

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held at the Parish Council Offices, 12 Arden Road, Frankley on Monday, 4th November 2008 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Eric Carter (in the Chair)

Councillors Ian Bruckshaw, Gareth Griffiths, Des Rogers, Stephen Trefor-Jones and Joanna Walker

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Grey (Work commitment)

MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Bruckshaw, seconded by Councillor Rogers, and

- 171 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 29th September 2008, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none

LONGBRIDGE AREA ACTION PLAN

- 172 The Clerk reported that he and Councillor Grey had attended the sessions of the Examination in Public of the LAAP relating to the consultation process, transport and the local centre. Councillor Grey had enunciated the Council's (and the community's) concerns regarding the above issues. Although it was very unlikely that the concerns raised by the Council and other organisations would persuade the Inspector that the Plan was not sound, it was hoped that the Inspector would refer to concerns raised in her report which was due out towards the end of the year.

TRANSPORT

- 173 The Clerk reported that CENTRO had referred the plans for the revised bus service for the Frankley area submitted by Councillor Grey to Mr Mathieson, the Central Garage Manager, National Express who was responsible for the 'bus services in Frankley. The Council was still waiting for a response to Councillor Grey's proposals, however the Clerk was of the opinion that no response would be forthcoming until the Transport proposals relating to LAAP had been finalised.

FRANKLEY CENTRE REGENERATION

- 174 The Clerk reported that the new lighting scheme for the shopping parade was currently being installed.

Councillor Griffiths stated that he had been advised by Councillor Keith Barton that Taylor Wimpey had withdrawn from the discussions relating to the proposals to develop the centre; further, Aldi had indicated that it did not consider the location suitable for an Aldi store. As a consequence, discussions were now taking place to remarket the land as a housing development with 15% social housing. However, the Clerk reported that whilst he considered it likely that, due to the current financial situation, Taylor Wimpey would, at best, want to renegotiate the development agreement and at worst, terminate it, he had not been advised of any changes to the previously reported position by officers of the City's South Regeneration Team. Regarding the position relating to a new Aldi store, representatives of the company had made it clear during a conversation with Councillor Grey at the recent LAAP Examination, that Aldi did not consider that the proposed location, in their option, offered sufficient retail opportunity to justify the investment required for a new store.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CARETAKERS SCHEME

- 175 The Chairperson reported that the Council had received a response from the Council's letter to the Chief Executive requesting consideration of proposals to act as the City's agent in the Frankley area in connection to the provision of the Neighbourhood Caretaking service. The matter had been referred for consideration to the Chief Legal Officer and the Acting Constituency Director and the Council was still waiting developments.

In the meantime, the Chairperson was pleased to report that the currently scheme appeared to be working well.

In response to a question from Councillor Bruckshaw relating to the permanency of the scheme, the Chairperson indicated that it was his understanding that the current scheme would continue for the remainder of the current financial year. Whether or not provision would be made for the next financial year depended on a number of factors – the possibility of responsibility for the scheme being devolved to the parish council being only one of those factors.

TRAFFIC CALMING

- 176 Chairperson reported that Glen Smith, Senior Constituency Engineer had recently advised that the scheme had at last been signed off by Councillor Gregory and it was hoped that work on the scheme would start in the new year. Following the recent RTA on Ormond Road in which a garden wall had been demolished, he had asked Mr Smith to consider the possibility of installing Armco barriers in front of vulnerable boundary walls.

Meeting ended at 1949 hours

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Chairperson