

REPORT ON NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM OPEN MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11TH MAY

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM FOOD COOPERATIVE: Local resident Jessica Duffy spoke about this initiative involving the local communities and reported that the organisation has a growing number of local members. For further details and links please refer to our Home Page.

BIRMINGHAM HALF MARATHON OCTOBER 2010: Birmingham City Council Officer Garry Peal attended the meeting to speak about this year's Half Marathon race which will take place on Sunday 24th October. This year the race will not be preceded by an international elite runners world event and so will start earlier (at 9am) and accordingly finish earlier. Although this year the race will pass along the Selly Park section of Pershore Road in BOTH directions, firstly southwards and then later returning northwards, the earlier finish means that roads should start to re-open soon after 1pm. Road closure, as last year, will take effect from soon after midnight. Much more precise details will become available as the year progresses and there will again be a link from our website to the Half Marathon website. Garry has also kindly offered to speak again and take questions at our AGM on Tuesday 13th July.

NEW NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING ARRANGEMENTS: A member of our new Selly Oak Area Neighbourhood Police Team, PC Scott Edwards, came to speak and discuss community policing priorities with residents. The problems caused by cyclists riding on the footways (pavements) was prominent in the discussion. Details of the new policing arrangements are explained on our website Home Page where there is also a direct link to the relevant pages of the West Midlands Police website.

20's PLENTY CAMPAIGN: Matt Keys, a volunteer with Birmingham Friends of the Earth spoke on this campaign which aims to promote the setting up of 20mph speed limits on residential side roads in Birmingham. A number of local roads in Selly Park to the west of Pershore Road already have such limits and there was a feeling that the measure could be beneficial to residents living in Cecil Road, Kitchener Road, Hobson Road, Fashoda Road and Manilla Road. The management Committee will discuss taking this issue forward.

THE PLANNED REPLACEMENT OF DOGPOL LANE BRIDGE: John Clayton announced that he had been informed by the relevant officer of the City Council that the Highway Maintenance and Management Private Finance Initiative (HMMPFI) agreement, under which the new bridge will be built, was signed by officials from the City Council and Amey plc on Thursday 6th May. Amey is one of today's leading public services providers, managing the vital infrastructure and business services that practically everyone, everywhere rely on. It is estimated that work on the rebuilding of the bridge will start between 6 months and 9 months after the signing of the agreement which means that rebuilding should be underway by March 2011.

PROGRESS UPDATE ON THE SELLY PARK SOUTH FLOOD ACTION PLAN: Flood Action Group Coordinator John Clayton reported. The Environment Agency Selly Park River Level Gauge

on the Rea now has Flood watch and Flood warning threshold levels set and is actively connected to the Flood Warnings Direct system. All residents in the flood risk area should have received a letter from EA through the post explaining this (and indeed all such residents present at the meeting had received their copies). The heavy rainfall during the evening of Saturday 1st May resulted in the river level rising to just above the Flood Watch level but the EA Duty Officer decided (correctly) on the basis of all of the other parameters it was not necessary to issue a Flood Watch and thus residents' phones did not ring that evening. John went on to talk about the important Ground Exercise of the Flood Action Plan which will take place on the morning of Saturday 22nd May. All residents in the flood risk area will receive a notification of this exercise by leaflet in the days before the exercise. The operation will only involve the members of the Flood Action Group, led by officers from the City Council's Resilience Team and the Environment Agency and residents will not be directly required to do anything.

EMERGENCIES AND THE BIRMINGHAM COMMUNITY ALERT SCHEME: Jan Quigley, our City Council Emergency Planning Officer, gave a presentation on this illustrated by DVD footage and a PowerPoint sequence. To find out more about the scheme and to sign up, please refer to the relevant section on the Home Page.

COUNCILLOR ROBERT WRIGHT: Local resident and Selly Oak Ward Councillor Robert was present throughout the meeting, for which we are grateful. Robert answered questions on points referred to him and noted down matters to pursue further.

NEXT OPEN MEETING AND AGM: this will take place at Christ Church at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13th July, having been moved from the previous Thursday in order to avoid clashing with one of the Football World Cup Semi Final matches.