

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 9th February 2026 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church

Present: 14 including; Chair (SC), Treasurer (PA), members of the Forum's management committee & Cllr Mary Locke.

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting including the Forum guests.
2. **Apologies;** Kerry Leslie, Rev Tariro Makoja, Pete and Margaret Walker, and Rob and Anna Morris. She also referenced the recent death of John Pitcock who (along with his wife) had been a stalwart of the Forum and Stirchley History Group.
3. SC introduced the Forum's guests.

Mark Airey (MA), Service Manager for City Operations and Dhiren Katwa (DK), Community Outreach Officer of Birmingham City Council Street Scene Service. They introduced themselves and updated those present with current working of the service.

It was stated that the service was now based at a Depot at Cofton Nursery.

MA's remit is the South side of the City. He said that he had a history with Stirchley and always took an interest in the area.

DK said that he was 2.5 months into the job and was familiarising himself with the area and the workings of the Department.

MA clarified that their Department is responsible for removing refuse from the pavement (not fly tipping). They concentrate on the main roads (such as Pershore Road), emptying bins regularly and the bags around them.

There was then a question and answer session.

Cllr Locke said that she had recently had issues with ordering bags for litter picking.

MA said they were aware of some recent issues and it was proposed that a dedicated inbox be set up for litter picking bags which will be monitored by a member of staff.

A resident said that he had ordered bags for the first time and was impressed by the speed of response.

A resident raised the issue of a missing bin on the Pineapple Bridge next to the bus stop. This has resulted in a heap of dirty and soggy rubbish accumulating.

SC mentioned the missing bin in Bournville Lane near the corner with Bond Street. It was pointed out that there was now a bin next to the bus stop in Bond Street. SC said that people seemed to think that the base of a bin was where rubbish could be dumped.

MA said that he would look into both of these issues.

A resident said that they were working with a local school to instruct pupils about rubbish and the need to pick up litter. They said that it was working well.

MA said that he is hoping that the Department will be able to do more of this in the future as resources become available as this sort of initiative can reduce incidences of littering. This was supported by DK.

Answering a question about litter on the Rea Valley path he said that Grounds Maintenance were responsible for this. SC raised the issue of gas canisters on the pavement and grass verge at the edge of Hazelwell Park in Hunts Road.

A resident raised the issue of refuse outside the carpet shop (the corner of Mayfield Road and Pershore Road), consisting of cardboard tubes from the centre of carpets and carpet offcuts, etc.

SC wondered if local schools or creatives might be able to make use of the cardboard or new carpet offcuts.

As there were no further questions MA and DK were thanked for their attendance and it was agreed that contact should be maintained.

4. Minutes of meeting 12th January 2026

These were accepted as a true record

5. Matters Arising

Councillor Locke said that she had approached Aldi re possible use of the vacant land at Hazelwell Lane as a car park and had been told that it was to be marketed imminently.

SC said that drainage and water pollution will feature in the next Forum meeting in March.

6. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

PA was unable to attend the rearranged WM Police Tasking Meeting on Saturday 7th February so SC had attended.

There were 9 people attending, most of which had been at the January meeting which had been affected by the bad weather.

She said that it was reported by PCSO Tandy that shop-lifting and vehicle crime remain issues in the area.

PCSO Tandy addressed some issues raised by those present.

SC raised the issue concerning a number 27 bus in Umberslade Road on the evening of Monday 2nd February. PCSO Tandy said that there had been an incident with some youths (around 13 and 14 years old) who, on being asked to leave the bus, had smashed a number of windows using the Emergency Hammer. This group has been causing issues for a while, eg broken shop windows, and a dedicated police officer is now dealing with it and liaising with their parents.

SC said that the next Tasking Meeting was scheduled for Saturday 11th April.

PCSO Tandy said that there was likely to be a big change in the organisation on 14th April, after which more PCSOs should be available across the patch.

SC asked everyone who is free to pop into Stirchley Library on Tuesday 24th February between 11am and 12 noon to meet with PCSO Tandy and herself. This is a new initiative

which the Forum is supporting. If it is a success it could be repeated. It is also the same time as the Coffee Morning so hot drinks will be available.

SC brought the meeting's attention to 'Don't Plonk It – Park IT!' cards which she had obtained from PCSO Tandy at the Tasking Meeting. More should be available at the session in the Library.

7. Planning issues

Heather Kelly (HK) said that she had commented on a recent application in Ribblesdale/Gristhorpe Road. Although outside Stirchley Ward it could set a precedent in our area.

Notice of an appeal relating to the former Framer's Shop in Pershore Road (near to Lifford Lane) had been received.

Other applications relate to domestic premises.

Cllr Locke said attempts to deal with Planning issues with premises in Ivy Road were continuing.

8. 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.

SC mentioned Stirchley History Group Meeting on Thursday 12th February 7pm at Stirchley Baths Also Chinese Market also at Stirchley Baths on Saturday 14th February.

Cllr Locke mentioned the Jobs Fair in Stirchley Baths on the morning of 25th February with a number of employers in attendance.

Any Other Urgent Business

A resident raised the issue of flags being raised on lampposts in Stirchley.

His issue was that he was not able to initiate discussion at subsequent meetings, having missed the October meeting.

SC explained that she had been informed that some people were upset that there had been no opportunity to discuss other areas of concern at the meeting WM Police & Crime Commissioner and therefore she had felt it important that an opportunity be given at subsequent meetings. There followed a brief discussion about the concerns of local residents about the motives of those people coming from outside the area to raise flags. The effect of their actions could be to split the community.

SC said that she hoped that the local community could be united around some aspects of flags, for example rugby or football.

The meeting ended at 9.15.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 9th March.

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.
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