

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum
Minutes of the AGM held on 8th November 2021
At Stirchley Community Church, Hazelwell Street, Stirchley & Online by Zoom

Present: 32 (including 15 online): including; Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Members of the Forum's management committee, also Councillor Mary Locke

Apologies: 6

1 - 3. Robert Morris (RM) took the chair and welcomed everyone. He explained that the meeting was being held in person and online due to current situation with COVID-19 which limited the number of people attending in person meetings. The minutes of the previous AGM held on 9th November 2021 had previously been circulated and it was agreed that they were a true record. There were no matters arising.

5. Presentation of Annual Report

RM presented the annual report outlining the activities of the Forum over the previous 12 months.

RM thanked residents for their support in a number of initiatives. He also thanked Cllr Locke and local police, businesses and BCC staff (including Karen Cheney) for their support.

He highlighted Stirchley Together which illustrated what can be achieved when organisations and residents all work together to help more vulnerable residents.

He stated that the Forum covered and represented the whole Ward and was keen to be seen as the place where all people with an interest in Stirchley could meet together and discuss matters appertaining to Stirchley Ward.

He also thanked the Forum committee for their support for the Forum (and for himself personally) over what had been a difficult 12 months for many people.

He suggested the need to include environmental issues and schools in Forum meetings in the coming months.

There were some requests for updates on the Aldi site (previously Seven Capital) and Lidl to which Cllr Locke, RM and SC replied.

Sandra Cooper (SC) in turn thanked RM for his support for and hard work on behalf of the Forum.

6. Presentation of Accounts

Paula Aubrey, Forum Treasurer, presented the Annual Accounts. PA thanked BCC for their ongoing support.

RM thanked Paula for her work on the accounts.

The restricted funding which the Forum applied for on behalf of Stirchley Together was highlighted.

Adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts was proposed and seconded by residents.

Their adoption was agreed by the meeting.

7. Election of the Committee

RM announced that there had been 8 people properly nominated to serve on the Committee for 2021-22.

As West Midlands Police were unable to be at the meeting and there were 15 Committee places available he proposed that those nominated be elected to the Committee.

It was agreed by the meeting that the following, having been properly nominated before the meeting and being qualified to stand, be elected to the Committee for 2021-22;

Paula Aubrey, Sandra Cooper, Rob Morris, Heidi Murphy, Julie Saunders, Marg Walker, Stacey Witcomb and Susan MacLean

Rob Morris reminded those present that the Committee had power to co-opt during the year and if anyone is interested to please contact the Forum.

8. Networking

Rev Catherine Grylls said that there would be a meeting concerning the siting of 5G phone mast on Pineapple Grove (outside the Church of the Ascension) on Thursday 11th November @7.30.

Paula Aubrey told everyone about an event to be held in the Community Church on the afternoon of 4th December which it was hoped would include a bouncy castle, stalls for selling crafts, etc and information about local groups.

SC reminded everyone about the upcoming deadline for Commonwealth Games funding allocated to the Ward.

9. Facilitated discussion about the future of Stirchley Ward.

SC invited everyone to think of how they would describe Stirchley now.

She then invited people to project themselves forward 5 years to 2026 and put forward words that they would like to see associated with Stirchley at that time.

RM then asked people to put forward organisations that operate in or are based in Stirchley.

The results under each heading were inscribed on a flip chart by PA and are recorded below. There were some lively discussions which included those attending online.

How would you describe Stirchley now?

- Vibrant
- Diverse
- Mixed
- Punchy & Spikey
- Developing
- More than just the High Street
- Transport links
- Greenery
- Environmentally aware
- Lack representation
- Dereliction
- Underestimated
- Overshadowed
- Underdog
- Trying to find identity
- Not as connected as we should be
- Getting going
- Where to go to get things fixed
- Dementia friendly

How would you hope to describe Stirchley in 2026 (5 years time)?

- Healthy High Street
- Up & coming
- Cohesive community relationships
- Thriving small businesses
- Happy place
- Higher police presence
- Wild
- Tasty
- Flourishing
- Visitable
- Dementia friendly
- Community resilience
- Compassionate
- Still developing
- Journey to Net zero
- Robust
- Affordable – housing & business

Groups active in Stirchley today

- Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum
- Stirchley the Way Forward
- Friends of Stirchley Library
- Local churches
- Dads Lane Community Centre
- Stirchley Baths
- Stirchley Library
- Fruit & Nut Village
- Primary schools
- Friends of Stirchley Park
- Friends of Hazelwell Park
- Sheltered housing
- Stirchley Bloomers
- Cooperatives
- Stirchley History Group
- Baby Aid Birmingham
- Leaf Creative Arts
- Stirchley Art Room
- Network Four

RM thanked everyone for attending and the meeting ended at 8.50.

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.