

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 12th May 2026 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church

Present: 24 including; Chair (SC), Vice Chair (RM), Treasurer (PA) & members of the Forum's management committee

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone who attended the pre-election Hustings.

She reminded everyone that video or stills photography is not permitted in Forum meetings unless with permission of the Forum.

She wished to formally record our thanks to former Cllr Mary Locke for her representation of the residents and interests of Stirchley for the last 10 years. Everyone agreed and many warm words of appreciation were spoken.

As a Stirchley resident it is hoped that she will continue to play a part in the life of Stirchley and attend Forum meetings.

A representative of our new Councillor (Cllr Hawwash) read out a statement on his behalf as he had given his apologies for not attending the meeting due to the need for him to be at the Council House.

He said that it was an honour for him to be elected as Councillor for Stirchley Ward.

When door-knocking, many residents expressed their appreciation for work that Mary had done over the last 10 years. He thanked Mary for the clean campaign she had run during the election based on her record. He said that his campaign was based on what he could add during his tenure.

During the next 4 years he will help residents with their issues and also look strategically about the future needs of the Ward and how they can be delivered working together.

He intends to continue to attend Forum meetings in the future.

He will be out and about in the Ward regularly and urged people to say hello if they bump into him. He said that he had so many friendly chats during the campaign with many residents and promises to continue to engage with residents, work hard and do what he can to attend to any issues whether residents voted for him or not.

His Council email is kamel.hawwash@birmingham.gov.uk where residents can write to him.

He said that he looks forward to working for the benefit of Stirchley Ward and all of its residents.

2. Apologies; Cllr Hawwash & Kerry Leslie,

3. **Minutes of meeting 13th April 2026**

These were accepted as a true record

4. Matters Arising

Environment issues

It was not known if the resident's complaint raised at previous meetings had been resolved. It is hoped that further information can be obtained before our June meeting.

SC said that, with the aid of a resident who she thanked for their participation, water testing had taken place on the River Rea on 24th April.

The steepness of the banks had created a difficulty and the level of water was low. Results showed that, in respect of Nitrates and Phosphates, the ecological status of the water was very good with nutrient concentrates low.

Reports on the Ph. level should be received in June.

In respect of Birmingham River Champions SC has been informed that Friends of Rea Valley Stirchley (FRVS) have registered to take part.

She welcomed the Chair of FRVS and invited her to address the meeting.

Claire gave an outline of the organisation's objectives to date which have concentrated on the vegetation along the river.

She said that the intention is to undertake more work in and around the river by clearing rubbish and foliage on the banks and along the course of the river.

They have waders and other equipment available.

Residents expressed how pleased they were that the path and banks on the Ten Acres side of the river have been cleared and planted. It is now a pleasant and relaxing environment. It was acknowledged that the path needs a little work in a couple of places.

SC said that it seems to be a good idea that the organisations work together in terms of water testing and other issues around the river environment. She had interest from several people to be involved in water testing which would need to be undertaken monthly.

This was agreed.

It was noted that the bin on Vicarage Road Bridge was again overflowing with rubbish and the bin base in Bournville Lane has not been removed.

SC said that she would contact Mark Airey and Dhireen Katwa who attended the February meeting.

Big Lunch & Big Help Out (5th-8th June)

SC said that the City Council did not currently charge for road closures but need 6 weeks notice to grant a request so it would be too late to arrange this for the Big Lunch weekend. Barriers and security need to be supplied by residents.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50014/information_for_event_organisers/1242/have_you_already_booked_a_street_party/3

In terms of the voluntary aspect she suggested that a survey of street signs (and cleaning if possible) would enhance the environment of the area.

She had noticed that some signs were dirty, obscured by foliage, had stickers on them and even had letters missing. It was agreed that this gave a poor impression to visitors to Stirchley.

She said that the Forum email could be used to collate information with work required by the Council (Keir) to be referred to our new Councillor.

It was agreed that, in principle, it would be a good idea but there was some scepticism whether it could be arranged.

Opening of the new Pineapple Station. SC asked if anyone knew if there had been any issues, for example parking. No one was aware of any issues.

No one knew of any updates for the Cooperative Development.

SC drew attention to the Food Waste Collection feedback opportunities and the online sessions. Some residents had completed the online form.

SC said that she would contact Friends of Stirchley Park to check progress on recruiting new blood and also the food waste issue in the Park.

It was noted that Ladbroke's has closed and work is going on inside the ground floor. It is not clear if it is being stripped or whether it is being prepared for a new use.

Chair of FORVS said that some of their members had taken part in the City Challenge.

5. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

SC highlighted the next Tasking meeting on 6th June (PA unable to attend) and also that there were some literature and bells regarding crime prevention and crime reporting at the back of the room.

SC said that it is hoped that another Drop In session at Stirchley Library will be held (bearing in mind lessons learnt from the previous one). She is awaiting information from PCSO Tandy.

She said that she had noticed vehicles parked on the zigzag lines on the crossings opposite Greggs.

Paula said that, when reporting an issue to WM Police online she had experienced issues with entering her date of birth and had made PCSO Tandy aware at the recent Tasking Meeting.

6. Planning issues

Heather Kelly (HK) Planning Officer, said that, unusually, there were no new Planning Applications in Stirchley.

She undertook to explore how progress of Planning Appeals could be monitored.

There was discussion about the size of an extension in Plymouth Road.

SC said that it appeared to be in line with the Planning Permission granted.

7. Networking

SC said that there was a meeting of Stirchley History Group on Thursday (14th) evening 7pm at Stirchley Baths

8. Any Other Business

A resident raised the issue of possible flooding in Pitcairn Close.

Measures taken to reduce the risk had been successful but pipes and drains are now obscured and blocked by brambles and foliage. There is a worry that they will not work effectively and flooding will become an issue again.

It was agreed that this was a matter for the City Council.

The issue of the nature of the businesses in Cotteridge was raised and their propensity to attract illegal transactions and disturbance.

PA said that she understands that WM Police are aware. SC said that this was the sort of thing that could be raised at a session with WM Police in the Library.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.35.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 8th June.

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.