

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on Monday, 4 December 2000, at 1930 hours at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, New Street, Frankley.

Present Councillor Eric Carter (In the Chair)

Councillors Sidney Grey, David Burton, Paul Kane, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

APOLOGIES

None.

MINUTES

- 19 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 30 October 2000, having previously been circulated, be taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no planning applications to consider.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No decisions had been made on applications reported to the Committee.

FLOODING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

The Chairperson explained the history of the development of the Flooding Task Force since the inaugural meeting on 28 July 2000 and the formation of its strategic planning group led by the City Council Transportation Department, and the Community

Task Force led by the Housing Department, on which this council was represented. He reported on the “summit meeting” chaired by Richard Burden MP on 10 November which had received a verbal report from Vaughan Fletcher of the Transportation Department on the work done to date and the bid for £12 million made to the City Council and Severn-Trent Water. This bid did not include the £1.5 million needed for surveying and repairing drains in the Frankley area. He expressed his concern at the lack of real progress and of funding. However the Transportation Department had provided £1.6 million for the River Rea improvements in Northfield which were in progress. There had in his view been some successes:

- (i) the appointment of the Flood Co-ordinator (although she was only in post until 25 December).
- (ii) the supply of doorstoppers to tenants
- (iii) the supply of sandbags to affected areas

However there had been little progress on other issues:

- (i) insurance in affected areas
- (ii) re-purchase of damaged properties
- (iii) compensation for people affected
- (iv) liability for damage caused

There was also a need, he felt, to move forward in other areas:

- (i) the £1.5 million bid for surveying and remedial work to drains in Frankley
- (ii) preventative measures to deal with future problems
- (iii) continuing support for special groups, such as the elderly
- (iv) the general health costs of the problem in terms of stress etc.

The Chairperson then reported on the open meeting held on 21 November. This had been poorly attended. The Task Force had failed to recruit more flood monitoring volunteers which they had hoped to do.

Lastly the Chairperson reported on the Task Force meeting held on 30 November. The bid for £12 million was still being considered by the City Council's Director of Finance and by its Executive Committee. He was concerned at this lack of news.

20

A discussion ensued in which the following points were made -

- (i) The Task Force had supplied a newsletter which advertised the open meeting to the “Birmingham Voice” to be delivered with it to houses in the area,

- but this had not been done in time for the meeting;
- (ii) There had been a recent problem in Dorset Close where a camera survey of the drains had been done, but when contractors arrived to carry out remedial work they had been unable to do so due to lack of the correct equipment;
- (iii) There was an urgent need to provide protective clothing for flood monitoring volunteers. The Clerk explained the need for competitive quotations for items which this Council purchased;
- (iv) It was not certain that flood monitoring volunteers were covered by insurance when carrying out their duties. The Clerk undertook to raise this issue with the City Council and report back to the Committee.

FRANKLEY CENTRE DEVELOPMENT

Councillor Grey reported that several members of the Council had attended the opening of a development by Contracts Galleypearl in Duddeston on 8 November, and had been favourably impressed with the scheme carried out there. Following this, on 1 December, he, together with the Chairperson of this Committee and the Clerk, had met Mr. Poutney of Galleypearl and discussed the latest site plan. Councillor Grey thereupon submitted the revised plan to the meeting:

(see interleaved document no. 1)

He explained the layout of the first part of the site to be developed, on the east side of Arden Road. The central industrial units had been set back from the road to allow customer parking in front and service deliveries to be made separately from the rear. He felt this was a good layout but it would be necessary to consult residents of Ringwood Close who were the closest to the development. He felt the Council should do this at an early stage rather than waiting for formal consultation from the City Council Planning Department.

A discussion ensued in which the following points were made:

- (i) it might be possible to restrict the hours for lorry deliveries.
- (ii) the site was close to a residential area

It was moved by Councillor Grey, seconded, and:

21 RESOLVED: That the Chairperson of the Council, in consultation with the Clerk, be empowered to call a meeting of residents of Ringwood Close to discuss the proposed industrial development on Arden Road.

EXTENSION OF THE CROSS CITY LINE TO FRANKLEY

There were no developments to report.

The meeting ended at 2109 hours.

.....

Chairperson