

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 10th July 2023 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church

Present: 16 including; Chair (RM), Vice Chair (SC), Treasurer (PA), members of the Forum's management committee & Alan Bale

Rob Morris (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. Apologies

Cllr Locke, Kerry Leslie, Laura Creaven, Heidi Murphy, Susan Maclean, Margaret Walker, and Pete Walker

2. Minutes of meeting 12th June 2023

The Minutes were accepted as being a true record

3. Matters arising from previous meeting

4 - Blocked Drains & Gullies

Cllr Locke says that, following the recent heavy rain, she received a number of phone calls and emails from residents concerning blocked drains. She has reported these to BCC.

9 - Provision of defibrillators

SC mentioned that, given the night time economy and drug dealing reported in the area, provision of bleed kits would seem to be a good idea.

Cllr Locke is looking into this and the provision of defibrillators along the Pershore Road.

Other matters appear under the relevant headings

4. RM then introduced Alan Bale (AB) representing Friends of Rea Valley Stirchley

AB gave a brief idea of the history of the organisation.

This was originally Friends of Ten Acres and has now taken over the remit of Friends of Hazelwell Park.

It now covers the Rea Valley between Dads Lane and the tunnel under the railway near Beilby Road which is a wildlife corridor through Stirchley.

Reference was made to the Hazelwell Park 2017 Plan.

There were a number of questions and comments from those present.

It was acknowledged that Fruit and Nut Village has carried out a great deal of work and planting in around the Rea and Hazelwell Park.

AB acknowledged the necessity of working with them and said he would be meeting them later in the week.

In order to find out what help is needed AB referred people to the website <https://reavalleystirchley.co.uk/>

Anyone who wishes to help was urged to meet at the picnic area near the play area in Hazelwell Park at 10am every Wednesday.

Help usually involved tidying of trees and undergrowth and litter picking.

In answer to a question about water quality AB said that it is regularly tested and it isn't particularly good although there are some fish and wildlife present.

AB said that bird and plant surveys are regularly carried out.

It is acknowledged that bats are in the area and some bat boxes had been installed but there had been no recent specialist surveys.

It is sometimes possible to arrange bat walks along the river.

PA asked about the path that came down the hill in Hazelwell Park, near to the Allotments fence.

It was agreed that this had been very useful but was prone to becoming a river/waterfall when it rained.

It was agreed that this could be looked into if a need was established.

The issue of drainage was raised due to water flowing down the hill and water from springs on the hill. Water often forms puddles on the path near to the Play Area as it cannot escape to the river.

Responsibility for the path along the top of Hazelwell Park (the continuation of Edwin Road) was raised.

SC said that she understood that it was not owned by the Council. Ownership isn't clear. This makes it difficult to know who is responsible for keeping it clear.

The Plum Festival on 5th August (11 - 2) was raised which will be on the grass near to the Dads Lane entrance to the river walkway.

SC asked if there was interest in the history of this stretch of the Rea and Hazelwell Park.

AB confirmed that they were very interested to find out more.

SC said that some photos of the work carried out when the brick bridge was installed had recently turned up in Stirchley Library. She said that she would look into their availability. She also said that Stirchley History Group would be willing to hear more and to help.

RM thanked AB for a very interesting and thought provoking session.

5. Police Update

It was noted that WM were not present.

Residents said that they had met PCSOs at CoCoMad at Cotteridge Park.

They had been told that they are still not able to come to our meeting.

It was noted that Cllr Locke is not happy with the situation. It was suggested that RM meet with Cllr Locke to discuss a way forward.

6. Planning issues

SC (Planning Officer) updated the meeting

Update from May meeting

The Corner of Twynning Rd further application, slightly amended from the previous one.

Building work has started. Pavement adjacent to the site has been fenced off for pedestrians

Battery Energy Storage on Fordhouse Lane has yet to have a decision.

No decision or update since January

The Social Club on Hazelwell Lane.

Application agreed subject to replacing a tree

New applications

Land adjacent 17 Fordhouse Lane 2023/00492/PA

Change of use of vacant plot to car sales business (Sui Generis) accommodating 22 cars and erection of single storey office building

Nearby residents wish to object.

A Report from a Highway Specialist doesn't think that there will be anything unsafe about obtaining access from the road.

Those present were invited to look at proposed plans at the end of the meeting.

Cllr Locke has sent in comments.

1189 Pershore Road (former shop opposite 'Fitness First')

Permission for outdoor seating area to the front is being sought.

It will be a new business, a café which regards itself as being in Stirchley.

Should Lidl be built it would be in an ideal position.

Work on the Cooperative Housing site (corner of Hunts Road) has started. Representatives of the Forum attended on 16th June.

Cllr Locke said that she has received complaints about the piling noise.

She has been assured that developers will liaise with nearby residents.

It seems that letters have been posted through the door of residents in Hunts Road.

7. Networking

SC said that Selly Park South Forum had sent an invitation to anyone from the Stirchley Forum who wishes to attend their meetings and they hoped to attend Stirchley Forum meetings.

The next Stirchley History Group meeting will be on Thursday 13th July @ 7pm.

Cllr Locke will be holding her surgeries as usual through the summer. The next surgery will be on the **15th July 10.30 - 12 noon at Ascension Church Pineapple Grove.**

The mobile recycling unit will be in Morrison's car park on 12th July, 7am until 12.30pm

Cllr Locke wished to inform people about a Food Bank Collection to be held in Bournville Lane, Leahouse Road, Maryvale Road, Charlotte Road and Clonmel Road (possibly also Elm Tree Road) on 12th August.

There will be another Jobs Fair at Stirchley Baths on Wednesday 25th October 10 - 2.

There will be a summer fair at the Church of the Ascension in Pineapple Grove on the afternoon of 15th July.

SC said that the Forum had been contacted by someone concerning the Lifford Lane tip and something that had been buried there.

No one could remember a tip being there, just the incinerator.

8. Any other business

A resident raised the issue of parking on the 'triangle site' on Friday evening and over the weekend. It is thought that they are owned by patrons of the British Oak.

Not only is it causing damage it is also dangerous as they leave.

The issue of graffiti on the fence to the back of the site was raised. Maybe some street art would help to alleviate the issue.

It was noted that this site is the responsibility of Aldi.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

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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.

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