

STIRCHLEY, THE WAY FORWARD

MINUTES Of the meeting held on the 25TH October 2016 7.15 p.m. Stirchley Baths

Chaired by Chris Tomlinson

Secretary - Susan MacLean

Administrators – Sue Fellows and Lisa Girling

Chris welcomed the members of the community attending the meeting.

1. Apologies:

Councillor Mary Locke. Councillor Timothy Huxtable. Mr Wayne Pell. Susan Kruse. Sharon Hughes. Clare Thomas – Green Party. Madeleine North – University representative. Steve Warburton.

2. Minutes of the previous Meeting was approved.

3. Matters Arising: Susan updated the meeting on various points

- We still need someone to take on the responsibility of approaching local business owners with regard to advertising on the new website. (If anyone is interested please email **Stirchley2016@gmail.com**) the website address is
- www.stirchleytwf.co.uk
- Paul Maders from the British Oak has kindly arranged with Trevor to be our Santa at the Christmas Fair.
- Letters will be sent out to the local schools advertising the fair after Nov 5th.
- There is no further news on the application for small donation funding from the Greggs foundation.
- The raffle tickets have been printed and are now available. 1st prize Tesco very kindly donated a 32 inch slim line T.V. 2nd Christmas Hamper donated by the traders. 3rd Prize. Beauty gift set donated by Bulgarian Rose & Co. There are other prizes too. Paul from the British Oak has kindly donated a meal for two at the British Oak.

4. Christmas Window/shop display competition.

Sue gave the details of the competition and that Jane from the Co op florists will be the judge this year. Judging will take place between the 12th and 19th of December. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. This year the competition has been broadened to include Christmas shop/business displays, so this can include places like The British Oak. Sue and Lisa will be visiting shopkeepers the week following Halloween. Although free to enter it would be lovely if entrants could make a small donation. All proceeds from the competition, fair and raffle will be used for the future events benefitting the community. The winners of the 1st, 2nd and people's

choice will receive a commemorative certificate. Plus, first prize £25.00 voucher, 2nd Prize tub of chocolates.

Voting for the people's choice will be made by the general public. Their votes can be left with Lisa of Mirror Image 1418 Pershore Road. Chris of the Bike Foundry.

1539 Pershore Road, or Sue at DJF Kitchens and Bedrooms 1386-1390 Pershore Rd. Sue suggested we ask Karen Cheney if the Baths would be willing to have a voting box too.

Chris suggested we take

6. *Any Other Business* before point 5.

Paul from the British Oak handed out leaflets inviting Stirchley residents/community members along to the British Oak on Thursday 10th November 7 p.m. onwards for an informal get together to raise any concerns they may have with the ongoing transformation of The British Oak. A buffet and a hot drink will be provided.

Sue said it was a good idea The British Oak were being included in the community and were very welcome. Everyone agreed.

5. *Use of former constituency office in Stirchley*

Chris explained that StirchleytWF had been in touch with Mr Wayne Pell concerning the void properties in Stirchley main shopping area for over nine months.

Mr. Wayne Pell had invited our group to an informal meeting where he had shown us around the former constituency office in Stirchley. He explained the building had expected to be returned to the school but they no longer wanted/needed it, various organisation had been shown around the building but there had been no real interest and so it may have to be included on the void property list.

He said he had been working with his colleagues in planning to draft a plan in principle to make available a sum of money to deliver improvement to the void properties along Stirchley High Street (Persnore Road, Hazelwell St, and Bournville Lane) in order to bring these properties back into use. Mr Pell was keen for the former constituency office to be included and as a suggestion only, to provide possible workshop/entrepreneur hub (similar concept to Moseley Exchange) for the area.

Chris advised the meeting it was purely an exercise at the moment and that StirchleytWF as a group couldn't take on such a task and this is why we wanted to broaden the discussion, recognising it should be a community-wide effort. At present no more than a 'test the water' scenario. If interest was shown by other group members then we could formalise our response.

Emma Ashton a resident of Stirchley and presently involved in the prospective art project for Stirchley explained to the group how she felt the S.C.O. (Stirchley constituency Office) could be used for art groups. She was happy to expand her views if we go any further.

Kieran from the P.Cafe said it could be a good opportunity for small groups from the Art community to rent and bring footfall to Stirchley benefitting traders and residents. Dave said that in his opinion the place needed more than a lick of paint. Susan agreed with this, she said although the roof looked sound a more in depth inspection was needed. Chris suggested that maybe it could be used for light industry craft working, dual use. Somewhere else, to exchange views and publicise the area.

Kieran from the 'P' Café said he thought it could be a golden opportunity.

Rose from the Stirchley Community Group asked if we had any further information. Susan said she had been in touch with Wayne and had asked for costs, whether the place was for sale, rent, the rates of the property and the actual size in square metres. Susan said there are about 8 or 9 rooms in total. Wayne was away at the moment but indicated he was happy to come along to our next meeting to explain his vision.

Emma suggested we contact Roxy Collins who although on leave at the moment may be interested in helping us take this further.

Paul Slatter asked if this would become a community asset or put for sale.

Susan advised him that this item on the agenda was meant to be a brief exploration of the possibilities, we had no written information and we had no formal offer it was merely to see if there was any interest. It was felt our group represented the best likely conduit in contacting other groups. If interest was made known then we could publicize the issue.

Rose from Stirchley Community Group, said that the SCG had discussed the idea and were possibly interested, however they would need much more detail before they could put forward a plan.

Liam from the Wildcat tap suggested the need for a Business Plan. He asked if it should be one person in charge of the discussions or a committee. Emma suggested we needed to have one spokesperson. Others felt it would be better to have a committee.

The meeting members decided to wait to confirm details with Mr. Pell and members exchanged emails with Liam. It was agreed for anyone interested in taking this further should keep Susan updated, so she could share details.

7. Date and time of Next Meeting

**TUESDAY 29TH November 2016 7.15 p.m. Stirchley Baths
Deep End Room**

Chris thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.