

STIRCHLEY, The WAY FORWARD

Minutes of meeting Stirchley the Way Forward 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017 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 next meeting where they can be rectified.*

Sue Fellows chaired the meeting.

In attendance: Sue Fellows, Lisa Girling, Councillor Mary Locke, Brian Withey, Emma Ashton, Mark Summerfield and Susan MacLean

Apologies Chris Tomlinson, Kerry Leslie, Margaret Walker.

Sue opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. welcoming the members and guests.

Minutes of previous meeting approved.

Sue announced that the Christmas Window Competition would go ahead this year and that last year's winner Skinneysink would be the judge. Sue asked traders to have their windows ready for the 9<sup>th</sup> of December, as the judging would take place 9<sup>th</sup> until 16<sup>th</sup> December. The winners of 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> and people's choice would be contacted. First prize would be a gift card for £25.00 2<sup>nd</sup> and people's choice would both receive a tub of chocolates. Announcements' and a list of the winners will be available on our website and social media,

Sue outlined the plan for a petition to be handed into Birmingham City Council asking for a shopper's car park for Stirchley.

Lisa explained that Susan and herself had visited a few traders and asked them what would be most welcome in Stirchley. The overall majority wanted a car park.

Councillor Mary Locke said the petition could be handed in at the Council meeting early December.

Emma suggested we expand on the petition idea and organise an e petition everyone agreed this was a good idea.

Brian suggested many local traders could benefit from a shoppers car park, but wasn't sure where one could be positioned. Susan added that a few

people had asked the same question, but felt we could perhaps ask the new developers in Stirchley if they could provide the land. If the new development on Tesco land goes ahead there could be some space there. Mary Locke mentioned Simon Turner BCC has mentioned car parking before.

Lisa added that the new houses built in Hunts road are causing a problem with residents parking. Some of her clients said because BCC had declined planning for parking on the front of the new houses, the householders are having to park in the road causing less space for others. It was generally agreed there is a lack of parking everywhere in Stirchley. Part of the problem is the high street. If we could have a car park then it would encourage shoppers and visitors, making the centre more fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Mary said she had met with transport today, and said the road problems are causing a loss of customers to both Stirchley and Cotteridge because of the lack of parking.

Emma added it is necessary and action must be taken. Sue, Lisa and Susan would continue with the petition.

Emma felt too often BCC did not discuss their intentions and presented plans as a fait accompli. Emma suggested that planners and councilors should come out to visit Stirchley not to a regular meeting but an onsite visit. So they can see what Stirchley is all about.

Mary said she agreed, we do need to meet to enable the people concerned to get a feel for Stirchley.

Brian said the developments should be in a coherent fashion. Sue agreed.

Emma suggested it was really important and there is a need for the Tesco site be developed quickly.

Susan said she had been speaking with a local estate agent who thought it was unlikely the new owners would build student accommodation. Susan said it would be good for it to be a mixed development not just social housing but affordable homes for young families. Lisa said we still need to ensure the infrastructure can support new families, doctors, schools etc.

S106 – Brian asked if there had been any proposals.

Susan said she had received information with four suggestions.

- Repairs to Baths roof – last meeting Doug Lee discounted this.
- Artwork on the Co op island – there was no idea the positioning or what it would be.
- Extension to the micro park near to Printigo.
- Repairs to the Library.

Susan explained there had been a discussion at the previous meeting and there had been objections to all of the proposals. However, Councillor

Locke said some of the money would go toward repairs of the Library. This could leave a reasonable amount left for other projects. Sue said the money was there on a first come first served basis, although it did have to be used within six years.

Sue said she felt along with other traders money should not go to any of the projects as it didn't seem to fit in with the criteria of public realm improvements.

Emma asked if Susan could send details of the wording of the document. ACTION – Susan sent these 2<sup>nd</sup> November to Emma.

Sue said if anyone else wanted sight of these please email Susan.

Susan told the meeting it wasn't the feeling of traders not to save or want the library to continue, more about spending money on a listed council building which the council had reneged in their duties in repairing.

Brian said this was true, he wanted it saved but where would it stop. Any building falling into disrepair use public realm money.

Sue, Stirchley will never be improved if we are promised money on one hand and taken away with the other.

Councillor Locke said Ian Ward had suggested using the money from another pot to pay for the boiler. The Councillors' had agreed to spend £40 -£50,000 because it would leave a reasonable balance and Stirchley should be in line for further monies from other developments. Emma asked for the figures, Mary said it should be around the £660,000 figure the council take 5% administration charge the local area affected receive 15% and 80% goes to other areas in Birmingham. Brian said they are meaningful amounts to invest in the local area.

There was a conversation around Emma's involvement working with Tesco to 'beautify'

The triangle but there was various conversations but no connectivity. Now Tesco have sold all of the land we can only wait for the new owners to come forward with their plans. Councillor Locke said we want to see Stirchley improved and the creation of job for the area.

Sue asked Councillor Locke directly has the money for the library been agreed by all of our local Councillors'.? It has been agreed but not finalized.

Emma said it is disappointing to hear that the library is receiving money. It seems BCC do not listen to the people of Stirchley.

Emma said we want purposeful input,

Mary suggested we have a meeting.

Lisa said the last time Chris organised a public meeting 16 groups turned up, some we had never seen before. Lisa, I don't believe these people actually are interested in anything other than money for pet projects.

Susan, I think we should stop having endless meeting discussing the

same thing, we need action not words.

Emma asked if there was someone at the council who has an overall view of what is needed, especially with upcoming schoolchildren and elderly residents. So there could be better planning.

Susan said there is the Stirchley framework so this may be what the planners work with.

ACTION: Mary will speak with someone at the council and Cllr Bridget Jones who is the deputy leader. We need the right person who understands Stirchley.

Councillor Locke said she and Doug Lee have made a visit along the high street, taking note of void properties. Doug Lee is going to contact the owners of empty properties so we can proceed with notices. Mary mentioned the property on the cnr of Pershore road and Fordhouse Lane. After Lisa had mentioned she had witnessed a group of people coming from the property. Mary had contacted the authorities and it was found to be a drugs den.

Lisa mentioned the pigeon problem and the dumping of rubbish on Maryvale Road.

ACTION. Mary will contact the relevant department to see if anything can be done.

Emma said it is important to keep Stirchley looking good as graffiti and rubbish impacts on society. Susan agreed with this. (Mary has contacted the relevant departments today)

The meeting agreed to focus on projects and with a consensus get something acted upon.

A.O.B

Sue reminded the meeting of the Christmas Winter Wonderland Party which has been organised at the Baths for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. everyone is welcome and please could you spread the word and buy raffle tickets.

Emma wanted to thank StWF for the donation to the fun palace; she said it was very welcome.

Next meeting provisionally booked December 13<sup>th</sup> 7.30 p.m.

Sue closed the meeting at 8.43 p.m.

