

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held on 9th March 2020, Stirchley Community Church

Present: 45: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Members of the Forum's management committee, Cllr Locke

Apologies: 6

Rob Morris took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Amendments to the constitution and enlargement of Forum boundary

The following changes were proposed:

Item 3: expansion of Forum area to reflect the new Stirchley ward boundary

Items 4 & 6: updated to remove obsolete references e.g. ward committee meetings

Item 5: updated to permit management committee to co-opt up to 30% of total members

Items 8 & 9: updated means of informing residents about AGMs / SGMs to "using the most appropriate methods" e.g. social media, posters, website

The changes were proposed by Emma Ashton and seconded by Kerry Leslie; there were no votes against or abstentions, so the new constitution was adopted.

Licensing update

Forum Planning Officer Sandra Cooper updated the meeting on current licensing applications.

Bournbrook Inn / former Three Horseshoes: committee members met with the new management on March 4th and raised concerns about the 24hr notice; it was agreed the pub would follow the same hours as the British Oak.

Manager Tom announced the pub should be opening between March 20th and 26th depending on licensing approval. In response to concerns the pub would be charging hotel prices, Tom confirmed the drinks would be cheaper than the British Oak. The wooden structure to the side of the pub is a smoking shelter; Tom assured residents it would look better when completed. The shelter could not be located at the rear of the building because it needs to link to the bar area.

There will be 53 bedrooms; the clientele will be people looking for affordable rooms.

SC noted the Forum still had an objection to the licence which, if not withdrawn, would require the application to go before the licensing committee. It was agreed the objection should be withdrawn, but the Forum will continue to monitor use of the building.

Stirchley Taphouse, Mary Vale Rd: the application has been revised to match the licence held by the Attic Brewery. However, SC proposed keeping the objection in place, with the option for RM to withdraw the objection verbally when he attends the licensing committee meeting. Other residents are also planning to attend and raise their own objections.

Morrisons

New store manager Andy updated the meeting on progress with the refurbishment of the Co-op as a Morrisons supermarket. Andy was joined by Rubery Community Champion Jayne, Stirchley Community Champion Bev, who worked at the Stirchley Co-op for 30 years, and Stirchley People Manager Karen.

120 vacancies have been advertised on B31 Voices, and 160 interviews have been carried out to date. The store will employ more staff than the Co-op, and is due to open in mid-May. 95% of existing staff have been retained.

The proposed floorplans were presented; these showed significant changes to the internal layout of the store. Harry's Heel Bar and the Co-op travel agents will remain. The ATM will be reinstated. There will be 8 checkouts and 8 self service checkouts, a butchery, fish counter, hot food counter, salad bar, clothing and a bigger café. There will also be a community room available free to local community groups that can accommodate 15 - 20 people. Head office are looking into having a paypoint for gas and electricity.

The new store will have a collection point for the B30 Food Bank.

Paper bags will be provided for loose fruit and veg and there will also be a free water refill tap in store. 50% of Morrison's energy supply was from renewables last year; the UK average is 35%. It is not possible to install solar panels on the roof because it houses a large number of refrigeration units and back-up generators.

Cllr Locke raised the problem of fly tipping and ASB in the carpark; this is being monitored, and once open the store will be manned 24 hours a day. Local residents asked why the carpark was still open; Andy will look into it.

Opening hours will be 7am until 10pm, and 10am til 4pm on Sundays. The longer opening hours permitted in the licence will be limited to the Christmas period.

Externally the store will look very different; Andy will share the images from the press release. The warehouse has been demolished and there are no plans to replace it.

Stirchley Bloomers asked for support with their proposal to green-up the roundabout; Andy asked them to get in touch with Community Champion Bev.

The Friends of Stirchley Park expressed an interest in relocating the Co-op archway to the park; Andy said it would very likely be removed and will look into it.

Networking

Forum committee: anyone interested in being co-opted onto the committee should get in touch. Rowena Evans is standing down as secretary after 8 years. RM thanked RE for her contribution to the Forum.

Date of the next meeting - NO MEETING IN APRIL

Monday 11th May, 7.30 pm in Stirchley Community Church

Disclaimer notice on behalf of the Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum Management Committee

1. The Management Committee does not normally have prior knowledge of items which will be raised as Any Other Business, but the Management Committee will help facilitate such items where it does have prior knowledge, and which are in the interests of Stirchley.
2. The Forum is not aligned to any political party or one group and hence will hold a neutral stance in all political items which are raised at the meetings; the Forum may take a stance (positive/negative) on planning applications discussed at the meeting or on changes to community/neighbourhood services which affect the Forum area
3. The Forum's Management Committee will not allow a person or organisation to use the Forum's meeting as a means to any political end.
4. All residents and businesses within the Forum's area have the right to attend and speak at the meeting. Business owners, not resident within the forum area, have a right to attend and speak at SNF meetings, but they cannot make up quorum.
5. The Forum or its Management Committee will not be held responsible for leaflets or other media which is handed out by third parties either at or following the Forum's meeting. The views of any such leaflets or other communication are those of the distributor/publisher and not necessarily those of the Neighbourhood Forum.