

Bramcote Community Action Team Minutes

5th December 2022



Held at Bramcote Memorial Hall and on Zoom

Present:

Name	Organisation	Initials	Contact details
Cllr David Watts	Broxtowe BC	DW	david.watts@broxtowe.gov.uk
Cllr Ian Tyler	Broxtowe BC	IT	ian.tyler@broxtowe.gov.uk
Cllr Steve Carr	Nottinghamshire County Council	SC	crr.steve.carr@nottscc.gov.uk
Cllr Hannah Land	Broxtowe BC	HL	hannah.land@broxtowe.gov.uk

Around 60 residents attended and 23 users logged on the zoom during the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Watts welcomed everybody to the meeting and introduced the panel.

2. Apologies

County Cllr John "Maggie" Mcgrath, Roger Jones.

3. Minutes and Updates on actions from last meeting

Cllr Watts apologised and took responsibility for the delays with the last meeting minutes. These will be circulated urgently on the council website and Bramcote NG9 Facebook page.

4. Bramcote School Development

A representative from White Hills Park Trust presented to the meeting with an update about the new school development. An application for the School is pending and expected to be approved under devolved powers with Broxtowe Planning department. The housing development on the school playing fields will be made separately by Avant Housing. The school is anticipated to be ready during the 23/24 school year.

A significant change for the White-Hills Academy Trust is that Foxwood school is to join the trust. This has given the opportunity for using the old Bramcote Park School site to create an additional school for Foxwood. It becomes "Foxwood 2" and has the support of the county council as there are known shortages of special school places in the Nottingham and Broxtowe areas. The new school building for Foxwood is anticipated to open in 2025.

The combination of schools development makes Bramcote number 1 for infrastructure investment for schools in England. The college site includes the provision of sports facilities which the trust is planning to hire out to the local community outside of school hours. Conversations are being had with local

football clubs in Stapleford and surrounding areas. The school is also discussing with liberty leisure and the council how they can support with the development of a new leisure centre. Assuming that the new leisure centre will be built on the car park, they are offering school playing fields for car parking whilst the work goes on.

Cllr Steve Carr acknowledged that the majority of the delays to the college development were due to the county council. He also shared that this week he would be visiting a site in London to look at a modular building leisure centre. Modular buildings bring the construction costs down hugely.

5. Battery storage application

Much of the meeting was spent focusing on this application.

Application Details - Ref: 22/00799/FUL

<https://planning.broxtowe.gov.uk/ApplicationDetail?RefVal=22%2F00799%2FFUL>

Representatives from SLR Global Environmental Solutions alongside Landowner Don Leiper joined the meeting. They presented their application for Battery storage facility on farmland on Common Lane next to the A52. Details are on the Broxtowe Planning portal – linked above. Note this is the first of a number of facilities which will be needed in the Broxtowe and Nottingham region. There will be 2 facilities on this site, aiming to provide some flexibility to the local electricity grid.

The need for multiple battery storage hubs across the country was outlined, explaining that this application forms part of the National Grid plans. There is a lack of facilities in the Midlands region and with the closure of Ratcliffe on Trent Power Station, the need for battery storage hubs are more imminent. National grid targets state that there is the need for storage and generation for up to 60,000 mega watts of power by 2045. The plans move towards power generation and storage being based around local hubs rather than the present model of huge power stations and a network of substations and converters. The facilities provide storage of energy from renewable sources such as wind and solar.

Life expectancy of the facility is around 30 years. Disposal is mandated by the waste electrical equipment regulations and it is anticipated that much of the materials can be recycled. The site will be monitored 24/7 remotely with maintenance and servicing visits around twice a week. This is standard for all these types of units. Noise cancelling fencing, tree planting and other security features are included in the planning application. Construction will take around 3-6 months. SLR outlined that the site is the optimum location for this facility due to its location being near the substation at Toton. Its expected to provide 1800 MGW of electricity capacity.

Questions were asked about noise levels – refer to noise report which outlines measures being taken. Information will be added regarding noise levels at other sites already in use, example given is Minety in Wiltshire. Concerns from residents of Valmont Road and surrounding streets about noise and disruption. Cllr Ian Tyler referenced previous issues with refrigerator lorries using the laybys on the A52 and levels of noise. Questions were asked about noise levels

increasing as the machinery ages. Concerns about fire risks and use lithium – points made around future proofing and use of sodium in battery technology. References to recent fires at facilities in Australia. SLR confirmed that the batteries will be lithium ion as sodium is not viable at present. The batteries are arranged in a different way to ensure there is minimum risk of spread of fire between units.

Points were raised about what the implications were for building this on greenbelt land. Bramcote has lost significant proportions of greenbelt land to housing. Unclear if other sites in the borough had been considered – options such as the brownfield site at Toton sidings. SLR maintained that this is the optimum location for this facility and highlighted that most of Bramcote would be able to draw power from this facility as the power is already drawn from the substation at Toton.

All councilors noted that they could not comment publicly as they sit on the planning committee and could predetermine themselves. Advised residents that the consultation is open on the planning portal until 15th December and that comments could be submitted beyond the consultation date until the day it comes

6. Japanese Knot Weed

David Watts shared that he was waiting to hear back from the council regarding spread of the knot weed. Andrew Rutherford spoke via zoom to say that he did not believe the knot weed has spread beyond the boundary apart from the properties already known to have it at the top of Sandy Lane. Concerns that there are more breaches beyond the site and the underground root system spreads beyond the visible plants.

7. Road / Pedestrian Safety Issues

Cllr Steve Carr is meeting with county council and police to look at measures that can be taken to address issues with school drop off and pick up on Moor Lane. Concerns raised about issues on Hanley Avenue and whether some of the green areas along the road could be converted to allow additional parking on the road.

Cllr Steve Carr is using his County Council road repairs budget to request full resurfacing of Deddington Lane, Balmoral Drive and a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Thoresby Road.

8. Planning Issues

Unity park – application for 2 properties on the site. Concerns about knot weed remain if land is left undeveloped.

Bramcote Golf course – A new application has been submitted – queries from residents as to whether it was any different to the previous application which had been declined by the inspector. Mark Jerney (architect) spoke on zoom to confirm that there are significant changes to the plans. Including moving further into the golf course site and limiting to a single story. This application will come to committee. Mark pointed out that the golf course application includes section 106 funding for a crossing on Thoresby Road.

Moor Lane Field – David Watts stated he was discussing with the Council about issues with equipment and disruption on Moor Lane Field.

9. Crime Figures

David Watts apologised as he had left the figures at home. Please note you can see the latest figures here:

Use this [link](#) to see the break down.

You can read the Inspector's recent update on the [Notts Police website](#)

The meeting ran out of time to discuss other issues around the neighbourhood forum – requests for more people to join the forum. Residents should be aware of the Boundary Commission reviews for the parliamentary constituency of Broxtowe. Links available online. Also the Nottinghamshire / Derbyshire Mayor proposals.

Any other business

Richard Macrae shared about the Stapleford Mini Holland consultation which affects parts of Bramcote around Ewe Lamb lane. Links have been circulated online.

Dates of future meetings

Early March, June, September and December 2023 at Bramcote Memorial Hall.

Meeting finished at 09:00

If you have any issues regarding the minutes or if you require them in large print or in audio format please contact 0115 917 3492 Broxtowe Borough Council,

These minutes can be downloaded at
www.broxtowepartnership.org.uk



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