

Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019, Stirchley Community Church

Present: 27 including Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Members of the Forum's management committee, Cllr Locke

Apologies: 1

Rob Morris took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. RM thanked the retiring Chair, Pete Walker, for his work with the Forum, and gave a brief introduction about himself. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2019 were circulated and agreed as a true record.

Matters arising

Email communications: Cllr Locke asked whether the agenda and minutes could be distributed by email before the next meeting; RM explained the Forum was in the process of setting up a new email address and Mailchimp account.

Another resident asked why the minutes were no longer being posted on the www.stirchley.co.uk website; it was explained that Mick Jones, who owns and runs the website, has retired from the Forum committee but may be willing to continue publishing the minutes if they are sent to him.

Local resident Laura Creaven offered to set up a simple free website for the Forum.

BCC Pioneer Wards: an event is being held on 14th January; Cllr Locke encouraged more local groups to get involved.

Bournville Lane Bridge: Cllr Locke arranged a meeting with representatives from Great Bear logistics, Mondelez, BCC and WMP and local residents to discuss the ongoing problems of lorries attempting to reach the Cadbury works from Stirchley via Bournville Lane.

Great Bear has set up an email address for residents wishing to report lorries getting stuck: stirchleyresidents@greatbear.co.uk. A follow-up meeting is being held in February.

Policing update

Sgt Sam Bonehill announced her move to Handsworth after 20 months at Bournville.

Sgt Bonehill updated the Forum on recent activity.

Distraction burglaries: as a result of local intelligence a female who had been praying on vulnerable elderly residents has now been arrested, charged with 5 thefts and recalled to prison.

Carjacking: drivers were cautioned to keep doors locked when driving, and to be aware that criminals are tricking drivers into pulling over in order to steal cars.

Burglaries: residents were advised to keep curtains closed at night and not to leave Christmas presents where they can be seen through windows to avoid burglaries by opportunistic thieves. External security lights and lights on timers inside the home also act as a deterrent.

Speeding: PCSO Blackford is running a community Speedwatch on Cartland Rd on December 13th.

Buses: WMP continue to work with the Safer Travel partnership to address issues on local buses.

Cannabis factories: WMP are working to gather sufficient evidence to obtain warrants.

Cannabis oil leaflets: leaflets are being left on car windscreens around Stirchley; Sgt Bonehill suggested BCC might be best placed to deal with this as a littering issue.

Planning update

Forum Planning Officer Sandra Cooper updated the meeting on the latest planning issues.
Former Limes residential home: permission for a new nursery has been granted with minimal conditions despite the Forum raising concerns about the impact on local traffic on an already busy street. Sgt Bonehill noted WMP only comment on crime matters and not transport.

72-74 Hazelwell St (Printigo): retrospective approval was granted for the subdivision of the unit to create premises for Venture Bikes.

Three Horseshoes: SC reported the first floor function room appears to have been subdivided although this was not proposed in the approved plans.

Hazelwell Station: Cllr Locke suggested the drop-off point would be redesigned as issues had been raised around road safety in the vicinity of the new station.

Seven Capital site: residents can still comment on the proposal as no decision has been made. The plans have been amended to remove the drive through unit.

SC submitted comments on the limited access into the site, especially the residential area, the lack of emergency access, the increase in density, and the need for an active façade on the Pershore Rd.

A local resident suggested Seven Capital would have had to make fewer changes if they had consulted with the local community first. Another noted only 9% of the residential units were to be social housing when the target is 30%; SC will add this to the comments.

A resident thanked the Forum for their work in raising issues around planning and asked how local people could be empowered to comment themselves; SC suggested a special planning session could be held next year with information and advice.

Graffiti on the site boundaries remains a problem; although it is reported very little is done. SC is looking for a volunteer to get involved with the monthly planning updates - if anyone is interested they should contact the Forum.

Changes to the Forum

RM discussed a proposal to introduce a new networking section in the meeting, where residents can exchange news about upcoming events and meetings.

RM explained the Forum was also looking at changing the constitution to enable new committee members to be co-opted between AGMs; the boundaries of the Forum area will also be reviewed as they do not match the new Stirchley Ward. A committee meeting is planned for early in the new year so more concrete proposals will be presented at the February meeting.

Suggested speakers and themes for the new year include: the half marathon; planning issues; Morrisons/Co-op.

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Stirchley 106 monies: no further developments as BCC is in purdah; all suggestions and proposals were sent to BCC Planning officers.

No.27 bus service: a resident reported on the recent erratic operation of the service; Cllr Locke will raise the issue at the next BCC Transport Delivery committee.

Upcoming events

Stirchley History Group: 12th December, talk about Monument Rd Baths.

STWF Christmas Fair: 14th December 3 - 6 pm, Stirchley Baths

Date of the next meeting

Monday 13th January, 7.30 pm in Stirchley Community Church

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.

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