

**NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

At the Annual Parish Assembly of the  
New Frankley in Birmingham Parish  
held at St Christopher's Church  
Centre, Holly Hill, Frankley on 18th  
May 2009 at 1900 hours.

Present

**Electors of the Parish**

CQB 984 Councillor S Grey (In the Chair)

CQA 197 Mr G Griffiths

CQA 583 Mr E Carter

CQA 1056 Ms K Bolton

CQA 1691 Miss J Walker

CQB 134 Mr D Rogers

CQB 427 Mr W Hollis

CQB 501 Mr I Bruckshaw

CQB 1197 Mr L Lovett

CQB 1829 Mr G Stephenson

CQC 104 Mr S Trefor-Jones

CQC 105 Mr D Grant

CQC 140 Mr D Joynes

CQC 1415 Mrs L Banks

CQC 1622 Mr A Ross

**14 Electors**

**Non Electors**

Mr A Owen

Ms P Quarterman

Mr G Morgan

**3 Non-Electors**

**Officers**

R A S Griffiths Clerk to the Parish Council

**1 Officer**

**Total Attendance**

**18**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY 2008**

It was proposed by Mr Carter, seconded by Mr Lovett, and -

- 41 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19th May, 2008 were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

**ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT**

The following Annual Report of the Council was submitted -

(Interleaved document no. 1)

It was proposed by Mr Bruckshaw, seconded by Mr Lovett, and -

- 42 RESOLVED: That the Annual Parish Council Report, as now submitted be approved.

**QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

**Traffic Calming – Ormond Road**

- 43 Mr Stephenson requested that the Constituency Engineer be asked when the work on Ormond Road would be completed as the lighting, the central refuges and the alterations to the footpaths were not complete.

The Chairperson undertook to raise the matters with the Constituency Engineer.

**Frankley Forgotten**

- 44 Hereon, the Chairperson read the following prepared statement –

**“Frankley Forgotten”**

**BBC Radio WM 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

After the recording of the programme on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May I spent the night looking at the issues raised.

I started by looking on the Internet to see what information was available. On just one web page (the Frankley Community web page) produced by the Frankley Library there was local community information and all the local services of Health, Leisure, Youth, Children, and Learning had

contact numbers for both Frankley and the surrounding area sites.

Access to this site is free and with all young people who are at school or have just left being computer literate yet they contend they not know were to find this information.

**So on communication it only takes a little effort to find out these things.**

When a forum of parents at a school on Frankley raise a major concerns such as drugs, to whom do they pass on these concerns? How can these concerns be dealt with if an isolated group only talk about it in public when they are giving it an airing on the radio?

**Are we to suppose that the problem is only around this school?**

As for the pledges from the top table, Adult Learning is available if you want it. The redevelopment of the shops at Holly Hill shopping centre and the Forestdale Play site are both on-going projects and as for drug counselling, that was to be on an agreed site in Northfield.

**SO NOTHING NEW.**

As to leisure facilities, the Great Park was passed over as being a Sainsbury's store not a Morrison's; nothing about the Cinema, Bowling Alley, Bingo Hall - all within fifteen minutes of any part of Frankley. There are many areas of Birmingham and Worcestershire that would give anything to have these leisure facilities so near.

Yes, these things cost money but we all have to live in the real world where we can only have what we pay for.

The following morning I listened to radio WM from 6.30. On the Phil Upton Show extracts from the Forgotten Frankley recording were on drugs, unemployed people having to wait at the job centre, and youths having nothing to do. I contacted the show and asked why they had nothing positive to say about Frankley.

It was only when Joanne Malin did the change over slot that she said that there are hills and green fields surrounding Frankley and it was clean and tidy place.

However, on her own show she continued highlighting the negative aspects of the recording giving what I considered to be an unfair picture of Frankley.

My feeling was that the show did not resolve anything but only put presented a picture of Frankley as being a place to despise more in the forefront.

**So was it worth all the adverse publicity?**

Remember that Frankley has always been this far from the centre of Birmingham, when people come to live here they knew that.

Most people of working age on Frankley did not work at Rover at Longbridge, and that over 30% of those people did not have access to a car.

So they have to travel in most cases beyond the city centre, with journeys of over an hour each way on public transport being the norm.

The percentage of those without cars will rise with more people being out of work.

I would ask those who choose to work on Frankley to look more in depth at the community and its people to understand its problems. Look to help the people for they will be here long after you have gone. Many workers have come and gone and project they have started have gone with them. Only Andy Ross has set up home here so knows the problems of continuity first hand. For the programme just to air what appears to be the community's dirty linen and not to show its strengths is an injustice to all its people.

For there are many places in the world and in cities like Birmingham that have the same problems, so we all need to look at how others are tackling these problems and try to bring positive ideas to the table.

The media will only highlight your problems, for to them good news is most cases is not newsworthy. So we need to use their work to communicate with the people of Frankley. The full recording from the night gives a more balanced view of Frankley. It shows the myths and inaccuracies of life in our community. To this end the New Frankley in Birmingham

Parish Council is to acquire CD recordings of the night so that those who do not have a computer but wish can listen to the debate can do so. Then we would hope that all the people of Frankley of all ages could come together to put some of those things right.

The Chairperson felt that the recording emphasised the negatives of the community of Frankley but ignore the many positives. Although there were a number of community organisations on Frankley, the majority were run by the same group of people and were short of volunteers. Part of the problem was that people wanted things done for them in the community but were not prepared to put the effort in to get those things done.

Mr Owen stated that the media were always eager to publicise the bad news and suggested that the various community groups offering all manner of activities on Frankley and the surrounding areas needed publicising.

Mr Trefor- Jones suggested that somehow the apathy in the community needed to be overcome and that residents needed to be encouraged to get involved in community activities.

The Chairperson felt that there was a need to try to defeat the negativity which was apparent at the recording. In his opinion the meeting was an insult to the audience, most of who were involved in community activities on Frankley.

Mr Ross felt that, whilst the programme did not present a positive picture of Frankley, the discussion did highlight the various community activities which were going on in Frankley. It was a better format than the Summit and in his opinion was not all negative – there were some positives and it showed what was happening in the community.

Mr Carter stated that a lot of community activities were listed in Neighbourhood News but that the problem was that people did not read it. Mr Bruckshaw reiterated that the News included details of what exactly was going on in Frankley. However, the problem was in persuading residents to commit an half an hour or so every couple of months to deliver the News in their immediate neighbourhood. Mr Trefor Jones questioned whether the News needed a 'make-over' in order to make it more attractive to people to read.

Summing up, the Chairperson was worried that an effect of the programme may result in the community losing those residents who do give their time willingly to the community. In his opinion the Programme was full of negatives, but there were a lot of positives on Frankley and that there was a need for all community groups to promote Frankley.

The meeting ended 1927 hours.

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Chairperson

*Draft - subject to Parish Assembly approval*