

SELLY PARK SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

Minutes of 5th Annual General Meeting

Held at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 13th July 2010
at Christ Church, 953 Pershore Road, Selly Park, B29 7PS

Item	Detail
	ATTENDANCE:
1.	WELCOME, ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
	The Chair (John Williams) welcomed residents and visitors to the meeting. Every household had received Notice of Meeting and notices were posted at locations around the neighbourhood and on the website. Warm welcome extended to new residents
2.	ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES:
	There were 35 people in attendance, including, Chair, Secretary, Assistant Secretary & Communications Officer, Treasurer, Members of the Management Committee, Ward Councillor, representative from St Andrews Healthcare, representatives from local Forums, etc. Details retained on file. Apologies were received from: Cath Clayton, Pat Clayton, Cllrs Alistair Dow & Dave Radcliffe, Steve McCabe MP, Jack Kirby, Nancy & Roland Keen, James Nicklin, Sgt Sally Olsen, Barry Toon, Rae Williams, Peter Walker, Chair Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum, & Nick Wood
3	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM:
	This was held at Christ Church, 953 Pershore Road, B29 7PS, on Tuesday 7 th July, 2009, at 7.30 p.m. and the minutes from the meeting were distributed to those present. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Fay Williams, seconded by Christine Nicklin and carried unanimously.
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM
8.1.	Police Neighbourhood Tasking: There had been changes to the Police boundaries; Selly Park South now covered by staff from Bournville Lane Police Station. Police report later in meeting
9.1.	Dogpool Lane Bridge Replacement Scheme: Information from Kamyar Tavassoli (Head of Highway Structure) was reported by John Clayton to the effect that the bridge replacement should go ahead because of the PFI Agreement between City and Amey PLC (the money should be ring-fenced) and work on the scheme should start on site during March 2011. It was also reported by Cllr Robert Wright that the Dogpool Lane cyclists/pedestrian crossing should also go ahead. Also Sustainable Transport are carrying out work along the Rea valley corridor; revisiting the former suggestion that the cycle route continue along the East side of the River Rea so that it would become a continuous route
10.1.	National Express Routes & Diversions: Following the revised services during the year, some 'bus services would be changing on Sunday 25 th July following local consultation. The No. 27 would be extended Kings Heath to Maypole via 69 route with a 20 min frequency. It was reported that the Sunday service was run by Central Connect. Information would be put on website as it becomes

	available and where relevant to our Neighbourhood bus services.
11.1.	Update on the Flood Plan: Cllr Wright reported that the Environment Agency had completed the computer modelling of the River Rea and that a report on this would be given by EA officers at the next Ward meeting. John Clayton in his capacity as Flood Action Coordinator confirmed that the EA automatic river level gauge has been installed upstream of Dogpool Lane and is now fully operational. Threatening levels will trigger automatic telephone calls to everyone on the Flood Warnings Direct system. Members of the Flood Action Group are working closely with Birmingham Resilience Team and the Environment Agency. The emergency Flood Action Plan is operational and has been tested with a live exercise in May – there will be some modifications to the Plan in the light of the exercise. More flood volunteers are required. The Chairman suggested informing new residents about the Flood Action Plan, etc, and making sure they were fully informed about resilience matters
12.1.	Birmingham Half-Marathon: Following last year’s successful event, a Birmingham Half-Marathon would be held again this year. This would be held on Sunday 24 th October, with an earlier start time, which would mean the roads would be opened a little earlier than last year. There would be some changes to the route; likely to be more runners (approx 15K); Garry Peel to be invited to next Open Forum; he would also be reporting at the next Ward meeting
5.	CHAIR’S REPORT:
5.1.	The Chairman reported that it had been an active year. The early part of the year was concerned with the flood situation and the Flood Plan. The Flood Exercise in May showed how much work had gone into this and that we still need to be vigilant. Because of this work, the Flood Action Group has built up a reputation and is now used as a model of a community working closely with the Birmingham Resilience Team. There was a major incident with a burst water main in Dogpool Lane and three members were actively involved in resolving the issue by alerting the City Council, directing traffic, etc. More flood volunteers are required. Members of the Management Committee have represented the Forum and attended local committees – Constituency, Ward and Ward Advisory Board, etc – to keep updated and make sure we are aware of funding opportunities and to be informed of environmental issues, etc. Our aim is to make the area cleaner and greener (similar to Bournville). Traffic and parking issues remain. There is a problem with parking and obstruction in Wallace Road - a meeting was held with residents – there are also problems with parking in Dobbs Mill Close and with illegal turns into Cecil, Fashoda & Manilla Roads from Dogpool Lane and into Kitchener and Hobson Roads from Pershore Road. The Police have been organising random checks on this and issuing fixed penalty notices including to a few local residents who have failed to observe the no turn regulations. Management Cttee members have been attending meetings re the new QE Hospital site; and re. transport and the new ‘bus routes, some of which are on-going. We have been involved in greening measures – residents may have noticed the spring flowers, which made the area attractive – the River Rea planting was magnificent and this will be extended next year. The Chairman asked if there were volunteers to help with greening the area. Liaison has continued with St Andrews Healthcare. The hospital is now almost fully occupied. Plans for the rest of the site are progressing and they want the local community to have some involvement in that area. We would like some kind of local event to take place to celebrate the Queen’s Golden Jubilee and the 100 th Anniversary

	(1911) of the incorporation of the local area into Birmingham.
5.2.	Question raised about the condition of the river-bed and the raising of the river banks, etc; in response, the Chairman mentioned the Forum awaited the outcome of the river modelling for works to take place for long-term plan for physical barriers. Concern re current resources situation. Concern raised also re more extreme weather conditions; ideas have been put forward for wetlands on the western side of the river. Support suggested for 106 Agreement monies to be spent in this respect. Concern expressed re the proposed housing on the former Booker car-park site. It was pointed out that the bridge in the Bewdley Road area is of historical interest (it was the boundary of Offa's kingdom) – could it be named Offa's bridge?
6.	TREASURER'S REPORT:
6.1.	The Audited accounts, copies of which were circulated, were presented for the period April 09 to end of March 10. The accounts showed a balance in credit of £2,055.63 (compared with £2,970.00 previously). The Treasurer said this was a healthy balance; the advertising on the website had brought in income at a charge of £50/year; renewals were due. An initial amount of £60 towards a community event was ring-fenced; an event would need a separate bank account. A grant of £5,000 through Birmingham Resilience Team and the Birmingham Environment Partnership had been granted for the purchase of air-brick covers. Some residents expressed an interest in purchasing their own supply and this had been arranged. We will need to maintain and update the website; John Clayton was thanked for all his hard work and input in maintaining this site which is very popular. The meeting recorded thanks to Anthony Beirne, who had kindly audited the accounts. The Chairman and meeting expressed their especial thanks to Christine Dempster for her diligent work in keeping the accounts in good order and minimising expenditure wherever possible; Christine was stepping down from the Treasurer position and she was presented with a gift and thanked in the usual way. (Christine had been involved with the Forum and the former Residents' Association for over 30 years).
	ADOPTION OF REPORTS:
	The adoption of the Chairman's Report and Treasurer's Report was proposed by Fay Williams and seconded by Mark Cooper and both were carried unanimously.
7.	ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE INCLUDING OFFICERS
7.1.	<u>Chair</u> - John Williams <u>Secretary</u> - Jeanne Glenn <u>Assistant Secretary & Communications Officer</u> - John Clayton <u>Treasurer</u> – Mark Cooper (there were no other nominations for the Post) Management Committee Members – Cath Clayton, Jane Slatter, Kathryn Smith, Nick Wood, and Fay Williams. Management Committee officers and members were elected and agreed en bloc by members and carried unanimously. The Committee retained power to co-opt members as necessary. (Gordon Parr came forward following the meeting offering to represent Cecil Road and will therefore become a co-opted member).
8.	POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD TASKING
8.1.	Jo LePoidevin, Selly Oak Neighbourhood Team Officer reported as follows: There have been major organisational changes in policing and Selly Park South is now policed by Selly Oak Ward Neighbourhood Team from Bournville Lane

	<p>Police Station with Sgt Sally Olsen in command. New contact details were given. There had been 185 crimes in the last month in the Ward – however, crime is down because of the new initiatives. There would be a walk-about with the Environment Officers, etc. There had been problems with groups congregating outside Mega Bites – and the police are looking at the area re rubbish and graffiti and anti-social behaviour. They are receiving calls about this problem, so are going to do plain-clothes patrols – they will need to find out details of parents of misbehaving children and will visit and speak to them. They are running traffic operations re the illegal turn-ins – residents have been informed that this operation will be taking place (over next few weeks) – they will be checking registration plates and setting up a data-base, so they are hoping the message will get across. Traffic officers will be monitoring Pershore Road. There is a team of officers to deal with antisocial behaviour on bus routes. There had been many calls re Pershore Road. They hope residents will see reductions in crime in the area.</p>
8.2.	<p>There had been litter-bin fires in the area (Kitchener Road/Cecil Road, Cecil Road/Dogpool Lane, Dogpool Lane/St Basils, outside Mega Bites and Manilla Road); the Council replaced bins very quickly where this was deemed appropriate. Collaboration with St Andrews with the use of CCTV. The police believe we need a cleaner, greener and safer area and priorities are set at Tasking meetings. There were arrests following a police raid at a cannabis factory in Fashoda Road (worth £90K+) – this was the result of community collaboration. The PCSOs are looking at monitoring speeds in the area with hand-held speed monitors and this will be on-going over 3 months. Members from the Management Committee have been in attendance at Tasking meetings – these are open to everyone. It was suggested that traffic needs to be checked when young people come out of school – vehicles parked dangerously on corners, and particularly around Mega Bites, etc; the Selly Park Road problem has travelled across the junction to Dogpool corner; in new term there will be an intake of new pupils (and parents) who will need to be informed. Problems with pupils on buses. Large vans are a problem on corners in Dogpool Lane which make it difficult for pedestrians and drivers to see clearly; also the top of Hobson Road becomes obstructed with vehicles parked on corners.</p>
8.3.	<p>PC Jo Le Poidevin was thanked by everyone and received a round of applause</p>
9.	OPEN FORUM
9.1.	<p>Details were available of Cannon Hill Park Friends ‘<i>Young People’s Park Activities</i>’, with useful information on community projects, including the planting of new trees. Following the Severn Trent work, there has been the opportunity to extend the natural play area with the assistance of a grant (40K); ideas of the young people (and leaders) needed and a meeting to this effect has been arranged. There had been changes in the Park: now served by Council officers covering both Hall Green and Selly Oak constituencies. We have lost some rangers (with decades of experience); others now moved to Kings Heath Park, but will cover both Constituencies (Rangers formed into Shires Country Park). A lot of developments could take place in the area with the cycle path, the new crossing, the wetlands and woodlands areas. With the re-opening of the MAC, etc, there were a lot of things happening locally. Leaflets available on the Tree Walks in the park; trees which had been blown down in the gale have been replaced. We would like to see the restoration of the Golden Lion; celebrations of the 1911 Centenary of the Birmingham Extension Act which trebled the size of</p>

	Birmingham whilst retaining the heritage of village-town centres. The use of solar studs on the cycle track in Hazelwell Park were mentioned and an extension of these along the Rea route towards Cannon Hill Park would be much appreciated by cyclists. The Chairman highlighted the Information Desk in the Park Café near Russell Road entrance.
10.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
10.1.	Stirchley Community Market: To be held on Tuesday 27 th July 4.00 – 8.00 in the car park of Stirchley United Working Men's Club.
10.2.	Free and taster sessions at various City Leisure Centres, including Cocks Moors Woods and Tiverton Baths, Indoor Bowls at Stirchley Community Centre, etc
10.3.	Stirchley Neighbourhood Forum: Next meeting to be held on Monday 9 th August at Stirchley Community Centre. Fun Day to be held on Saturday 11 th September at Hazelwell Park
10.4.	In the City there would be Arts Fest and Sky Ride (televised cycling event) – this would be the last in a series of national events
10.5.	John Clayton reported that the website had been running for over a year and that the site is receiving many visits and he gave details of numbers. The website now has many links into other sites, e.g. West Midlands Police and Environment Agency. The website is usually updated at the end of each week.
10.6.	Question raised about the 20 miles/h speed limit in the area of the terraces; also suggestion made for narrowing of some parts of the roads; we need ideas to make the area less attractive for rat-running. We need a 20 mile/h zone similar to the Selly Park area on the West side of Pershore Road
11.	DATE OF FUTURE MEETING:
11.1.	The provisional date for the next AGM is second week in July, 2011, at Christ Church, 953 Pershore Road, at 7.30 p.m.
12.	CLOSURE
12.1.	The Chair thanked all members of the Forum, guests, and visitors, for their attendance and contributions to the meeting. The AGM was declared closed at 21.25 BST.