

# FALCON LODGE

## Community **PLAN** 2018-2022

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# 1 Profile of Falcon Lodge

The bulk of the residential footprint Falcon Lodge is made up by a post-war council estate. This was built between 1948 and 1956 on what was originally an orchard, comprising some 1,450 dwellings, of which less than 800 are still council properties. There are two secondary schools, one of which falls just outside the boundary; two primary schools and a children’s centre situated just within the boundary. A number of places of worship serve the community with two of these within the boundary and three just outside. Two faith groups provide services and activity within the Falcon Lodge Youth and Community Centre.

The estate is demarcated by Rectory Road on the north side, with Lindridge Road and Springfield Road forming the eastern boundary, Reddicap Heath Road in the south, and Hollyfield Road (B4148) to the west. The map below, with its distinct horizontal arrow shape, illustrates its boundaries and includes some of its key community amenities. A pen portrait of the services provided by each of these amenities is set out below.

Map 1 – Falcon Lodge Community Plan Boundaries and Community Amenities



# 2 Developing the community plan

## Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Community Planning Policy Falcon Lodge Pilot

In July 2017 the Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council agreed an approach to developing community plans in its Strategic Plan for 2017-19:

The Town Council considered its approach to neighbourhood/community planning and agreed that the approach would be *piloted in Falcon Lodge within the Sutton Trinity Ward* (now Sutton Reddicap) and that at this stage the *focus should be on community planning*. The report highlights that community plans are less prescribed by regulations than formal statutory Neighbourhood Plans and are ‘...more flexible, quicker and easier to prepare. Additionally, they are not reliant on a local Planning Authority approval of the designated area ... (and) they are able to develop priorities for action beyond land use and development issues looking at a broader range of social, economic and environmental issues and focussed on improving the quality of life in the local area. In summary they would seek to ‘... identify actions that can be taken by the community in partnership with the Town Council...to influence other service providers and provide evidence of need in support of funding bids. Depending upon the nature of the issues and priorities emerging through a community plan, this could still form the basis for a future of a future Neighbourhood Plan if deemed appropriate’.

The Royal Town Council identifies clear criteria for developing the pilot and future community plans including:

- 1 Conform with the principles and priorities of the Council's Strategic Plan;
- 2 Based on coherent community boundaries e.g. catchment area for walking to local services/where informal networks of community groups operate/where physical features such as a major road or railway define a natural boundary;
- 3 Demonstrate an appropriate level of wider community engagement and public consultation;
- 4 Prepared by a project team representing a cross section of local interests set up with support of relevant resident/community groups and including town councillor representatives from that area;
- 5 Project/initiatives involving the powers or responsibilities of another agency should have the support or consent of the relevant body;
- 6 Be completed within 12 months;
- 7 Not make prior financial commitments on behalf of the Town Council;
- 8 On completion and agreement by the Town Council that the community plan conforms with its criteria for community planning be eligible for projects of up to £20,000 per annum over three years;
- 9 Town Council will remain as the accountable body for any expenditure incurred and comply with its Financial Regulations.

*Determine an approach to neighbourhood/community planning throughout the town as a basis for identifying local ward priorities for action”*

## Agency Appointed to Develop the Community Plan

Compass Support, part of the Pioneer Group based on Castle Vale, were commissioned to undertake the consultation and engagement, research and drafting of the Community Plan. Compass Support is a charity specialising in community development/planning, provision of youth, employment and health and wellbeing services and hold a five-year lease to manage the Falcon Lodge Youth and Community Centre.

## Approach and Method for Developing the Plan

Our approach to developing the Community Plan has been to build this bottom up by exploring through community conversations how the community feels about their neighbourhood, the good and the bad, what their hopes and fears are for the future, followed by more structured engagement through the Community Conference and four theme action groups backed up by robust research on the demographics and needs within the neighbourhood. We have also tried to take an asset based approach looking at the opportunities for future success, wellbeing, prosperity and quality of life, not just the challenges and the problems which many community plans use as the starting approach.

## Consultation

The Community Plan has been drafted after extensive community consultation, including the 'Falcon Lodge Community Conference' in December 2017. In addition, four Steering Groups were formed to specifically look at:

- Employment and Economy,
- Education,
- Wellbeing and
- Community and Safety

Consultation has so far involved over 200 community members and stakeholders, including:

- Five of the local churches: Roman Catholic, Anglican, Methodist, Pentecostal, and Evangelical
- Second Thoughts Charity
- The Youth Group and the YMCA
- St Giles Hospice and Cancer Support Centre
- Allotments and Gardeners Group
- Majority of the local businesses, as well as wellbeing and activities' groups;
- local primary and secondary schools,
- the Falcon Medical Centre,
- Police and Fire Service, and
- representatives of the local Keralan community.

# 3 Summary of consultation responses

The data collected highlights several issues that the community on the estate feels strongly about, as well as potential solutions to them:

## NEGLECTED YOUTH

Apart from the young people involved with the Youth Team at the Community Centre, local youth to a large degree is left to its own devices. With nothing for them to be involved in on the estate, they resort to creating their own means of entertainment, which typically leads to vandalism and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

**Potential solution:** young people on the estate show interest in music and sport related activities. Facilitation of better engagement with them by the MUBU Music Project, as well as with the two football clubs present in the area, the Sutton United and the Romulus Academy, may provide the necessary space and means to explore their interests.

There is also a potential for a cycling project. Many young people on the estate cycle regularly and can be seen doing stunts on the Churchill Rd, leading to several elderly residents suggesting building a cycling track for them. A consultation with Big Birmingham Bikes and the Second Thoughts revealed that they are willing to help with organization and running of a cycling project.

## FEELING OF ABANDONMENT BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Many younger residents, 20 to 40 years old, share the feeling of being left on their own as a community, ever since the Birmingham City Council pulled out of the Community Centre. The narrative focuses on the lack of provisions for skills development and job search for the young adults, the still-perceived closure of the Community Centre, and general confusion in relation to whom the local Councilors are and how can they be contacted.

**Solution:** Starting regular job centre and computer sessions at the Centre, as well as making the Centre itself better accessible with installation of new door, will help reduce the tension in the community. Stakeholders have also suggested more regular visits from the Councilors to the estate.

## LITTLE CO-ORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES ON THE ESTATE

There is a general recognition among the stakeholders and the residents that more could be done on the estate if there was somebody to coordinate the collective effort. The widely recognized success of Christmas Parties demonstrates that it has a huge potential. An effort by the local Churches Together group to coordinate activities was not successful due to the vicars being too busy with their own schedules.

**Solution:** the suggestion of having a Community Engagement Officer based at the Centre to coordinate local activities, mediate between the local groups, and help prevent overlapping events, was positively evaluated by the stakeholders.

*Crumbling infrastructure, security and safety, and unattended youths were the first things usually to come up in the interviews*

**Community Researcher**

# 4 Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges

Based on the consultation, research and conversations held an analysis of the strengths, opportunities (SWOT) has been pulled together which provides a succinct guide for partners and how they can over the lifetime of the community plan draw on the assets of the neighbourhood (strengths and opportunities) and nullify the deficits (weaknesses and challenges).

## strengths

### General

- Part of Sutton Coldfield a distinctive and historic borough with a wide range of environmental, social and economic strengths
- Compact geography
- Good overall layout for residential, public space and shops
- Range of community facilities
- A neighbourhood hub offering a range of services and opportunity for community life to flourish
- Young population with a chance to access local and wider opportunities
- Good educational provision from early years, primary, secondary and further education
- Local churches and faith
- Strong voluntary sector groups

### Improved communication

- Community newsletter

### Neighbourhood Coordinator

- *Community Enabler* oversee the Falcon Lodge Community Plan
- Build partnership
- Access external funding
- On-going community engagement

### Falcon Lodge Learning Partnership

- Birmingham Met
- Children's centre, primary and secondary schools
- Adult Education
- Pupils & parents

### Localised management of housing services

- Housing presence

## opportunities

### General

- New ward with a clear focus on Falcon Lodge
- Two town councillors and city councillor
- First community plan for Sutton Coldfield with commitment from the Town Council and range of partners to make improvements
- Future economic and housing development that can meet local needs

### Opportunities to bring about housing improvements

- More responsive local housing management
- Future housing investment and development

### Youth and Community Centre

- Possible transfer to Town Council under statutory undertakings
- Possible extend lease with Pioneer Group or other agency e.g. from five years to 25 years lease enabling a greater investment and development as a true community development hub.

### Better future facilities

- Leisure – a local wellbeing hub e.g. community gym
- Environment – a local eco hub

## challenges

- **High level of need:**
- Lower education attainment
- Lower aspirations
- Low skills
- NEET
- Health inequality compared to rest of Sutton Coldfield
- Isolation and disconnection
- Residents less inclined to travel to shop, learn, work and access leisure
- **Diversity**
- Less open
- Less tolerant
- Less welcoming

## weaknesses

### Poor quality housing:

- Remote housing management
- Need for investment
- Some poor design – shops/flats mitigated by underpinning good street layout, which could be 'built upon'.

### Safety

- Higher level of crime than other parts of Sutton Coldfield
- Anti Social Behaviour
- Feeling unsafe – residents, visitors, employees

### Limited services for young people

- Poor communications relative to other parts of Sutton Coldfield e.g. with the inability to deliver Sutton Coldfield News.

# 5 The community plan

## VISION

Our vision has been generated through our community consultation and represents the hopes and aspirations of those living, working and active in Falcon Lodge. It is a vision that extends up to the spring of 2021 over the next three years. We see this four-year period as a springboard for longer-term improvements in Falcon Lodge recognising that some of the challenges are deep rooted and will take some time to address and that some of the opportunities for development and growth in adjoin areas will run through the 2020s.

We aim to deliver a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant local economy and an appealing neighbourhood to live, work, learn and prosper.

In particular we want to create better opportunities for younger people living in Falcon Lodge to enjoy their lives as they grow up and fulfil their potential in the future. This will be our cross cutting theme underpinning all our activities in this plan.

As partners we are all committed to this vision for Falcon Lodge. It is our aim to deliver this through partnership working recognising that our three year plan represents the first step on our journey to bring sustainable improvements and to enable Falcon Lodge to play its fully realise its potential in the wider network of vibrant places that makes up the Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield.

Our Community Plan is designed to be a living action document that does not sit on a shelf but is used by partners as a guide for action and continuous improvement of Falcon Lodge.

## TIMEFRAME FOR DELIVERING AGAINST THE COMMUNITY PLAN

The vision sets out a broad long-term aspirational commitment to improving Falcon Lodge. Our starting point for realising this is an intense three plan delivering tangible priorities for action, which will provide a platform for future work and for lasting change. The delivery period for the three years is:

| YEAR ONE                       | YEAR TWO                     | YEAR THREE              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| September 2018 - 31 March 2019 | April 2019 - 31st March 2020 | April 2020 - March 2022 |

## DELIVERY THEMES

We have captured the ideas generated from the working groups that were set up on a task and finish basis to develop the community plan into three delivery themes for use in the Action Plan. These are:

- A Safe and Strong Falcon Lodge
- A Prosperous and Aspirational Falcon Lodge
- A Greener and Healthier Falcon Lodge

# 6 Community action plan 2018-2022

## theme 1

### SAFER AND STRONGER FALCON LODGE

| action & timeframe  | lead(s)  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>1</b> To complete the refurbishment of Falcon Lodge Community Centre: New Front Entrance Door, Refurbished Youth Room, Structural Roof Works &amp; Relocate the current Youth Pod in consultation with young people<br/>                     To deliver within 2018</p>   | <p>Compass Support</p>   |
| <p><b>2</b> To set up three urgent task and finish groups with the remit of:<br/> <b>3</b> (a) Reviewing the current situation in relation to anti social behaviour particularly with dangerous use of motor bikes in Falcon Lodge including setting up longer term community safety tasking<br/>                     (b) Reviewing the current and future potential youth offer<br/>                     (c) Establishing the community board and recruitment of the community enabler</p>               | <p>Representatives from relevant agencies, the community</p>   |
| <p><b>4</b> To develop Falcon Lodge Community Centre, over the period of the Community Plan, as a centre of community service excellence for:<br/>                     Wellbeing through the Family Coaching service<br/>                     Integrated and Holistic Youth Services<br/>                     Employability services<br/>                     Community Library<br/>                     Community Events<br/>                     To deliver over the lifetime of the community plan</p> | <p>Compass Support<br/>                     Centre User Groups</p>   |
| <p><b>5</b> To consider the long term future of Falcon Lodge Youth and Community Centre conducting a future proofing exercise and options appraisal to ensure long term viability and sustainability of this key community asset.<br/>                     To deliver over the lifetime of the community plan to include discussion on future management and lease arrangements – Compass Support hold the lease for the four-year period of the plan but currently not beyond that</p>                   | <p>Compass Support,<br/>                     Birmingham City Council,<br/>                     Sutton Coldfield Royal Town Council, Falcon Lodge Community Forum</p> |
| <p><b>6</b> To seek funding and develop new complementary additional service offers including:<br/>                     Parenting workshops targeted at young parents, Peer to peer support programme e.g. young people supporting each other &amp; Intergenerational activities and workshops<br/>                     To deliver over the lifetime of the community plan</p>  | <p>Compass Support/<br/>                     Community Enabler</p> <p style="text-align: right;">continued ⇨</p>   |

# theme 1

| SAFER AND STRONGER FALCON LODGE  |  |
|--|--|
| action & timeframe   | lead(s)  |
| <p><b>7</b> To explore with Falcon Lodge Allotments how the services and offer can be further developed and what future investment and support they have.<br/>                     To deliver over the lifetime of the community plan</p>  | Falcon Lodge Allotments, Community Enabler   |
| <p><b>8</b> To explore with Falcon Lodge Chapel how the services and offer can be further developed and what future investment and support needs they have.<br/>                     To deliver over the lifetime of the community plan</p>  | Falcon Lodge Chapel/ Community Enabler   |
| <p><b>9</b> Develop a quarterly Falcon Lodge Community News bulletin for distributing in key outlets across Falcon Lodge and available on line platforms building on the 'Gatepost' Model. To develop this as a learning and community development programme and seek external funding to deliver the project over the lifetime of the Community Plan. To seek funding to support this as a community development project.<br/>                     To pilot a first autumn edition in October 2018 and deliver through the lifetime of the community plan</p> | Community Enabler/ Community Editorial Group/Community Board   |
| <p><b>10</b> To develop a Falcon Lodge Youth Strategy to maximise the offer to young people and their future prospects as well as current leisure requirements. To include a funding prospectus to maximise investment and create a funding pot with opportunities for young people to make decisions around its use.<br/>                     To develop within 2018 for delivery within the lifetime of the community plan</p>   | Compass Support, all Youth Agencies delivering services including YMCA, Birmingham City Council. Schools and educational providers and wellbeing services targeted at young people |
| <p><b>11</b> To secure immediate funding for a summer activities programme for 2018 via Awards for All and / or other funding pots. This to be an annual programme over the lifetime of the Community Plan.<br/>                     To develop within 2018 for delivery each summer over the lifetime community plan</p>  | Compass Support, Community Enabler, Youth Providers  |
| <p><b>12</b> To secure funding for either a two (minimum) or three year post (aspiration) – Community Enabler bringing funding, resources, coordination, partnership working and delivery against the community plan.<br/>                     To appoint and have in place by September 2018 in readiness for the first shadow community partnership meeting</p>  | Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. Compass Support. Community Board.   |
| <p><b>13</b> To develop and support a Falcon Lodge Community Partnership with a Community Chair supported by relevant stakeholders including ward councillor, town councillors and local agencies.<br/>                     To develop the shadow board for September 2018 with an independent chair and have a permanent board in place for January 2019 with a community chair</p>   | Royal Sutton Coldfield Town Council. Compass Support   |

# theme 2

| GREENER AND HEALTHIER FALCON LODGE   |  |
|--|--|
| action   | lead   |
| <p><b>14</b> To develop long term aspirational plans for an Eco Hub in partnership with Falcon Lodge Allotments and look at the potential for funding.<br/> <a href="#">Over the lifetime of the plan</a></p>  | <p>Community Enabler,<br/>                     Falcon Lodge Allotments.</p>                              |
| <p><b>15</b> To explore how a Forest Schools programme can be introduced within the two primary schools to promote understanding and appreciation of sustainability and environmental management. To consider through the Community Enabler a funding package to support over the lifetime of the Community Plan.<br/> <a href="#">Over the lifetime of the plan from 2019</a></p> | <p>Community enabler/<br/>                     Community Environmental Trust</p>                         |
| <p><b>16</b> To raise the profile of the Sutton Coldfield in Bloom programme within Falcon Lodge and to build up over the lifetime of the community plan a range of horticultural and environmental gems to contribute to the efforts across the board within Sutton Coldfield.<br/> <a href="#">Over the lifetime of the plan from 2019</a></p>                                   | <p>Community Enabler/<br/>                     Falcon Lodge Allotments/<br/>                     RTC</p> |
| <p><b>17</b> To pilot an approach around combatting ACES (adverse childhood experiences) in Falcon Lodge and seek funding for a fixed term preventative worker working alongside the Family Coaches.<br/> <a href="#">Over the lifetime of the plan from 2019</a></p>  | <p>Compass/<br/>                     Community Enabler</p>   |
| <p><b>18</b> To look at the introduction of a Mental Health First Aid approach led from Falcon Lodge Youth and Community Centre.<br/> <a href="#">Over the lifetime of the plan from 2019</a></p>  | <p>Compass/<br/>                     Community Enabler</p>   |

# theme 3

| PROSPEROUS AND ASPIRATIONAL FALCON LODGE  |   |
|---|---|
| action  | lead  |
| <p><b>19</b> To connect Falcon Lodge to the opportunities within the Peddimore (economic) and Langley (housing) developments as they are rolled out subject to planning consent. To secure apprenticeship, internships and employment opportunities<br/> <i>Over the lifetime of the plan</i></p> | <p>Compass Support/<br/>Community enabler/<br/>RTC</p>                                |
| <p><b>20</b> To launch a Falcon Lodge housing improvements review looking how housing service responsiveness and housing led neighbourhood regeneration can transform Falcon Lodge.<br/> <i>Commence review in 2018 and develop over the lifetime of the plan</i></p>                             | <p>RTC/BCC/<br/>Community Board</p>   |
| <p><b>21</b> To investigate how community learning / family provision could extend to Falcon Lodge located in the Community Centre.<br/> <i>Commence review in 2018 and develop over the lifetime of the plan</i></p>   | <p>RTC/BCC/<br/>Community Board</p>   |
| <p><b>22</b> To seek to eliminate over the lifetime of the Plan NEETS (Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training).<br/> <i>Over the lifetime of the plan</i></p>  | <p>Compass Support, BCC,<br/>Schools, FE, Employers</p>                               |
| <p><b>23</b> To promote local business and social enterprise start ups within Falcon Lodge.<br/> <i>To review in year 2 – 2019 onwards</i></p>  | <p>Compass Support, BCC,<br/>Schools, FE, Employers,<br/>ISE, Chamber of Commerce</p> |
| <p><b>24</b> To promote opportunities for businesses to conduct Corporate Social Responsibility / Social Value interventions across Falcon Lodge.<br/> <i>To review in year 2 – 2019 onwards</i></p>  | <p>Local businesses land<br/>agencies</p>   |

# 7 Delivering the plan

## PARTNERSHIP ARRANGEMENTS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD AGREEMENT

Over the next three years the successful delivery of better outcomes for Falcon Lodge will require strong and sustained partnership working and collaboration between partner agencies. Our partnership approach thus far in developing the Community Plan has given a rich understanding of the dynamics and issues in Falcon Lodge and it is vital that we build on this over the next three years in the delivery phase of the Community Plan.

It is therefore proposed that a Falcon Lodge Community Partnership/Forum is put in place to bring to coordinate aspects and opportunities for service delivery, share opportunities and best practice such as external funding and to monitor progress. The Community Partnership would report periodically to the Town Council and produce an annual report of activity and progress against the Community Plan. It is suggested that the Community Partnership is made up of three elements drawn from the Town Council/City Councillors, Partner Agencies and Community Groups and Residents. A quarterly meeting cycle is proposed. The Community Enabler would facilitate the Partnership with the Chair sourced from the community. Given it may take some time it is proposed that an Independent Chair be appointed for the first six months with the role of leading a shadow board until January 2019 with a community chair and permanent board in place from that point onwards.

## FALCON LODGE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FORUM

### remit

- To develop and oversee delivery of the Falcon Lodge Community Plan. To report on progress annually to the Town Council with relevant updates also provided on key issues as they arise.
- Initially to meet from September 2018 as a shadow board with independent chair and to meet permanently with community chairs from January 2018
- Facilitated by the community enabler

### membership

- Initially independent chair followed by permanent community chair elected for an annual term x1
  - Ward and Town Cllrs x 3
  - Key anchor community organisations x 4
  - Public services agencies x 4
  - Community board members x 6
- All residents and community stakeholders able to attend.

### constitution and development

- Compass Support to develop a model constitution for an area forum based on best practice and develop the shadow board and oversee three urgent task and finish inquiries

### meeting frequency

- Four meetings annually
- Task and Finish Groups to be set up and report back on key issues where work is required between meetings

# 8 The plan on a page

## how we have developed the plan?

Our plan has been shaped with and by the community in Falcon Lodge. By that we mean the people who live, visit, work and represent Falcon Lodge. We have engaged extensively to establish how the community feels about local issues, what their concerns are and what they would like to see change now and in the future. We have undertaken in depth community research, held a community conference and explored how we take matters forward through the plan in action groups. Four immediate key needs emerge from this consultation:

- 1 A better and joined up *offer* for young people
- 2 Targeted support to vulnerable households through family support and for older residents
- 3 Continued investment in community assets and community organisations
- 4 Improved communication with communities of Falcon Lodge

Through the consultation three delivery themes have been identified to organise our immediate and longer term actions:

- 1 A Safer and Stronger Falcon Lodge
- 2 A Prosperous Falcon Lodge
- 3 A Greener and Healthier Falcon Lodge

## what's our Vision?

We aim to deliver a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant local economy and an appealing neighbourhood to live, work, learn and prosper.

## who leads the plan?

Our plan will be genuinely community led plan with on-going review and development organised through a new community partnership supported by a new dedicated post working exclusively in Falcon Lodge and with the engagement of the ward and town for the Reddicap Ward, support from the Town Council and from key partners and community stakeholders working in Falcon Lodge.

## what's the timeframe for delivering the plan?

The plan will deliver for a period of four years from 2018-22, which fits with the Town Council's electoral cycle. It will include short-term actions for 2018 starting from June, with some actions cutting across future years in the plan and even beyond. We recognise that there are some vital early wins to deliver on to address immediate concerns, to build confidence and momentum and other areas such as long-term investment and regeneration, which will take longer. We will update our plan annually.

## what are our immediate priorities for 2018?

To approve the Community Plan through the Town Council, appoint the community enabler, set up the community board, develop a better youth offer, tackle immediate concerns around Anti Social Behaviour, complete the refurbishment of the Youth and Community Centre, bring about a joined up and comprehensive youth offer and improve communications with the community.

## what are our longterm priorities?

To tackle deep-rooted problems around isolation and family poverty, creating inclusion and prosperity, bring about housing regeneration and improved housing management, improve educational attainment and local skills, opportunities for developing enterprise through local start ups and identify long term improvements in community and environmental facilities.