#).



WEST MIDLANDS RAIL  
PROGRAMME

# Kings Heath Update

# Indicative Project Milestones



# Progress Update

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WEST MIDLANDS RAIL  
PROGRAMME



# Project Update cont...

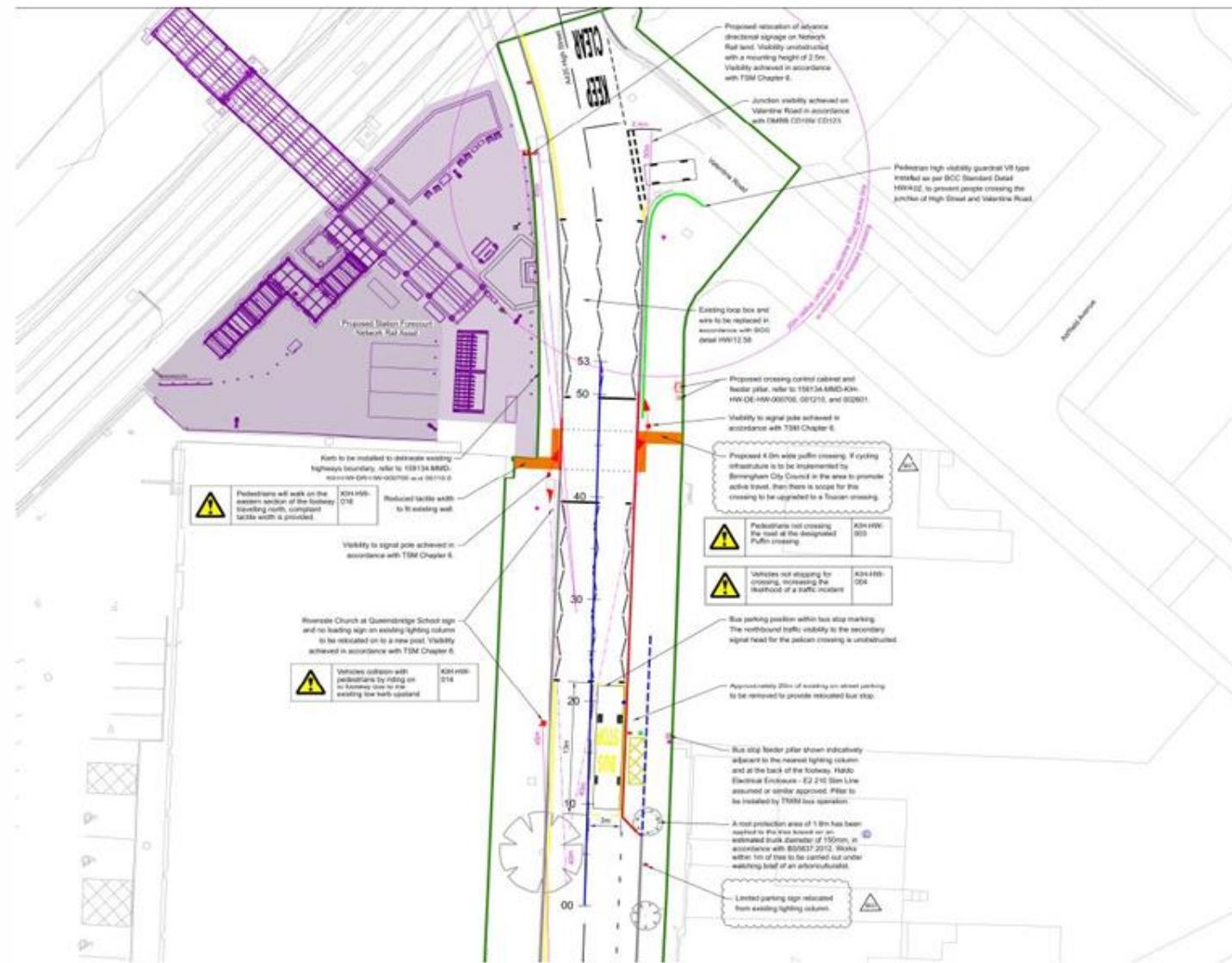
- **When are the highways works taking place?**

The TRO consultation process for Kings Heath ended on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. We received no objections. Currently awaiting technical approval from Birmingham City Council. Works are forecasted to start & finish between March 25 & May 25. Traffic Management will be required to undertake these works.

- **What mitigations are being explored to accelerate the schedule or confirm autumn 2025 as a date?**

Various actions are underway with colleagues at West Midlands Trains & Network Rail, to enable full design approval. Additional railway access to undertake work when trains are not running is also being continuously explored.

# Proposed Highway Works



# CHANGES TO LTN PHASE I AND PLANS FOR LTN PHASE 2

- Changes following the consultation on designs earlier this year are described on the [Be Heard](#) website. Over 1000 responses were received and processed.
- Delivery plans are described on the [Places for People webpage](#) .
- **7/25 - 10/25:** Changes to Phase 1 (west of the High Street)
- **7/25 - 11/25:** Road changes for Phase 2 (east of the High Street)
- **2/26 - 3/26:** 20mph on all LTN & boundary roads
- **4/26 - 6/26:** Bus gate on Addison Road & right hand turn at top of Vicarage Rd.

Elements of each of the above are subject to consultation on Traffic Regulation Orders before construction.

- A petition to **speed up** the implementation has been set up [here](#)
- A petition to **abandon** the plans for LTNs has been set up [here](#)

# CROSS CITY BUS LANE & PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALCESTER ROAD SOUTH

- Transport for West Midlands/ WMCA, with input from Birmingham City Council.
- Proposals for several changes to Alcester Road South between Howard Road & Maypole - aim to expand bus lane provision.
- Proposals in 3 main sections:
  - **Appian Close to Featherstone Rd**, including 24/7 bus lane, proposals to restrict motor vehicle access between A435 and Tenbury, Featherstone & Livingstone Roads, & new/ relocated crossings on A435.
  - **Broad Lane junction**, including two right- turn pockets off the A435 and some verge removal for roadway & pavement widening
  - **Maypole Lane to Warstock Road** – verge, trees and shrubs to be removed in various locations to widen the road to create 24/7 bus lanes
- Consultation open till 4/12/2024 [on Commonplace](#).



## LOCAL INITIATIVES

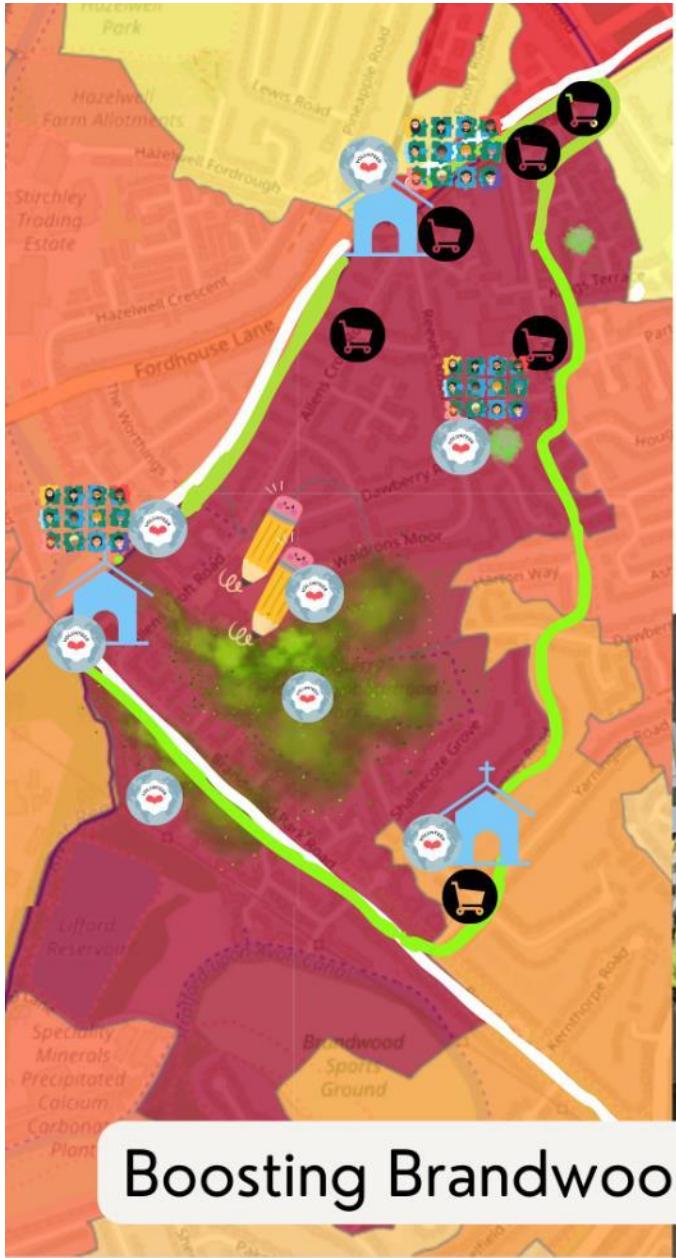
- A chance to hear from a couple of local organisations that are involved in ongoing work to enhance enjoyment of Brandwood & Kings Heath





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ENRICHING THE LOCAL SCENE IN  
BRANDWOOD



- Consortia-led, place-based strategic vision for 'boosting' Brandwood neighbourhoods economically, socially and culturally.
- Creating a mutually beneficial 'eco-system' involving community and business sectors.

**14 community organisations or voluntary groups**  
**3 churches**      **5 schools**      **7 businesses so far**



Boosting Brandwood. Establishing a Cultural Action Area over 12 months

# BOOSTING BRANDWOOD SEED FUNDING



Setting up new community asset and capital investment into Dawberry Corner Community Garden







# DAWBERRY CORNER COMMUNITY GARDEN, (DAWBERRY ROAD, B14 6RY)



## QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT US TO COVER AT MEETINGS IN 2025

- Questions
- What topics would you like us to cover in more detail, ideally with speakers?
- Presentation will be available in a few days on Kings Heath Neighbourhoods' Forum website.