

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting which took place on Monday 12th October 2009

Present:

Officers and Committee of Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum, Councillor Tim Huxtable, Councillor Bill Evans, Karen Stevens WSO, Sergeant Isobel Knowles and PCSO Sally Stor from WM Police, Caroline Stewart District Services Manager for Environmental wardens, Wendy Pearson Ten Acres RA, Tony Fox Canon Hill RA, **plus 52 members of the public.**

Apologies: Councillor Nigel Dawkins, Alex Keen, Anne Keen, John Clayton, John Williams and Jean Glenn all of Selly Park Forum, Gary Cadge, Ken Sill Parklands RA and Bill Bird.

Minutes of the Previous AGM 2008: The minutes of the previous meeting (2008) were circulated to the membership.

1. **Introductions:** Our Chairman Peter Walker opened the meeting and welcomed all to it, the outgoing committee were introduced and a vote of thanks was given to them for their services over the last year, Sergeant Isobel Knowles then took the chair, following item 4, and re-election Peter Walker resumed his role as Chair of the forum.
2. **Annual Report:** Copies of the Forum's Annual Report were circulated to the membership they were agreed and adopted; **twelve open public meetings have been hosted by the Forum this year.**
3. **Planning:** The Forum's policy of monitoring planning applications was reiterated with applications being supported or objected to as appropriate, the negative effective of non-enforcement of refused planning applications was also noted
4. **Treasures Report:** A financial summary was presented to the meeting this was agreed and adopted (proposed by Peter Walker and seconded by George Weil), the statement has been audited. Following successful grant applications to the Grass Roots Fund and others the forum has purchased IT equipment and published a newsletter whilst still maintaining a healthy bank balance. Following the successful Stirchley Fun day a separate fund has been set up to administer the monies raised at this event.
5. **Election of Management Committee for 2009 / 2010:** Thirteen persons were nominated and they were elected unopposed (Proposed by Sgt Knowles and Seconded by Councillor Tim Huxtable). They are as follows; Brenda Thomas, Sandra Cooper, Colin Simpkins, Paula Aubrey, Anne Newbold, Bill Bird, Margaret Walker, Peter Walker, David Jee, Robert Thornton, David Jones, Judith Jones and Mick Jones. A meeting will be held and the Officers appointed prior to 9th November 2009 meeting.
6. **Any Other Business / Items from the Floor:**
 - a. **The next Police Tasking Meeting** will be held on Wednesday 28th October at the Scout HQ on Colmore Road Kings Heath Commencng at 19.00 hrs.
 - b. **The Friends of Canon Hill Park** will be holding bulb planting days on November the 15th and 16th.
 - c. **Revised South Birmingham Bus Network**, this comes into force on Sunday the 25th of October making major changes to some of the local bus routes, residents were urged to attend the local exhibitions of the changes these being held in Cotteridge, Northfield and Kings Heath a summary leaflet of the changes and timetables of the revised services were available for residents to take away.
 - d. **The next meeting of the Forum** will take place on Monday 9th November 2009 at the Stirchley Community Centre commencing at 19.30 hrs.

Following the formal business of the meeting a presentation was given by Caroline Stewart (District Services Manager for Environmental Wardens). The presentation outlined responsibilities of the Environmental Wardens and their work with other agencies such as West Midlands Police, Environmental Health and various Community Groups in their dual role of enforcement and education of the public. The Wardens have a specific educational role working with schools and other community groups on such projects as community environmental projects and litter picking to improve the local area, promote good citizenship and "make a difference".

There are a total of 41 Environmental Wardens across the city and Selly Oak Constituency has 5 Warden based at the Constituency Office on the Pershore Road contact details and phone numbers were available to the meeting. The principal roles are Liaison with traders over Trade Waste and associated licensing issues, Bag Advancement of domestic waste, Fly Posting, Fly Tipping and Referrals for clearance of waste land, Rodent problems, Pigeon feeding, Dog Waste, Litter and Graffiti.

A PowerPoint presentation was then made detailing the roles including the duty of care and enforcement powers under the various sections of the Environmental Protection Act

This was very informative and prompted a lively response from the membership and a number of issues were raised;

Enforcement Wardens have powers of enforcement but to avoid problems they usually operate with the Police when carrying out such duties. Time scales may be up to 6 months before an offender can be brought before the courts.

Problems with Green Waste When green waste is collected some is lost when the bags are emptied into the collection vehicles and stored used bags are being lost as the vehicle progresses on its route.

Rubbish in wrong bags There appears to be a problem with domestic waste being placed in green bags not being collected with the net result that it remains on the street until it becomes a problem it is sometimes dealt with by residents or the local beat sweeper rebagging it.

Policy on Plastic Waste boxes Nets have been trialled in some parts of the city to prevent loose paper being lost from the boxes but are not regarded as successful, there is also the problem of the nets being discarded or lost when the waste is collected.

Visibility of the Wardens They are perceived as not standing out from the crowd but new Red and Grey uniforms boldly marked "Environmental Warden" are in the course of issue and should help to raise the public profile.

Several of the problems listed will have to be passed to the Fleet and Waste Management Section and a response will be forwarded to the forum in due course.

The Forum formally wishes to express its thanks to the authorities of The Stirchley Community Church for the venue and the facilities given to us during the meeting.

A vote of thanks to the speakers and guests was proposed by the chairman who thanked everyone for their attendance - there being no other business the meeting closed at 21.05 hrs.

The next Forum meeting will be held on Monday 9th November 2009 at the Stirchley Community Centre commencing at 19.30 hrs. The topic being the closure of Dog Pool Lane Bridge, representatives from the City Engineers Dept and National Express West Midlands have been invited to attend.