

Acocks Green Focus Group

Working to Preserve and Improve the Fixed Features of Acocks Green



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Comments

Birmingham Core Strategy 2026 Consultation Draft (16/12/10 to 21/03/11)

Comment by	Acocks Green Focus Group (Ms Julia Larden)
Comment ID	csd578
Response Date	18/03/11 19:58
Consultation Point	SP30 The Design and Quality of New Housing and the Residential Environment (View)
Status	Draft
Submission Type	Web
Version	0.1

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We are concerned about the high levels of new housing proposed, which are combined with high densities. Whilst there is an emphasis on protecting existing Mature suburbs, this will leave suburbs not carrying this designation even more vulnerable to an increase in high density flats and garden grabbing. There has been, for many years now, a strong local concern that Acocks Green, about the loss of the character of this long established, unique historic mature suburb: an important early railway suburb. (We know we speak for a range of local organisations not just our own, and this topic has been regularly aired at Neighbourhood Forums, Ward meetings etc.) It is sadly noticeable that there are currently higher standards of building style (e.g. the former Flemming Hotel site) on the approach to Acocks Green along the Warwick Road, in Olton. already well documented (e.g. in Council Minutes) that Acocks Green has lost out in its application to become a Conservation Area: a promise was originally made by Cllr Neville Summerfield as Chair of Planning and Conservation, but withdrawn for budgetary reasons. Acocks Green will continue to lose more aspirational residents to Solihull unless there is greater recognition of its own status as a mature suburb. We therefore call upon Birmingham City Council to make Acocks Green a designated Mature Suburb

Comment by	Acocks Green Focus Group (Ms Julia Larden)
Comment ID	csd579
Response Date	18/03/11 20:05
Consultation Point	SP31 Housing Density (View)
Status	Draft

Submission Type Web

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We are concerned about the proposed high density levels for housing (see also our comments on SP30). As has already been noted by Jon Morris this already conflicts with the Council's own recorded recent findings, which are that more large houses are required. Also, existing large houses need to be kept, not demolished to make way for smaller ones. A local housing market assessment should be undertaken as a priority to guide the future type and size of housing development in Acocks Green

Comment by Acocks Green Focus Group (Ms Julia Larden)

Comment ID csd580

Response Date 18/03/11 20:14

Consultation Point SP50 Archaeology and the Historic Environment ([View](#))

Status Draft

Submission Type Web

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We support both of the comments already made. We are deeply concerned at the cutting of the number of Conservation Officers, and at the failure to designate Acocks Green a Conservation Area (See our comments at SP 30-31) We believe that a part of Acocks Green, probably the one centred around Arden Road, should be become a Conservation Area. Developments already taking place in this vicinity have caused very grave concern locally, and indeed nationally (see comments by Heritage Organisation SAVE) in recent years. More is likely to be lost unless there is proper protection. Conseration policies are currently far too weak.

Comment by Acocks Green Focus Group (Ms Julia Larden)

Comment ID csd582

Response Date 18/03/11 20:45

Consultation Point E4 Acocks Green ([View](#))

Status Draft

Submission Type Web

Version 0.4

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There is comment about working with local residents, but no reference to any of the very well documented local discussions and their findings. These need to be taken into account. There were two consultations at the Westley Arms, involving Birmingham City Council and local organisation delegates, and a thirty strong meeting at Acocks Green library, involving the Town Centre Manager, and local Councillor Roger Harmer. This meeting unanimously endorsed the Smart Route plan with the proviso that the first focus should be upon removing the dual carriageway on the Warwick Road in Acocks Green. The second meeting at the Wesley Arms also strongly endorsed this proposal. This would enable a far more pedestrian friendly atmosphere to be achieved, with slower traffic and far less ugly street furniture clutter. The extra space gained could be then be used in a more positive way, partly for the provision of more greenery: trees, plants etc but also for more car parking. Acocks Green is currently under threat from the Tesco development in Yardley, due to be completed at the old Swan site in 2012, and this will have excellent parking facilities. We need to encourage people to shop locally. The Smart Route, if sensitively planned, could do this. We would like to learn that talk of 'link' and 'place' is sincere. We are a place. Survival as a vibrant place is more important to Acocks Green than smooth flow of traffic, although, recent studies (See Manual for Streets 2, for example) now show that slower traffic need not necessarily mean congested traffic at all, but, rather, smoother flowing traffic which may well arrive at its destination sooner. Plans for Acocks Green Centre should also incorporate designation as a Mature Suburb to protect Acocks Green centre, which has a number of fine buildings, including the Grade A listed local library, Grade B listed Inn on the Green and a fine example of Art Deco in Burton's, from further aesthetic damage. The historic significance of 'The Green' itself (i.e. the central island, created as a surrogate 'Green' in the 1930s, which was saved by a 1,000 strong signature campaign in 2004) should also be respected and preserved.