

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on 13th July 2026 @7.30pm in Stirchley Community Church

Present: 35 including; Chair (SC), Vice Chair (RM), Treasurer (PA) Cllr Hawwash & members of the Forum's management committee

1. SC welcomed everyone to the meeting including the two speakers.
2. Apologies; Kerry Leslie, Chair of Friends of Rea Valley Stirchley

Friends of Stirchley Library (FoSL) – Theresa Summerfield (TS)

TS gave a brief introduction to the history of Friends of Stirchley Library and the role of the Volunteer Coordinator who is paid through Lottery funding.

This funding is coming to an end and therefore there is a need to reapply.

She pointed out that the Council no longer use volunteers and the FOSL volunteers allow a library service to be provided at lunchtimes and when Library staff aren't present.

She referred to a survey that she invited people to complete. She distributed paper copies and the QR code was put on screen.

Road Safety – David Barker (DB)

DB introduced himself as a local resident who, until recently, was a Councillor.

He said that the junctions of Pershore Road and Fordhouse Lane and Pershore Road and Lifford Lane are incredibly difficult for pedestrians to cross the roads and for traffic to navigate.

He has spoken to Cllr Hawwash as he's aware that there could be Council funding available for work to alleviate some of the issues.

He drew attention to a survey he'd placed online and urged people to complete.

The relevant QR code was put on screen.

SC thanked them for attending.

3. Minutes of meeting 8th June 2026

These were accepted as a true record with the addition of the location of the bin under Item 4.

4. Matters Arising

Environment issues

The resident's complaint raised at previous meetings has not progressed further.

Cllr Hawwash has been made aware of the issue which appears to now be with Council inaction in terms of enforcement.

In respect of Birmingham River Champions. Friends of Rea Valley Stirchley (FoRVS) have informed SC that training will take place on 21st July in Cannon Hill Park. If it is not possible for those interested to attend this sessions it is hoped that further training can be arranged. Those who have expressed an interest should be contacted by the end of the week.

A representative of the Cooperative Development was present and able to give an update.

It was noted that the pavements had now reopened although the surface has yet to be finished. It is understood that work onsite will be completed by the end of the week.

A further offer has been made and a reply is awaited.

The issue of parking was noted. Planning permission with no parking spaces was granted on the basis that tenancy agreements would include a clause that tenants would not have cars. It is not clear how this would be enforced if all tenants are nominated by a social landlord or BCC.

A resident pointed out possible issues with children coming out of the doorways of the businesses (and the site) onto a narrow pavement and possibly running into the road. SC said that this had happened at the former KwikSave store resulting in injury to a child after which railings had been put up lining the pavement.

There was also concern that adults might be tempted to cross Pershore Road.

It would suggest that railings lining the pavement are indicated as a matter of safety.

It wasn't clear whose responsibility this would be. Probably BCC as it wasn't stated in the Planning Decision.

There was a suggestion that the Forum might wish to invite the Cabinet Member for Housing to attend a meeting.

Possible flooding in Pitcairn Close.

It was noted that this matter had now been resolved much to the relief of residents affected.

5. Committee Report

SC said that this was a new item on the Agenda. It was an opportunity for the Committee to give an update on what they had been doing between meetings and for regular updates on Forum finances to be given.

SC and RM had met with our counterparts at Kings Heath and Brandwood Forum. We exchanged information and explored areas where we might work together, for example Pineapple Road Station. We also exchanged publicity materials.

It was thought that the model of having Committee meetings in public would not be right for Stirchley Forum, hence this item on the Agenda.

The Committee held a meeting at which we reviewed the Forum finances and agreed on this item for future Agendas.

We also agreed to offer to the Forum the free training offered by the Red Cross.

6. Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour

SC thanked those who supported the session at Stirchley Library on 23rd June. The slightly different format seemed to be appreciated. It is intended to hold a further session in September.

A resident raised the issue of a new small store opening on Pershore Road. There was some concern expressed about the possible nature of the store given the recent publicity about small stores and drug dealing, etc..

SC said that in order to do anything some evidence would be required and it usually required the cooperation of the City Trading Standards as well WM Police.

The issue of the danger posed by off-road motor bikes was raised. Also Lime bikes being ridden on the pavement.

Some concerns about the danger to pedestrians on the Rea Valley were raised. It was pointed out that it is a cycleway.

It was suggested that signs to remind people of proper use where Lime bikes are docked might be helpful.

There was a query about whether BCC receive any money from 'Lime'. Cllr Hawwash to make enquiries.

7. Planning issues

Heather Kelly (HK) Planning Officer, said that, the new BCC Planning Online is now bedding in.

She reported that there have been several applications related to domestic extensions and a house in Bournville Lane requesting a Lawful Development Certificate in respect of a 7 bed HMO.

The question of the revived proposal from McDonalds concerning the vacant plot was raised.

SC said that there wasn't time for a full debate at this stage.

Queries were raised about how the McDonalds survey should be answered.

David Barker and SC said that, in their experience, it was good to raise practical planning objections. The main issues at this stage relate to the concept of a Drive Thru, including traffic issues on Pershore Road, especially for those people living there. Also 24 hour opening.

A representative of the Cooperative pointed out that they had been working on an alternative use for the site for some time which would include housing and facilities for local people. SC thanked them for attending the meeting and reiterated that they had an open invitation to attend the meeting at any time.

8. Networking

SC reminded those present that Mobile Refuse Collection would be on Morrison's car park on Tuesday 14th July.

She has been informed that, during the summer, there will be a regular session of Yoga in the Park at Stirchley Park on Saturdays 11.15 – further details available on the Yoga Bourne website.

Cllr Hawwash thanked those who attended the community picnic in Hazelwell Park on 14th June and said that there would be another one on 26th July again in Hazelwell Park, near to the play area, between 12 noon and 3.

He said that he had held 2 surgeries and another is planned on 1st August 1pm – 3pm at Grace Church.

He will be arranging a Ward meeting to look at some of the issues facing Stirchley.

Residents and businesses will be urged to attend, with opportunities to discuss issues in some depth.

9. Any Other Business

A resident raised the issue of bubbles and foul water in the River Rea, apparently coming from the small brook that enters it near to the Hazelwells Development.

This has not been reported but photos have been taken.

SC said that she had reported the small pool of water that has appeared on Pershore Road near to the Card Factory shop. When adding the location the relevant post code had as the only option 'Stirchley Community Centre'

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.00pm.

Next meeting will be held on Monday 14th September, unless there is a need for an urgent meeting.

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.