

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

The main objective of the Forum is to bring together people who have an interest in Stirchley Ward to:

- Discuss and influence issues affecting the local community;
- Raise awareness,
- Inform the public of social developments,
- Do such things that encourage people to show an interest in the area

We bring together residents and others on a regular basis in order to address community issues of common concern.

We do this by holding monthly meetings (second Monday in the month) and issuing a Newsletter.

We represent Stirchley to Birmingham City Council and other public bodies and attend regular meetings.

We send out a regular Newsletter (at least monthly)

We also have a website www.stirchleyforum.co.uk

Facebook page @stirchleyforum

Twitter @stirchley_forum



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

FORUM MEETINGS

These are held on the second Monday of the month, 7.30 - 9.00 pm.

From October 2020 these have been held on Zoom with meetings at Stirchley Community Church, Hazelwell Street, Stirchley B30 2JX to recommence when we are able to do so.

- City Councillor (Cllr Mary Locke) has attended each meeting (when able)
- Community police officers attend meetings when available
- Committee only meetings are held as required

THE FORUM REPRESENTS YOU AT THE FOLLOWING MEETINGS

- High Street Fund (Stirchley)
- Pioneer Places (City-wide meetings)
- Ad hoc meetings with developers, traders, etc as required

2020-21 COMMITTEE

- CHAIR: ROBERT MORRIS
- VICE CHAIR & PLANNING OFFICER: SANDRA COOPER
- TREASURER: PAULA AUBREY
- SECRETARY:
- MARGARET WALKER
- JULIE SAUNDERS
- STACEY WITCOMB
- HEIDI MURPHY



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

REPORT 2020 - 2021

The last year has challenged all in every part of life. Some changes can be swiftly charted. The challenges of isolation, work, poverty, skills, health, learning and active well-being remain. The pandemic has however given them new shape and depth but we may now be clearer on what may work and what may have to change.

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum, thanks to the informed and faithful commitment of those who have sustained and supported our work, has continued to meet and to develop what we do alongside our Councillor, Mary Locke, and Karen Cheney with her City Council colleagues at Stirchley Baths. With them and many other local partners we have welcomed and worked with the newly planned development of the former Tesco site, other sites whose use may change and the wider High Street renewal initiatives. Corners have been turned. More will come and be met successfully. We continue to work with police, library, health, transport and education providers to ensure that their work responds to Stirchley's needs.

Our core work is of course exactly as our name says. Forum is first and last a gathering place of experience, wisdom, needs, opportunity and action. Our Neighbourhood Forum is utterly committed to offering this for the benefit of Stirchley's excitingly varied residents. We are not confined to the High Street.

Our commitment is to the whole ward including the Pineapple (Dad's Lane) estate, housing, industrial and business areas away from Pershore Road and to areas brought in since 2018 to the new Stirchley Ward. We have already begun to develop new work in housing especially in relation to sheltered housing and multi-occupation sites, new and old.

The future demands that we continue all this. We want, from now on, however to explore the ways in which we might be a means, on behalf of residents, to gather together Stirchley's many different stakeholders. Stirchley is never short of creativity and enterprise, whether in work, business, learning, healing, culture or social change. We are however as a Neighbourhood much in need together of a means of effective communication and where appropriate for joint working and partnership. Within all else that the next twelve months offers must be sharp focus for the sake of all who live here and all who care for its future.



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

My very large thanks to all who have attended meetings and supported us and especially to our Committee for their faithful work and wise insight. Paula Aubrey our Treasurer has not only been assiduous in keeping our books straight and in enabling the Stirchley Together funds to operate effectively but also in ensuring with Pastor Matt and his colleagues at Stirchley Community Church that we have a steady welcoming place to meet. Julie has been indefatigable on Zoom, Margaret, Heidi and Stacey give wisdom and a wide range of contacts and of course Sandra Cooper, our vice-Chair, Planning Officer and Acting Secretary has worked with assiduity, commitment and deep insight to further the Forum's work.

It has been a great personal joy to be their colleague in the service of Stirchley. Please join us.

Rob Morris
Chair

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

COUNCILLOR MARY LOCKE

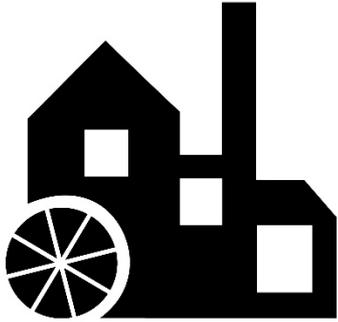
KAREN CHENEY (Citywide Head of Service - Neighbourhood Development
and Support Unit)

COMMUNITY POLICE TEAM

A HOST OF ORGANISATIONS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE
VIBRANCY OF STIRCHLEY WARD AND WORKED TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF COVID

THE FORUM HAS BEEN HAPPY TO INTRODUCE A NEW SECTION TO FORUM MEETINGS
'NETWORKING' TO GIVE ORGANISATIONS AND OTHERS WORKING FOR THE GOOD OF
STIRCHLEY WARD TO HAVE A PLATFORM TO PUBLICISE EVENTS AND ASK FOR HELP.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THIS FEATURE WILL REMAIN AND BE INCREASINGLY
IMPORTANT DURING THE COMING YEAR



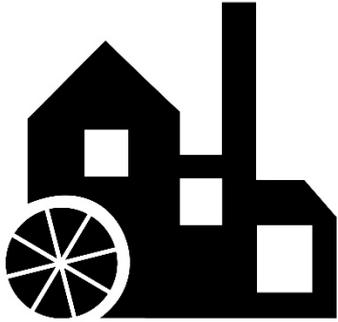
Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

WE MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, AFTER DISCUSSION AT FORUM PUBLIC MEETINGS, INCLUDING;

- Planning
- Licensing
- Public Safety
- Environmental Issues
- Improvements for Stirchley
- Graffiti Removal
- Highways
- Street Lighting
- Waste Collection

SHOULD YOU HAVE VIEWS ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES, PLEASE CONTACT US

- By coming along to our regular meetings
- By email: stirchley.forumb30@gmail.com
- Online: www.stirchleyforum.co.uk



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

We were pleased to welcome the following to attend our meetings and talk to those present;

Stirchley Development Cooperative

Stirchley the Way Forward

Representatives of Taylor Wimpey re West Side Mews (on a regular basis)

Census Engagement Manager

Baby Aid Birmingham (based in Stirchley)

Owner of 1256-58 Pershore Road re future development

Leaf Creative Arts (Dementia Friendly Stirchley)

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum regularly attends meetings of Pioneer Places, facilitated by Birmingham City Council, where a presentation was given about Stirchley and a short video has been produced.

The Forum was the instigator of Stirchley Together which has drawn together representatives of various groups, organisations and Council facilities to assist those more vulnerable members of our community to eat healthily and save energy costs in these difficult times.



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

ANNUAL REPORT FROM OUR PLANNING OFFICER (Sandra Cooper)

Comments have been submitted on planning applications in line with guidelines previously agreed by Forum members and comments given at the meetings.

My thanks go to Laura Creaven who publicises meetings and puts our Newsletters on our website Responses and discussions on Twitter are also invaluable (the Forum now has over 1800 followers).

Applications

There have been a number of applications to consider this year. These include;

- 10 Ivy Road (former factory)
- Hazelwell House, Hazelwell Road
- Alicia's (Persore Road)
- Land in front of former Magnet store (& redevelopment of the store)
- 1256-1258 Persore Road
- SBP Building Products

A number of on-site meetings have been held which have been invaluable in furthering understanding of the developments in question and the position of local businesses.

There have been some general discussions at Forum meetings about 'infill' and similar house and retail extensions and, most recently, about the erection of mobile phone masts.

The Forum has continued to bring enforcement matters to the attention of the Planning Dept.

In the coming year there will be consideration of the Aldi application(s) for the former Seven Capital sites.

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum will continue to make comments on applications that affect residents of Stirchley Ward.



Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Income & Expenditure Summary (August 2020 - July 2021)

Income

Birmingham City Council	£ 880
Funding for Aid in Pandemic - Stirchley Together (Restricted)	£1350
	Total <u>£2230</u>
Carried forward from previous year	£1926
Total funds 31 st July 2021	<u>£4156</u>

Expenditure

Room hire (from previous year)	£ 80
Zoom account	£ 144
Funding for Aid in Pandemic - Stirchley Together*	£ 530
Total Expenditure	<u>£ 754</u>

Amount carried over £3402 (including £820 restricted funds)

NB *Since 1st August 2021 more equipment has been purchased, thus as at 10/10/21 - £409 is now remaining; it is expected that further purchases will be needed shortly.