

## **Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum**

### **Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church**

**Present: 17** including; Vice Chair (RM), Treasurer (PA), Secretary (SC) members of the Forum's management committee,

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **1. Apologies**

Cllr Locke

Heidi Murphy (HM) Chair – RM gave her apologies as there had been a burglary at her house and she was meeting with the police.

Laura Creaven

#### **2. Minutes of meeting Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Minutes approved as accurate record.

#### **3. Matters arising from previous meeting**

At the recent Ward meeting (attended by PA and SC) a question was raised about refuse collection over Easter. Cllr L said that she had news as yet.

Drainage at the bottom of Hazelwell Fordrough is being looked into.

Resident confirmed that the light in the same area is now working.

#### **4. Crime & Anti Social Behaviour**

PA attended the Police Tasking Meeting held Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> January 11am Dame Elizabeth Cadbury Hall, Bournville.

Here is a brief list of what she picked up from it:

\* Visit by 'Travellers' onto Rowheath Pavillion Grounds: police explained how they were legally able to get involved in the incident. The further security measures taken by the organisation that has responsibility for the site were carried out as a result of advice given by Police.

\* Reports of 'flasher' in College Walk, Langley Rd, Linden Road area. Investigation ongoing. Sgt Sankey stated that if someone is exposed to this behaviour, then it is appropriate to call 999 at the time with time, place, description of man- particularly in this situation as due to several reports received, they have a number of details about the man already.

- \* Car crime very slightly down over the Bournville Police's area. Includes all reported incidents involving a vehicle (even including if nothing stolen but just searched by unauthorised persons).
- \* First weekend of January - report of gunshot(s) in Harvest Close. Police stressed this was a targeted attack against the particular resident (who'd upset someone). Appropriate action being taken.
- \* incidents of anti-racial behaviour- Police involved already.
- \* Burglary stats slight down. General advice to make one's home look like there are people at home, have lights on timers, especially in front or back rooms which are viewable by someone who might be looking around; this action ( keeping a light on is not actually very expensive overall apparently) deters people from hiding behind hedges in front gardens.
- \* The issue of parcels not being delivered in the manner expected and subsequently being stolen was raised. Sgt S commented that having a 'Ring Doorbell' is useful and is often a deterrent to thieves.
- \* I personally spoke with Sgt Sankey to introduce myself. He asked that we encourage people to attend the Tasking Mtg. He also stressed **PLEASE REPORT ANY/ALL INCIDENTS**. Even if police don't respond, the info is recorded on their system and will help them to see the pattern of when and where things are happening, which may help them in future investigations.

SC said that there had recently been an incident when a person had had their card stolen at the ATM outside Morisons when they were distracted. Card had been stopped and the perpetrators started to try to use it almost straightaway.

There followed a discussion about how to report such an incident to your bank and the information required. Suggestions included; using a banking app, store the phone number in your phone (with reference numbers) or use a card registration scheme. It was pointed out that the phone number should be on bank statements.

SC said that there is a survey regarding WM Police interactions with local communities and organisations. Please complete and mention the Forum.

## 5. Planning issues

SC (Planning Officer) updated the meeting

Former District Office - 1459 Pershore Road

Additions and alterations to existing building to meeting place for Church.

Approved subject to conditions

Lidl – further application in respect of referred matters.

Work started on removing and trimming trees and to make the boundary more secure.

2023/05470/PA Former firework shop on the corner of Pershore Road and Fordhouse Lane.

Application for partial demolition and construction of new 3 storey building

The proposed development comprises 6 residential apartments (4 x one bedroom & 2 x two bedroom) in two elements; the conversion of the derelict 2 storey Victorian former shop/accommodation into 2, two-bedroom apartments; and the replacement of mis-matched corrugated sheet stores in the rear yard with a 3-storey new build development of 4 one-bedroom apartments. The apartments range in size from 53 sq.m – 65 sq.m. offering a range of accommodation choice addressing the policy defined diverse housing needs of the area for accommodation from smaller households. Each apartment has an open plan living/dining/kitchen layout with separate bedrooms and a shower room.

Vehicle access is proposed utilising the existing dropped kerb site accesses via Fordhouse Lane. Secure parking for 4 resident cars and 6 cycles is provided within the ground floor of the new building element together with turning space enabling vehicles to enter and leave the site in forward gear.

A number of applications have been submitted for extensions, dormer windows, etc.

A number of applications made in 2022 and 2023 remain to be decided.

Residents noted that building work on the Cooperative development, on the corner of Pershore Road and Hunts Road, had been halted.

## **6. Networking**

From Cllr Locke

Next Advice Surgery 17/2/24 10:30-11:30 Ascension church Hall

Next MHRC Pineapple Road 21/2/24 7am until 12:30

Love Your Library event on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February 10am – 5pm.

Various arts experiences, Stirchley History Group and Jigsaw Club.

SC stressed 'use it or lose it;.

PA gave information about Stirchley Community Church 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in March.

She said that the closing date for the art and photography competition was imminent.

On 17<sup>th</sup> March there will be a celebration service and lunch at the church. Booking is required.

Contact [matthew@stirchleycc.co.uk](mailto:matthew@stirchleycc.co.uk)

RM pointed out that the Church of the Ascension doesn't currently have a vicar as Rev, Catherine Grylls has moved on.

It is the present church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

## **8. Any other business**

A resident raised the issue of the condition of Hazelwell Lane which is difficult for people with a disability to negotiate.

SC said that it is a private road, currently belonging to Taylor Wimpey but for sale.

RM reminded those present that the Committee could co-opt members in year and asked people to come forward.

### **The meeting closed at 8.30pm**

Next meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March

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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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