

Minutes of meeting AGM 4th March 2019

Disclaimer re Minutes of StWF. Minutes are only approved at the next advertised meeting. The minutes from StWF meeting may not accurately reflect the discussions that took place amongst the StWF participants. Statements are paraphrased and may oversimplify discussions, leaving out many nuances in conversation, and may inaccurately report facts. If there are any objections then please make them known before or at the next meeting where they can be rectified. The meeting was chaired by Sue Fellows and opened at 7.00 p.m.

1. Apologies: Danni Bayley, Jordan Isherwood, Rev Catherine Gryllis. Laura Creaven. Kerry Leslie.
2. Minutes of previous AGM Approved by those in attendance.
3. Matters Arising. Seven Capital – No further information. S106 money. Sue said we would discuss this further on item 6. of the agenda.
4. Treasurers Report: Lisa.
 - Opening Bank Balance £1,114.69
 - Income Fete 2018 £1039.20
 - Xmas Event £748.39
 - Grant received for Stirchley in Bloom £300.00
 - Advertising Income £150
 - Donations £285.00
 - Totaling: **£2522.59**
 - Expenditure Donations to local School Stirchley Baths. Also Christmas Tree £235.00
 - Expenditure other £ £2062.89
 - Totaling: **£2297.89**

Closing Balance: £1339.39
5. Stirchley in Bloom Report: Stu Ward

The project for Stirchley is to make it a greener more pleasant place to be. So far the groups of volunteers have concentrated on weeding, planting and litter picking, mainly in the areas of the old constituency office and outside the train station on Mary Vale Rd area. Rev Catherine Gryllis and volunteers from the Pineapple area have also concerted their efforts around planting bulbs outside the church in Pineapple Grove.

Most of the bulbs are now flowering. We must thank Kerry Leslie who has given her free time and her skills to produce and develop a newsletter. The group will be meeting every month. Stu asked if any other volunteers would like to come along they will be more than welcome.

Judith an audience member mentioned she had noticed much improvement in these areas. Sue thanked her for mentioning this. Susan also said Councillor Locke had been organising litter picking within the Stirchley Ward and would resume now spring is on its way.

6. S106 Report: Susan MacLean

Susan outlined the proposal submitted to the council September 2018 and the reasons behind the proposal.

Firstly, we will be posting further information as we have it. We thank Chairperson Peter Walker of Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum for offering us the chance to meet with residents, but as we haven't confirmed the proposals we thought it only fair to present them to the people here this evening.

StWF S106 PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVING PUBLIC REALM STIRCHLEY Statement 4th March 2019 AGM - Stirchley, the Way Forward

After the Tesco debacle, £170,000 Section 106 money was made available to Stirchley. Mainly this was to focus on the primary shopping area and in line of sight of Tesco Store.

There was a public meeting called **TUESDAY 21ST March 2017** We asked traders and residents what improvement to Stirchley were needed (using the criteria public realm expenditure) After many further meetings and making no progress it was decided at a meeting **30th January 2018** that smaller groups in Stirchley could put forward their ideas with a plan and costs. The Council would consider the ideas and decide if the criteria were met; the S106 money could be used.

StWF would be the conduit for the plans and money. Chris Tomlinson (Bike Foundry) drafted an application form for interested parties. It was thought this would be an easier way for the council to deal with one organisation. There seemed too much talk and little action. Stirchley the Way Forward were constituted, with a bank account and experience and were the preferred group.

It is understood that Birmingham City Council used £50,000 of the S106 money to assist the Friends of Stirchley Library with repairs to Stirchley Library. (Council Building)

Still with no progress after nine months StWF drafted a proposal and submitted this to BCC, Councillor Locke and then to Officer Doug Lee in September 2018.

Although the majority of traders would like to see a shopper's car park and after a petition was presented to the council in December 2017 the council has rejected this for the time being hoping Seven Capital will allow some land for a car park.

Traders and residents mainly wanted to see improvement to the streetscape.

There have been various plans for artwork on shutters and empty shops being painted but most felt this would be an expensive quick fix to a problem and that a more permanent improvement is needed. There is a great deal of interest in new business coming to Stirchley. Councillor Locke is working with the council and owners of vacant shops to see if we can bring them back into use.

a. Shop Front Grants.

This offer would need to be limited to traders already trading within the primary shopping area on the Pershore Rd 'Stirchley High St'. We will also canvass the traders to finalize a figure required for a grant. Traders felt that there has been little investment in Stirchley, due to the uncertainty regarding the Tesco development. Many were nervous investing in their properties at this uncertain time. StWF will be working with officers from BCC to bring this plan to fruition.

b. Business loans REJECTED *(further comment made by Karen Cheney)

c. Street Planters. . Planters placed at various positions along the high street and side roads off. We would like to concentrate on the main shopping parade. SIB will lead this project. We would also like to extend the idea to other parts of Stirchley; it is felt this would help to bring 'a feel-good factor' to and including the area of the Pineapple Estate. An idea of adopt a planter; this would encourage residents to adopt and perhaps plant herbs or suchlike for the community to use. We feel this would help with community cohesion.

The Fruit and Nut trail has been set up by another group of community residents who have already secured some funding for this project. It is expected to link the trail with the high street and the local parks, Hazelwell and Stirchley Park. Future funding from the S106 money might be considered if it were for improving access from the high street to the trail. We feel there must be links to and from the main high street.

d. Street bins. There have been many new hot and cold food establishment set up in Stirchley, we feel there needs to be more bins along the high street to cater for the increased volume of rubbish. This would also encourage keeping the area tidy and free of litter. We have also identified the need to address the problem of rubbish from flats above shops which at present properties do not have a designated recycling bin collection area. Maybe investigate underground bins, rather than bins being left on

the path which hinders pedestrians. This would be a larger investment for BCC. Not come within the scope of Section 106.

e. Graffiti blight the high street. Recently there has been a great deal of graffiti and also some may have seen the on- line derogatory piece by the Mail. Photographs showing graffiti covered closed down shops. It is a shame the photographs were taken early in the morning before many of the businesses had even opened. Nevertheless we would like to offer traders the opportunity of purchasing anti graffiti paint and anti-climb paint at a discount price. Once used this should lessen the cost for removal of graffiti in the future. Traders would be encouraged to carry out the work themselves. We can look into the legality of painting some of the shop shutters where no business is trading.

f. Adult exercise equipment. As seen in other countries important in helping to improve the health and wellbeing of local people. Jump on and exercise. Suggest a few pieces of equipment for the park or the community centre. Further discussions are needed, because we would like to encourage the older members of the community to exercise without feeling intimidated.

g. Bike Racks. Suggest four racks positioned along the main street in the shopping area. Chris from the Bike Foundry also suggested there are attachments which could be fixed onto the railing where owners could secure their bikes.

Examples of expenditure, we recognise BCC could negotiate competitive prices from regular suppliers, but we would encourage and support the use of local businesses especially within Stirchley.

- Total: approx 17 shop fronts £61,200
 - Ring fenced start up loans £40,000 Rejected
 - Planters £4746.00
 - Wall planters and large barrel planters £5775.00
 - Heritage litter bins £7,100
 - Bulbs for planters £655.00
 - Exercise frames (2) £7,998.00
 - Bike rack frames £260.00
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Our proposal was calculated at £127,734.00

However, the* **£40,000 business loans has been rejected** the other proposals are being looked at.

We are unable to give an exact figure at this time because for example new bins for the high street would be more expensive than replacing the old bins because of the maintenance charge which is calculated for 10 years.

We are in talks with officers from the council Doug Lee and Hayley Claybrook and will be in a better position when consultation with affected parties takes place.

StWF won't be delivering the proposal in its entirety we are asking the professionals to do this for Stirchley. I believe Mr. Wayne Pell will be the officer dealing with this.

We would like to consult with

The Friends of Stirchley and Hazelwell park with regard to exercise equipment. Also Consulting with Stirchley in Bloom and the Fruit and Nut Trail for planters etc.

The Bike Foundry will be helping with advice for the additional bike racks.

We would the community groups in Stirchley to be involved and we hope to set up a meeting with the Mr. Peter Walker in hopes we can work with the Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum in bringing the best facilities for Stirchley.

Dr Steve Warburton asked if there was a possibility of painting shutters of absent landlords. Councillor Locke said she would look into the legality.

Susan said she thought this was a good idea.

Dr Warburton also mentioned he thought shop frontage improvements were a priority. Everyone appeared to agree.

*Karen Cheney said the reason the proposal for business loan of £40,000 had been rejected was because it wasn't appropriate for the funding to come from S106 however, she did think there were other possible funding streams for start up businesses. This was something Karen thought could be discussed further and maybe StWF could host a workshop. E.g. Locality start up funds, £15,000 Also with Smart Finance and Lloyds.

Mick said he thought the planters were a good idea because the wooden planters along Cartland Rd and other areas of Stirchley are falling apart.

There was a conversation around the exercise equipment proposed. Susan reiterated the need for a conversation with other groups in Stirchley.

Mick asked about the Old Fireworks Shop junction of Pershore Rd and Fordhouse Lane. This was an eyesore. Couldn't there be compulsory purchase for the properties in Stirchley which seemed to have been left? Judith said she thought the firework shop once was owned by Chas Mann's.

Councillor Locke said she has written to all of the owners of the properties and that unfortunately there isn't the money in the Council Coffers to make compulsory purchases at this time. However, she will keep on contacting the owners to get a resolution.

7. **Proposals for administrative posts** –Sue informed the audience that we have three vacancies for the committee of Stirchley, the Way Forward. We asked anyone interested to contact Susan ahead of this meeting. We have had three people who have shown interest. Chris Tomlinson is standing down due to further business commitments. We would like to thank Chris who has remained a steady hand for the group since 2015 when first formed. We wish him luck with his new business venture and congratulate him and Nancy on the recent birth of their baby son. The audience gave Chris a round of applause.

Susan, Sue and Lisa wish to be re-elected. Unless there are, any objections from the audience, there were no objections and so Sue, Susan and Lisa were Re-elected.

Sue asked the audience for a proposer and someone to second for each of the interested people who wish to join the committee

Martin Gallo	was proposed and seconded duly elected
Stu Ward	was proposed and seconded duly elected

Danni Bayley will be in attendance at meetings but won't be a voting committee member as this may be a conflict of interest with her present role with Birmingham City Council. Danni will be having a role as an adviser to the events sub-committee.

8. Sue informed the audience Stirchley fete has been booked for Saturday 1st June 1-5 p.m. venue Stirchley Baths. We welcome any volunteers to help us out on the day.
9. Any Other Business:
Karen Cheney wanted to thank Stirchley, the Way Forward for their generous donations to the Baths and for the Christmas tree.

Karen also wanted to mention the Dementia Café which is held every two weeks at the Baths and the recent workshop.
Susan said she had a few notes from Danni she wanted to read out.

Danni has asked me to introduce you to the Dementia Action Week 20th to 26th May 2019;

Dementia doesn't only affect "Older" people.

Can Stirchley become the forerunner in becoming the first dementia friendly community in Birmingham?

There are several criteria which need to be met for us to receive this accolade. One of the criteria, is 'dementia friends training'

Danni is taking the lead on this and is hoping to set up a 'one off' awareness training course, one evening for traders and members of the community, this would mean approximately one and half hours of your time.

There is a sense of community in Stirchley; we can all help make some small changes which can have a massive impact on the lives of some very vulnerable people within our community.

Susan attended a dementia friendly course here at the Baths along with Mick, Judith and Sandra and said, "I can say I found it very informative and it has certainly opened my eyes." "Made me think differently and question how we can all help with this?"

Mick said it had been a fantastic workshop and he would like to be involved in any further events.

Karen suggested if anyone was interested in knitting or crocheting forget me not flowers. Making paper flowers too, please get in touch with Danni. Susan said it might be an idea to plant forget me not flowers around Stirchley.

Also we need to get the traders on board to attend the workshop Danni is organising. This way Stirchley shops could perhaps display a flower in their window.

Councillor Locke said perhaps we could get the Coop involved as Dementia care is their preferred charity. They will be holding an event on Friday 10-2 p.m. at the local store.

Sue and Lisa agreed this was a very good cause, and both had experience of customers with dementia who they have dealt with sympathetically.

Sue said more information will be posted on StWF website soon.

Another point of business: Sue wanted to inform the audience StWF are intending to make small adjustments to their constitution. The new constitution

will be available from the next ordinary meeting, the date and time will be posted on our website:

www.stirchleytwf.co.uk

Sue said if there were no further points she would close the meeting. Sue thanked the audience for attending and making the meeting a very interesting friendly informative meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.48 p.m.