

## **Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum**

### **Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 @7.30 in Stirchley Community Church**

**Present:** 17 including; Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, members of the Forum's management committee & Cllr Mary Locke

Rob Morris (RM Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting  
He announced that Diane Johnson had stood down as a member of the Committee due to personal reasons. There is a possibility that she could be co-opted before the AGM in November (as can anyone else who may wish to put themselves forward).

#### **1. Apologies**

Diane Johnson, Laura Creaven, Heidi Murphy & Linda Johnson

#### **2. Minutes of meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The Minutes were accepted as being a true record

#### **3. Matters arising from meeting 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Re; Vehicles going the wrong way at the gyratory.

Cllr Locke said that a new 'Keep Left' sign had been installed at the exit from the Aldi store.

Blocked drains at the corner of roads.

Cllr Locke noted this.

Pitcairn Close. Flooding resolved with channels being cleaned and dug. It was thought that some landscaping would be carried out but Cllr Locke said that the work had now been completed.

There was a query about whether it may be possible to use local resources to undertake some tree planting. Cllr Locke will investigate.

Ideas for future meetings.

It was acknowledged that the Draft Stirchley Ward Plan was featured in this meeting and BCC had agreed to contribute to a session about Neighbourhood Councils and other forms of local democracy.

Other items appear on the Agenda.

#### **4. Consideration of Draft Ward Plan**

Paper copies had been provided for the meeting by BCC.

A link to the Plan was sent out with the Notice of the meeting.

RM said thanked Cllr Locke and Rachel West - RW (Council Officer) for facilitating the opportunity for the Forum to discuss the Plan.

He invited RW to introduce the Plan.

She said that it was intended to be a 'live' document with regular reviews to assess progress.

RM suggested that the Plan could be regularly reviewed at Forum meetings, 6 monthly or annually.

#### Priority 1. A Bold Prosperous Stirchley

There was much discussion around this priority.

It was acknowledged that a BID (Business Improvement District) was unlikely to be realistic in Stirchley this would then need changes to be made to the Plan, including what good would look like.

It was suggested that, as community was mentioned in the Plan, Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum should be included in Groups to be worked with.

There was some discussion about previous attempts to engage with businesses, including Stirchley the Way Forward.

It was queried whether the WhatsApp Group used by traders in Pershore Road was still operational as that could be a place to start engaging with businesses.

#### Priority 2. Bold Inclusive Stirchley

It was pointed out that a number of events take place across the Ward. What is required is some form of coordination of events to avoid clashes and advertise what is happening.

SC said that at least half of the people in the room were already volunteering in Stirchley in a number of ways. Celebrating the current contribution of volunteers is important as well recruiting new ones.

There was a discussion about the events that had been held before COVID, eg Stirchley Bash at the beginning of September. It was acknowledged that these took a great deal of voluntary time to organise.

A WhatsApp Group for the Forum was suggested.

At this point it became clear that time was running short and the Chair brought the discussion to a close.

He thanked everyone for their contributions to the debate which he said had been overwhelmingly positive.

He pointed out that there was a meeting of Churches Together in Stirchley later in the week when the matter could be raised as he and Cllr Locke will be present.

Everyone was urged to send any further comments and proposals to Cllr Locke or the Forum.

### **5. Police Update**

SC said that PCSO Blackford had contacted the Forum to check on meeting dates.

A number of residents present said that they had attended the latest Tasking Meeting in Cotteridge.

After an unfortunate start when no one came to open the Church they adjourned to a local Coffee Shop.

The new Sergeant was there and, after some pressure from Stirchley residents, it was acknowledged that the decision not to attend Forum meetings should be revisited.

Residents were informed that burglaries had gone up which had been attributed to more houses being empty during the day.

It was noted the next Cotteridge Tasking Meeting will be on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May at 3pm.

The issue of drug dealing in several areas of Stirchley was again raised.

The Forum will try to keep in touch with local police.

#### **6. Planning issues**

SC, Planning Officer, said that there was little to report as a number of decisions had yet to be made.

She said that there had been much talk on social media about changes proposed to the Household Recycling Centre in Lifford Lane.

Cllr Locke assured the meeting that implementation of the plans are at least a couple of years away and suitable alternative arrangements would be made during construction of the facility.

SC said that she was disappointed that little account seems to have been made about people accessing the site by bicycle or foot.

#### **7. Networking**

Cllr Locke mentioned **the Jobs Fair** to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> March at Stirchley Baths between 10am and 1pm. She is encouraging local employers to attend.

SC reminded people that Stirchley Market was being held at Stirchley Baths on Saturday (18<sup>th</sup> March) 10am to 3pm.

The next Stirchley Ward Meeting will be held on 25<sup>th</sup> April at Stirchley Community Church. Cllr Sharon Thompson (Cabinet Member for Housing & Homelessness) will be attending.

#### **8. Any other business**

As the next 2 meetings are Bank holidays it was agreed that there would be no meeting in April.

**The next meeting would be Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 at Stirchley Community Church.**

**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.