

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 8th December @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church

Present: 18 including; Chair (SC), Vice Chair (RM), Treasurer (PA), members of the Forum's management committee, Police Sergeant Cotterill.

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

She drew attention to the Forum's statement on conduct.

She introduced herself as the new Chair and Heather Kelly, the new co-opted Committee member.

She said that this would be a more informal meeting to catch up on items of interest and look forward into 2026.

2. **Apologies;** Cllr Mary Locke, Kerry Leslie,

3. **Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour**

Sgt Cotterill introduced himself as the dedicated Neighbourhood Sergeant for Stirchley Ward, also Bournville, Selly Oak, Brandwood and Billesley Wards.

He was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for his attendance.

He said that Vanessa West was the Dedicated Neighbourhood Officer for Bournville (including Stirchley). Jenene Tandy is the PCSO for Stirchley.

On questioned he said that he wasn't aware of dates of Police Tasking Meetings in 2026 for the Bournville area.

SC said that she had noticed that reported crime figures were posted on the website (currently September 2025 were the latest figures).

She highlighted that Violence and Sexual Offences were high in September.

Sgt Cotterill said that this category included public order and domestic offences and could have been affected by the flag flying related incidents.

SC said that there had recently been a couple of incidents of indecent exposure which had only become known through local WhatsApp groups. This was the sort of information that women in particular would wish to know about.

Sgt Cotterill stated that there had recently been incidents of vehicle theft (including parts).

He reminded people to remove any items from view and to secure their vehicles.

He also mentioned the seasonality of some offences, eg new students arriving at University and Christmas.

There then followed a brief update on the 'flags' situation.

Cllr Locke says that BCC workers were verbally abused when they tried to take down the flags. There is hope for a rota when they are to come down but she has no dates.

SC said that a local resident with a flag outside their window told her that, when it is windy, shadows from the flags play over the room and there is a loud flapping noise.

It was suggested that the matter be reported to BCC stating the actual lamppost causing the issues – this had assisted other Councils in removing flags.

4. Planning issues

SC said that no decision has been made on 2025/04212/PA 1726-1728 Pershore Road – change of use from shop to 6 bedroom HMO.

2025/02892/PA 45 Hazelwell Road (new end terrace house attached to semi-detached houses in Plymouth Road at the corner with Hazelwell Road). Permission refused as the dwelling would be of insufficient size.

There have been a number of domestic applications for house extensions.

SC said that Heather Kelly (HK) had stepped forward to be Planning Officer for the Forum.

Pineapple Road station works

SC said that it is hoped that a full service will start in 2026 following trial runs and driver training.

She has been informed that there will be temporary traffic lights on Cartland Road between 9.30 and 3.30 on 11th December and overnight into 12th December as the speed bump which has been installed on the bridge needs to be flattened slightly.

Residents confirmed that this had caused some problems which had been reported.

5. Networking

Cllr Locke will be holding an advice surgery on 4th Wednesday of every month at Morrisons Community Room between 4pm – 5.30pm

Her surgeries on the first Friday of the month 10.30 - midday at Stirchley Baths will continue.

There may be changes to the dates in some months due to other commitments. August surgery will be the second Friday in the month.

Any Other Urgent Business

Big Lunch 5th to 8th June

SC mentioned the Big Lunch, which is facilitated by the Eden Project, will be held between 5th and 8th June next year and queried whether this is maybe something Stirchley may wish to be involved with.

There was a suggestion that, during, 2026 the Forum may wish to be informed about digital and environmental issues.

The meeting ended at 8.20 and was followed by a short social session.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 12th January.

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.