

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 21st September 2020 online by Zoom

Present: 18 including; Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Members of the Forum's management committee, Cllr Locke,

Apologies: Linda Johnson

Rob Morris welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that this was the first official Forum meeting online.

Minutes of meeting 9th March 2020

It was noted that the first part of the meeting was an Extraordinary General Meeting
The Minutes were accepted as being a true record

Matters arising from meeting 9th March

Licensing update

It was noted that Bournbrook Inn obtained a license and has now opened.

It was pointed out that Birmingham City Council (BCC) have replaced a road sign which suggest that the driveway along the side of the building is one way (through the smoking shelter) - this was noted by Councillor Locke

The Chair asked it to be noted that residents attended the Licensing meeting re the Stirchley Taphouse. A license was granted but the company withdrew when it was made clear that planning permission would not be granted as they proposed to use an industrial unit.
It was pointed out that Attic Brewery are now utilising the space.

Morrisons

It was noted that the Community Champion is now Deb. Cllr Locke has her contact details

Unfortunately Morrisons said that they will were unable to help with greening the roundabout but said they would look at other ways in which they could.

Friends of Stirchley Park confirmed that the Co-op archway had been disposed of, Morrisons apologised.

The question of the bushes removed by Morrisons contractors was raised. It was confirmed that this has been acknowledged as an error. Trees planted by Morrison's will be repositioned appropriately and BCC will ensure that Morrisons and their contractors are made aware that Stirchley Park is owned by BCC.

In conclusion the Chair highlighted that the Committee intended to hold an AGM in November and urged people to consider joining the committee.

Police Update

Unfortunately WM Police were not able to be present.

PCSO Blackford asked that the prevalence of vehicle crime be mentioned and urged people not to leave items on display in parked vehicles and consider fitting a secure steering lock.
He asked that any issues raised be forwarded to him

SC pointed out that regular surgeries were being held in Morrisons as advertised.

Two items were raised by residents;

- Graffiti at the rear of Stirchley Baths and surrounding areas
- Drug dealing in the car park at the rear of the Baths and in and around Stirchley Park (near the Bond Street entrance was highlighted)

Sandra Cooper undertook to pass these to PCSO Blackford

Planning issues

Sandra cooper as Planning Officer raised a number of issues

She said that there were currently 9 applications outstanding across Stirchley Ward

2020/04302/PA 8 - 10 Ivy Road (former factory)

SC said that the original application had been changed to reduce the height, size and number of houses on the site. The access driveway had also been moved to the middle of the site.

There was parking for only 1 visitor to the houses.

It was agreed that this was an improvement but there were still concerns at the low number of parking places.

2020/04099/PA Hazelwell House, Hazelwell Road

This was again a situation where the originally submitted plans had been changed. The revised plans retained retail space on the ground floor and defined access to the building and provided 2 parking spaces. It was noted that the roof terrace had been retained and it wasn't clear whether the revised window arrangements would guarantee privacy and sound insulation.

It was agreed that the Forum concerns be noted.

1256-1258 Pershore Road (corner Twynning Road)

Decision awaited.

Forum opposed as not sufficiently different to previous application last year which had been refused

2019/10502/PA 1386-1392 Pershore Road

The initial report by Officers in May recommended approval.

It seems that revised plans will be lodged in due course

(Cllr Locke subsequently confirmed that there will be a further consultation period).

2020/07070/PA Aberdivine, 51 Hazelwell St

SC said that this had just been posted on Planning On Line and consisted of changes to windows, doors and outside space

SC raised a general issue around planning applications to infill the 'tunnel' at the rear of so called 'tunnel-backed houses' which seem to be becoming more prevalent.

Issues include loss of light for neighbouring properties and were they being used to increase size of houses to become HMOs.

This was noted.

SC and Cllr Locke raised issues around changes to notification of applications and operation of planning policies. Cllr Locke agreed to facilitate a meeting with the relevant Planning Officer for clarification.

Any other business

Karen Cheney explained arrangements for reopening Stirchley Baths.

Cllr Locke wished people to know that her surgeries are available online (details on BCC website) and that there would be another Stirchley Ward Forum meeting online (probably in October).

It was noted that the planned Heritage Weekend events were curtailed due to ill health and other issues.

The issue of the closure of Bournville Lane for gas pipe works was raised. A resident pointed out that quality of life and air quality was much improved. Would it be possible to make this permanent?

Another resident noted that congestion caused by vehicles travelling out of town on Pershore Road being held up by vehicles turning right into Maryvale Road was leading to 'rat running' around Twyning, Plymouth, Hunts and Hazelwell Roads at busy periods.

Cllr Locke agreed that this is part of much bigger picture across the Ward.

BMX track & Hazelwell Park

SC mentioned that she has represented the Forum at meetings at the BMX track in Hazelwell Park over the summer. One outcome was a move to re-energise Friends of Hazelwell Park.

Cllr Locke said that work on developing the BMX track and also viability of a pump track and pool in the future is ongoing, as are plans re the Friends.

Forum Newsletters

SC urged people to sign up to the Forum Newsletters (stirchley.forumb30@gmail.com) if they had not yet done so.

The Chair brought the meeting to an end at 8.45pm.

Date of the next meeting - 12th October online

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.
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