

CENTRAL WEST BRIDGFORD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Notes for Public Meeting 17 November 2021, Lady Bay Community Association “Does West Bridgford Need a Plan?”

Prior to PowerPoint

Good evening, this is Geri Griffin in mystery avatar, Secretary of the Central West Bridgford Community Association. Thank you for inviting me here tonight and for supporting my non-corporeal form.

To begin with, I'd like to remind you who we are and where we're coming from. We were set up round about 1974, and it may be no coincidence that this is pretty much when the West Bridgford Urban District Council was disbanded in local government reorganisation. Because at that point the newly-formed Rushcliffe Borough Council produced plans to: construct their HQ in Bridgford Playing Field and build a row of shops on the Croquet Lawn. In response to this, the community formed a campaigning organisation called STOPP, and this was the fore-runner of CWBCA.

CWBCA has long regarded Lady Bay Community Association as our sister organisation nextdoor. Sister - but one regarded with a little envy, as we admired the effective actions and cohesiveness of the Lady Bay community over the years, thinking “We'd like a bit more of that ourselves.”

These two difficulties have persisted for the past half century – to hear a West Bridgford voice from within the entity of Rushcliffe Borough Council, and to hear a West Bridgford voice emerging across all our excellent but rather fragmented community organisations. In public meetings over those years we've repeatedly heard the question “But why doesn't West Bridgford set up a Town Council?”, and we have repeatedly experimented with this idea. But, in the face of hostility from the local authority (and it is hostile to this idea) and the absence of a high level of awareness and commitment to local government organisation across the community, this has so far proved an imposing and slippery rock-face where fingerholds are hard to find.

And so we started looking closely at Neighbourhood Plans.

After PowerPoint

The Central West Bridgford Community Association had to make a start by speaking for ourselves, but now is the time we want to ask our neighbours, local groups, and anyone within hearing distance:

- Would you like a Neighbourhood Plan?
- Would you like to form your own Neighbourhood Plan, or would you like to be part of a larger one along with us? (economies of scale vs. problems of scale)
- What else could give West Bridgford a more effective and independent voice, while creating a cohesive, visionary, and effective voice that best interconnects the different parts of our community?