

NEW FRANKLEY IN BIRMINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held at St Christopher's Church Centre, Holly Hill, Frankley on 4 February 2002 at 1930 hours.

Present

Councillor Paul Kane (In the Chair)

Councillors Linda Banks, Eric Carter, Sid Grey MBE, Joanna Walker and Geoffrey Williams.

There were 2 members of the public present.

APOLOGIES

There were none.

MINUTES

- 79 RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport Committee held on 7 January 2002, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were none.

FLOODING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

80 Councillor Carter reported that both he and Councillor Williams had attended the last meeting of the Community Task Force Flood Management Committee held on 14 January 2002.

The question of house insurance was discussed with reports of residents facing very large increases in the cost of insurance or being refused insurance altogether. The outcome of the debate was that as Insurance Companies were commercial organisations and had to assess the risk of offering insurance there was nothing much anybody could do although it was reported that the Government was talking to the Insurance Companies to see if some way forward could be found.

It was also reported that Mr Fletcher from the City's Transportation Department would consider preparing a letter a suitable letter for Insurance Companies following completion of the flood defence work detailing the work done to alleviate the problem of flooding. It was hoped that the Insurance Companies take into account that letter when setting premiums. However, it was felt that, notwithstanding the flood prevention work carried out, the insurance companies would still have to assess the flooding risk and adjust their premiums accordingly.

Ms Smith, Flood Coordinator, referring to the proposal by the Rea Valley Flood Action Group that a River Ranger be appointed, reported that Mr Bryan, Head of Ranger Services, had indicated that there was difficulty in identifying a budget heading for the position. However, Councillor Carter had advised that the Longbridge Advisory Board had agreed funding for a River Ranger in the Longbridge Ward from the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. He had suggested they could get together on the scheme.

With regard to the problems of drains/sewers on Frankley, the meeting had been advised that Severn Trent would be pressure-jetting sewers in Lysander Road, Hereford Close, Cotswold Close and Brightstone Close and the work was expected to be completed by the end of February.

Councillor Carter then submitted a list of work which was still outstanding on gullies that had been identified as collapsed or blocked.

(see interleaved no. 1)

He then handed out copies of the list, requesting that Councillors check that the work listed to be carried out was actually completed.

Councillor Carter then reported that a debate had ensued as to whether there was further work for the Committee to carry out and, therefore, should there be further meetings. Councillor Carter had argued that, at the very least, there should be a further summit

meeting at the end of the year when the work undertaken by the various agencies to alleviate the flooding problems could be evaluated. Also, the various resident's groups represented on the Committee could report back on the work carried out in their areas – whether it had been completed satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily. He also felt the meetings should continue until the tenure of the Flood Co-ordinator had finished.

With regard to the question of the day-glo coats, Ms Smith had reported that Ms Roberts of the Environmental Agency had not been able to attend the meeting but had advised her that she would bring the coats to the next meeting.

Councillor Carter then went on to report on the Flooding that had occurred on Frankley during the weekend of 26/27 January 2002. A number of areas across the estate had flooded although no properties were flooded. He and Councillor Williams had visited those sites affected and took the necessary action to prevent any houses being flooded. The grill under Boleyn Road was cleared as far it was possible to do so and the problem was reported to Ms Woodall, Local Housing Manager, on Monday morning and had now been properly cleared. There had been a problem with a drains in Regina Close and the gully sucker had been called out to clear it but it appeared that the drain may have collapsed. The emergency services had been called out to deal with the flooding on Boleyn Road near to the playground and they had opened up a large sewer cover in the middle of the road to drain the water away.

Councillors Carter and Williams had noted those closes that were still flooding and would report them to the Transportation Department.

Additionally, there were a number of areas where additional Sand Bags would have been useful but apparently, there was no funding available.

Councillor Grey said that it appeared that the work that had been carried out on the drains in Frankley during the past year appeared to have been successful as there did not appear to have been as much flooding as there had been last year. With regard to the purchase of Sand Bags, Councillor Grey suggested that the Parish Council consider purchasing some and storing them in the lean-to at the rear of the office which could then be used as necessary.

In conclusion, Councillor Carter felt that the Council had flooding under control as they were able to go straight to those areas of concern when it rained heavily.

FRANKLEY CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

- 81 Councillor Grey reported that as far as he was aware there had been no progress on the Development. He had, that day, tried to contact Mr Buckenham of the City's Planning Department in order to find out when it was anticipated the Plans for the Centre would be going before the Development Control Committee for consideration, but had been unsuccessful.

EXTENSION OF THE CROSS CITY LINE TO FRANKLEY

- 82 Councillor Grey reported that although the Environmental Impact Report had been completed, the Transportation Department were apparently still awaiting for a sight of it. Until they received the report the consultation process could not begin. Councillor Grey stressed the importance of only consulting those who would be directly affected by the extension.

BUS STOP IN BOLEYN ROAD BETWEEN GANNOW MEADOW CRESCENT AND CROMPTON ROAD

The Clerk reported that, following the last meeting of the Committee, he had written to Travel West Midlands drawing their attention to the traffic problems caused by 'buses parking up on Boleyn Road and requesting that consideration be given to the installation of a lay-by where 'buses could park up without blocking the road. At that time the 61 'buses were parking up on a uphill incline on the left hand side of Boleyn Road travelling towards New Inns Lane. Other vehicles wishing to pass these 'buses were being forced to pull out into the centre of the road and were unable to see what traffic was coming the other way because of the brow of the hill.

As a result of the letter, Mr Wright and Mr Lewis of West Midlands Travel agreed to meet the Clerk and Councillors Carter and Grey on the site to discuss the situation. Following some discussion of the various alternatives and first hand experience of the traffic problems caused by 'buses parking up at the stop together with the 49 service attempting to stop at the bus stop to set down passengers, Mr Wright suggested that the 61,49 and 49A 'bus stop be removed from the left hand side of Boleyn Road and the 'bus stop on the right hand side be changed to 61 only and become the set down and pick up point for the 61 'bus. The 49 and 49A services would be served by adjacent 'bus stops. It was hoped that these changes would alleviate the traffic problems caused by 'buses parking up on Boleyn Road as, when vehicles were pulling out to overtake the 'buses on the right hand side of the road, they were able to see oncoming traffic.

Although the 61 'bus stop had been removed with days of being agreed there were still reported instances of 'bus drivers still parking up on the left hand side of the road. The Clerk had telephoned Mr

Wright who had undertook to ensure that all 61 'bus drivers were aware of the change.

Councillor Grey suggested, and it was agreed, that he contact the manager of the 'bus garage to ensure that all drivers were aware of the changes to the 'bus stops in Boleyn Road. He also suggested that an approach be made to the Transportation Department regarding the provision of lay-by on the right hand side of Boleyn Road which would completely solve the traffic problems caused by 'buses parking. It was also agreed that a request be made to Travel West Midlands to provide a shelter at the 'bus stop on the right hand side of the road.

- 83 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to Travel West Midlands and the City Council's Transportation Department requesting that consideration be given, in the long term, to the provision of a lay-by to enable 'buses to park up off the road and that Travel West Midlands be requested to give consideration to the installation of a 'bus shelter at the into-City 'bus stop.

The meeting end at 2005 hours

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Chairperson