

STIRCHLEY, the Way Forward

MINUTES OF THE MEETING 19th November 2019

Meeting Held at Stirchley Baths.

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 upcoming meeting where they can be rectified.

The meeting was presided over by Susan MacLean. Minutes were recorded by Michelle Piggott.

Present: Stu Ward. Cllr Mary Locke. Margaret Walker. Sue Fellows. Lisa Girling. Marie Marsden. Michelle Piggott. Susan MacLean.

Apologies: Martin Gallo. Kerry Leslie.

Minutes of the Last Meeting, 7th August 2019

The minutes were agreed by those present.

Matters Arising

Bertie the Barrow (nickname) is now wintering after a busy summer in Stirchley. Cllr Mary Locke informed us that Bertie the Barrow is going to Ascension Church for winter as Rev. Catherine Grylls has space to store him. A cover may be purchased for Bertie to protect him throughout the winter. Reiterating the minutes of our last meeting, Cllr Locke would encourage Bertie the Barrow to be used around the whole of Stirchley Ward for gardening and litter picking etc.

Seven Capital's planning is now available on the BCC planning portal.

Consultation for the outline planning comments to be made by December 1st 2019

Susan asked if anyone had received any interest in becoming a friend of the local

Bournville Train Station. Councillor Locke had heard nothing further.

Co-operative Groups Development

Susan and Sue representing StWF along with other Stirchley residents attended a public consultation at Artefact on 16th November to view plans of the Co-Operative and Accord Housing proposed development on Pershore Road. The planning documents should be available to view on the council's portal shortly, with the date for consultation to be confirmed.

Some members voiced concerns over the new development, with plans to build and rent 42 apartments to non-drivers, were raised along with the present current lack of parking spaces already pressurizing side roads within Stirchley. How are the tenants going to be monitored to ensure they are not parking in and around the new development? The height of the building was a concern too, not in keeping with the current streetscape. Four storey building was overpowering the surrounding businesses. In the main most of which were two storeys.

Members felt it was discriminatory that the flat tenants had to be non-drivers but also one co-op member present at Artefact said they would promote the apartments to younger members of the community. Other concerns were the pressure on local schools and doctors when renting 42 (1, 2, 3, bed roomed) apartments.

Another anxiety raised was the composition of the building materials proposed as confirmed by the Architect, described as a compressed wood type product, with a burn time of only 2 hours. With Grenfell still fresh in people's minds, the idea of a 4-storey block of flats being built and made with compressed wood stirred up worry within the group. Susan raised the point that no building would receive planning unless the fire department was happy with the building. So she assumed BCC would make their decision after considering the outcome of a fire survey. Also, discussed was the way it could maybe be viewed as hostel style accommodation with large bathrooms and kitchens to be opened up to communal living.

Cllr Locke stated that any concern needs to be put in writing and submitted to Birmingham Planning Department. A committee member said she believed the land has not been purchased yet; it is still subject to planning being agreed. Susan said local people must make their own individual comments on the planning portal for or against the planning application.

With concerns aside everyone agreed it was lovely to see Loaf, Artefact, and the Bike Foundry all traders in Stirchley working together to bring something new to the area and staying within Stirchley.

S106 Survey Results

Susan explained Councillor Locke could not make comment or join in this conversation with an election soon. Susan read out the results of the S106 survey which was undertaken by StWF via on-line and paper submissions. The survey closed midnight on 31/08/19. The result was extremely positive for StWF and encourages us to continue working to represent Stirchley on behalf of the traders and residents. Results of the survey can be found on the StWF website <https://www.stirchleytwf.co.uk>

Susan explained that a small group of residents had requested additional time to carry out their own survey. Councillor Locke had agreed, with results being made public after November 10th. However, the forthcoming general election has delayed the final decision by the Council.

Susan added it was a pity because she believed improvements could have been well under way for Stirchley going into winter if there had been less delay.

Brief Update on Stirchley in Bloom

Stu updated the meeting. Kerry Leslie had taken the lead from him for the StWF project 'Stirchley in Bloom'. Kerry has asked if StWF would be willing to pass over the project for her to manage in its entirety. Susan asked the committee if they were in agreement with Kerry becoming the sole organiser. StWF would no longer be involved and any funding would be raised by Kerry through a newly constituted group. The greening up and concentrating on Stirchley High Street using the S106 fund could go ahead in collaboration with Kerry's new group and StWF subject to agreement by BCC. This would allow Kerry to concentrate on the wider ward. Susan explained that the work of StWF was full on and she believed Kerry could give the project her full attention as she has proven with her past successes. It will be sad as 'Stirchley in Bloom' was originally started by StWF but all agreed in wishing Kerry the best of luck taking on this task.

Christmas Party 2019

Susan explained plans are fully under way for the Christmas Party 2019 which is running from 3:30pm - 6pm on Saturday, 14th December. Friday, December 13th those members who could meet to help set up the grotto should be at Stirchley Baths by 3.45 p.m. Discussed ideas for how Santa was to arrive at the Baths. Discussed timings for the raffle call (5:30pm) Sue asked for more volunteers.

AOB

Susan announced that Damien our street cleaner has been short-listed for a Chamberlain Award which was put forward by traders and residents amongst others.

The group explained how Damien is always extremely diligent and is fantastic at his job and it's lovely that he is being recognised for all of his work.

Cllr Mary Locke was informed that on the planning portal Lifford Business Association is still showing as active. Cllr Locke said she would email to have this removed.

Update: Stirchley, the Way Forward will replace Lifford Business Association agreed with BCC

Our winter meeting scheduled sometime February 2020 - Agenda and date will be published on StWF website.

Susan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8:20 p.m.