

FEATURES & CHARACTERISTICS (of a Community Anchor)

Community Led

Local community is in our DNA. From governance to services delivery, local residents are integral to and leading the way.

Community / Neighbourhood Hubs

We own, manage and value local spaces and places. We operate from welcoming and accessible physical spaces that serve as central hubs for community activities and services. Our hubs are designed to foster a sense of belonging and ownership among communities.

Depth and Breadth of Local Services

Our services are as diverse as our communities. From arts and cultural activities to youth programmes, elderly support, welfare advice, housing, economic and health and wellbeing initiatives, we tailor our offerings to meet the needs of residents and create vibrant neighbourhoods.

Platforming Local Leadership & Advocacy

Fostering local leadership and building community infrastructure is central to our mission of residents influencing, shaping and delivering local services and neighbourhoods. We are committed to grassroots action and nurturing the next generation of leaders.

We amplify community voices across Birmingham, advocating for residents' needs and concerns in broader policy discussions and work to influence policies and practices that affect our communities.

Social Cohesion and Inclusivity

We respect and celebrate the diversity of our communities, working hard to ensure that our activities and services are inclusive, bringing together people from all backgrounds. We are committed to ensuring equity of access particularly for marginalised and disadvantaged groups.

OUR STRUCTURE - HOW WE WORK TOGETHER

Flexible and Collaborative Working

B:CAN operates in a flexible, responsive, and collaborative manner. We work together because we want to work together. Individual members will convene, facilitate and lead discussions, bids, projects, and services based on their areas of expertise, reach, and influence.

Adding Value

Through collaboration, we'll create value both individually and collectively, benefiting partners without disadvantaging any.

Shared Online Platform

We are developing a shared online platform to showcase B:CAN, providing a centralised space for partners to share resources and knowledge, enhancing collaboration. The digital platform will enable citizens to easily access B:CAN's resources, services and partners.

GOVERNANCE

Membership

Membership is open to community anchor organisations that align with B:CAN's principles. Members will actively participate in shaping its future direction.

Supporters of B:CAN

There may be local groups and agencies who wish to support B:CAN but do not fit our definition of a community anchor. These supporters will align with our values and have opportunities to engage and contribute to our collective efforts.

Decision-Making

Decisions will be made collaboratively, with input from B:CAN members. In the unlikely circumstances they are needed, formal voting procedures may be adopted.

Meetings

Regular meetings will be held to discuss progress, share information, and plan future activities. Special meetings may be convened as needed to address specific issues or opportunities.

Formalised Structures

As B:CAN evolves, formalised structures may be established. These will adhere to our principles of working together.

EARLY WORKSTREAMS

B:CAN Online Portal

To enable knowledge share, collaboration, and connection with our communities. Whilst the portal is still being finalised, the following link provides an opportunity to see the structure and content that will feature. <https://bcan.co.uk/>

Advice Services

The demand for high quality and accessible advice services has grown exponentially in recent years, as communities continue to face acute cost of living pressures. Nishkam Civic Association is convening a working group to explore opportunities for better coordination and future collaboration.

Energy Advice / Audits

Fuel poverty remains an entrenched issue and there are number of local and city-wide projects and partnerships working to support vulnerable residents. Phil Beardmore is convening a group to share information including how group can access resources to undertake energy audits of community buildings.

Community Assets

Several members raised concerns about the potential and actual loss of public buildings including libraires and community facilities. Witton Lodge Community Association will be convening a group to provide practical examples of community asset transfer and management.

For comments or observations please contact:

Afzal Hussain, Chief Officer, Witton Lodge Community Association - afzal.hussain@wittonlodge.org.uk

PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS



Listed below are groups and individuals that have helped to inform and shape B:CAN. We expect this list to continue to grow, and welcome groups interested in joining or supporting us.

ACP

Birchfield Big Local

Birmingham Settlement

Colebridge Trust

Karis Neighbourhood Scheme

Legacy WM

Moseley Community Development Trust/Moseley Exchange

Muath Trust

New Hope Global

Nishkam Centre

Northfield Community Partnership (NCP)

Saheli Hub

St Paul's Community Development Trust

Small Health Community Forum

Witton Lodge Community Association

The Project Birmingham

Eco Birmingham

Age Concern Birmingham

Birmingham Youth Sports Academy

Our Community Foundation

Phil Beardmore (Energy Confidence)