

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 14th June 2021 online by Zoom

Present: 16 including; Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Members of the Forum's management committee, Cllr Locke,

1. Rob Morris as Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Apologies included Brendan Callaghan and Susan MacLean
3. **Minutes of meeting 10th May 2021**

The Minutes were accepted as being a true record

4. **Matters arising from meeting 10th May**

Commonwealth Games Funding

It seems that there has been a number of applications and a special Ward Forum meeting will be held in July.

Closing date for next round of funding applications has been brought forward to November.

Arts event (August)

It is not clear if this will go ahead as envisaged. There could be an arts trail or online presence.

Traders' event (August Bank Holiday)

This is now likely to be a number of small events, including markets

Heritage event 18th September

There was a call for events across the Ward.

In order to collate information and coordinate events a meeting of Stirchley Together will be convened.

Cllr Locke mentioned the Welcome Back Fund (further information was given later in the meeting).

Work to clear Taylor Wimpey site has begun - access through Hazelwell Lane or Plymouth Road. There is likely then to be a hiatus as negotiations with Birmingham City Council continue

Stirchley has not been chosen for the Royal Society of Arts project.

Cllr Locke said that she would try to find out which area had been chosen and why.

5. Police Update

Rob Morris introduced PCSO Paul Blackford and warmly welcomed him to the meeting.

PCSO Blackford gave an update on crime figures for the previous 4 weeks.

There were 9 burglaries (residential and businesses) and 37 vehicle crime (theft from or of vehicles).

The issue of road safety was raised, including crossings in and around Pershore Road. A particular issue is the crossing at the bottom of Ribblesdale Road where the phasing with the Cartland Road junction often confuses cars turning from Cartland Road towards the City. The issue of Enterprise parking and also cars parked on the pavement on Pershore Road opposite the Bournbrook Inn (using the pedestrian run-up from corner of Twynning Road) was raised. PCSO Blackford said that he would look into the issues.

A resident raised the issue of a large police presence at the British Oak the day before. PCSO Blackford said that there had been capacity issue which meant that the doors had to be shut.

Rob Morris thanked him for attending. He then left the meeting.

6. Planning issues

Application for 'tunnel back infill' 143 Cartland Road, refused on the basis did not comply with 45degrees code & would lead to loss of light & outlook for neighbouring property & design out of keeping

A similar proposal in another nearby road was approved last year

239 Cartland Road, similar tunnel back infill of 'tunnel back' 2021/04945/PA c/d 25/6

Retention of ATM & illuminated surround 1497 Pershore Road
2021/02743/PA & 2021/02743PA c/d 30/6

There are also a number of new applications for domestic ground floor and first floor extensions

Hazelwell Lane - Seven Capital site,

There was some discussion about this application.

Points noted included;

Permission was for one supermarket, sites for retail premises and gym have been left empty.

There are no proposals for the 'triangle site' for which there was a provision in the Planning Permission that it should be opened for public access before retail premises opened.

Sandra Cooper (Forum Planning Officer) said that Planning Policies quote in the Planning Permission included 'All new developments will be expected to demonstrate high design quality, contributing to a strong sense of place' and also that the historic environment should be protected. She said that she thought that Stirchley deserved better having waited such a long time. There were some thoughts that the need to get development underway was of paramount importance.

The closing date for comments is a few days before the next Forum meeting. SC said that she would check with BCC Planning Officer whether a few days latitude could be given and also try to obtain contact details for Seven Capital or their agents in order for further discussion to be held at the July meeting.

7. Birmingham City Council Challenge

Challenge the Council

SC and Karen Cheney (BCC) introduced this topic.

As part of the Pioneer Places initiative the Forum has been invited to challenge Birmingham City Council. At a recent Pioneer Places meeting Cllr Thompson (Cabinet member) emphasised how important it was that the Council continued to be challenged around its commitment to Localisation and for the council to learn from what hasn't worked well and how it could have been done better.

Councillor Thompson has just set up a Localisation Star Chamber - where service areas will present what they have been doing that contributes to the Localisation agenda as well being challenged as to what else could be done

Pioneer Places have been asked to contribute into the star chamber process with Challenge Case Studies.

The 4 key Measures of Success as outlined in the "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" Strategic Document are: -

- Services being different, better suited to the area, and more efficient
- Officers working for "one council", putting shared outcomes and local places first, not their service or directorate
- Local councillors having more influence on services
- Residents feeling they are more in control of their services and their local area

We are requested, if possible, to try to include these Measures of Success in the Challenge Case Study

SC raised the issues experienced by residents of Pitleasow Close and said that these could make possibly 2 case studies.

A resident of Pitleasow Close, Karen Cheney and Cllr Locke teased out some of the issues.

Rob Morris and SC said that they would visit residents later in the week to further discuss possibilities.

Karen Cheney asked the resident to contact her and gave her contact details.

8. Networking

Pioneer Places

Meeting attended by Sandra Cooper & Rob Morris

There were various updates.

The Forum signalled that they would wish to be involved in any new Neighbourhood Planning initiatives. Karen Cheney confirmed that the definition of Neighbourhood Forum used by the Government did not include Birmingham Neighbourhood Forums. Funding applied for by Birmingham City Council was to support groups through the process.

High Street Fund

Next steps are awaited.

Stirchley Together

Take up of cooking equipment continues to be slow. A meeting will be called to discuss this and events.

The Baths

Karen Cheney said that the Baths is now reopening for certain adult activities in addition to the children's' activities. There would only be controlled access at this time.

Welcome Back Fund

This is to bring shoppers and customers back to the High Street (there was a query whether this would include the Baths).

9. Any other business

Meetings concerning noise from Speciality Minerals (Lifford Lane) were raised.

It seems that the Environment Agency has decided that the noise is unacceptable so steps are being taken to investigate what has changed on the site to cause it. It seems that there are also problems with white dust which has been identified as chalk.

Cllr Locke confirmed that she had received a complaint from a resident of Windsor Road about the noise.

SC raised the possibility of a disability access audit of premises on the High Street and whether funds could be available for remedial action. Cllr Locke said that there is a possibility of s106 funding being available.

Cllr Locke said that Litter Picking had gone well in May and that an announcement was imminent.

The Chair brought the meeting to an end at 9.00pm.

Date of the next meeting - 12th July by Zoom (due to continuation of Government restrictions)

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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.
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