

## **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 7 January 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**

- 73      **RESOLVED:**    That the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning, Environmental, Highways and Public Transport held on 26 November 2001, having previously been circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were none.

### **DECISIONS MADE ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- 74      The Clerk advised that Planning Approval had been received for the Parish Office. In response to questions from members, the Clerk advised that he had sent off a copy of the Approval to the City's Property Services Division together with a request that the lease be prepared for signature. Once the lease had been signed arrangements would be made for the electricity to be reconnected and the necessary work undertaken prior to the opening of the Office.

## FLOODING IN THE FRANKLEY AREA

- 75 Hereon Councillor Carter advised that, because of a clash of dates, the former Councillor Burton had attended the last meeting of the Community Task Force Flood Management Committee on behalf of the Parish Council and that his report was taken from the Minutes of that meeting.

Mr Fletcher, Transportation Department, had reported on the work to be carried out to the areas affected by flooding. The 43 sites had been looked at and work would be carried out based on social impact of the flooding and would, therefore, be concentrated those homes flooded above floor level, not to gardens etc. Next on the list for work to begin on Frankley would be the Crychan Close area, with investigations starting within the next few weeks. The Transportation Department assured that they are trying to work in a logical way, considering those schemes that would require permission and so on in the medium term whilst getting more straightforward works started immediately.

Work would be carried out to all 'league one' properties either during 2001 or 2002. However, although guarantees could not be given that, upon the completion of the works, flooding would not re-occur in those areas in the future, the effects of flooding would be mitigated.

Mr Fletcher had reported that the City had congratulated the Parish Council for their diligence and expert knowledge of the area. He then went on to say that £120,000 from new funding had been allocated to address the drainage problems in Frankley. So far, all of the main highway drains on the main roads had been looked at and tested. A relatively small number had been found to be broken and had therefore been replaced. All of the drains had received an extremely thorough cleansing, with skip loads of rubbish being removed. Side road and car park drainage was now being investigated and, in addition, any Frankley roads appearing in 'league one' would be dealt with separately and work carried out from the remainder of the fund.

Former Councillor Burton had highlighted that there were 'soakaways' under Boleyn Road but that, as the ground was clay, the excess water was not absorbed. Also, the top of Princess Diana Way flooded to the depth of 2 to 3 feet of water (in the underpass) due to the runoff from surrounding fields. Councillor Carter indicated that he intended to raise the plans to block off the underpass on Boleyn Road at the next meeting.

Ms Smith, the Flood Co-ordinator, had reported on pursuing funding for a River Ranger but that, to date, no source of funding had been identified. During the discussion on the duties it was envisaged a Ranger would carry out, former Councillor Burton had reported that a

man had thrown a bag of bottles into the Rea, but that as the witnesses had not seen the bag actually leave his hands, no action could be taken. Former Councillor Burton also reported that members of the Parish Council were acting as River Rangers in the Frankley area, checking the river on a daily basis. Although the Housing Department was actually responsible for keeping the river course clear it only had a small budget to carry out that function. Former Councillor Burton had made reference to the fact that the Parish Council was intending to purchase a vehicle that would be used to transport rubbish from the river. The representative of the Environment Agency had advised that legislation should be checked before a van was purchased, as she believed that a special licence would be needed.

With regard to the question of compensation claims, The Flood Co-ordinator would be meeting with an officer of the City's Housing Department and would report back on progress to the next meeting. The Association of British Insurers had agreed to provide flood cover for a two-year period (1.1.01 to 31.12.02) although some companies were refusing to provide cover or charging high excesses or premiums. Following that two-year period, claimants may have to provide information on the flood defence work carried out by the City Council or the Environment Agency and details of the flood defences purchased by the claimant. It was agreed that Mr Fletcher would consider preparing a suitable letter for insurance companies following the completion of the flood defence work if requested by the claimant.

Former Councillor Burton had raised the issue of Flood Warden jackets for Frankley – eight jackets had been expected but only four received. The Flood Co-ordinator had undertaken to take the matter up with the Environment Agency.

Councillor Carter concluded by reporting that a number of residents had approached him, commenting favourably on the work undertaken by the Transportation Department to the drains. He added that the next meeting of the Community Task Force Flood Committee would be held on 14 January 2002.

Referring to the issue of the Flood Warden jackets, Councillor Williams reported that, although both he and Christopher Williams had signed for the jackets, they had both yet to receive them. Councillor Grey undertook to speak to former Councillor Burton to get the matter sorted out.

During the course of the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that the possibility of using the Reaside Centre and Frogmill Hall as emergency centres be investigated should residents have to leave their homes because of flood, fire etc.

## FRANKLEY CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT

76 Councillor Grey reported that both he and Councillor Carter had attended a meeting at the Council House attended by Councillor Coulson, the Cabinet member for regeneration, Mr Pountney, the potential developer of the site and his agent Mr Dring together with a number of City Council officers.

During the course of the meeting it transpired that the Planning Officers had mislaid the revised set of plans submitted by the Developer. Councillor Coulson had not been impressed over the fact that the Officers had mislaid the Plans and had not approached the Developer for a replacement set. The Developer undertook to provide the Planning Officers with an additional set of Plans.

The stumbling block to progressing the matter seemed to be the fact that although the Developer already had a pre-let for the unit on Site A, the City Council wanted Mr Pountney to start on Site D, the industrial units, before he started on Site A, the retail unit. The City appeared to be concerned that if the development was unsuccessful, then it would be left unfinished. However, since the meeting, Mr Pountney had spoken to Councillor Grey and had indicated that it appeared that he had a provisional pre-let for one of the industrial units on Site D.

Both Councillor Grey and the Councillor Carter had stressed to Councillor Coulson the need to move the development forward. If Mr Pountney had managed to get a pre-let on a industrial unit then, hopefully, subject to the necessary planning approvals being obtained, work could start on Sites A and D by the beginning of March/April.

In response to a question from the Chairperson as the possible use of the industrial units, Councillor Grey said that the land off Arden Road had always been classified for industrial/warehousing/retail use. In view of the possible nuisance that could be caused to adjoining properties from industrial use, it was hope that the units would be used as warehouse/retail units.

With regard to the question of the re-opening of the Coldstream Public House, Councillor Carter said that he had heard that there were moves afoot to object to the granting of a licence. Councillor Grey said that Carole Woodall, Local Housing Manager had objected to the granting of licence in view of the problems that the pub had caused to adjoining Council properties in the past. Councillor Grey was aware that she was organising a petition objecting to the granting of the

licence and he was advising residents to submit their petitions through her.

A discussion then ensued as to whether or not the pub should open. A number of members felt that, providing the pub was run along the lines outlined by Mr Walsh at the meeting of the Parish Council then it could be of benefit to the area. However, Councillor Grey felt that, notwithstanding the assurances given by Mr Walsh, there would be still be trouble. He considered that it would have been better if the application could have been delayed until the Frankley Centre Development was underway. However other members felt that the present condition of the pub detracted from the area and, if the re-opening was successful it could be a catalyst for the regeneration of the centre.

#### EXTENSION OF THE CROSS CITY LINE TO FRANKLEY

- 77 Councillor Grey reported that he had recently received a letter from the Railway Development Society that advised that there was to be a meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee which was to determine whether to fund the £4 million required for station construction which, if approved, would be subject to the Government agreeing the £12 million to build the extension to the cross city line.

With regard to the progress on the Environmental Impact report, Councillor Grey reported that he had been advised that although the Engineering Study had been completed the Environmental Impact report remained outstanding – apparently awaiting further information from the Engineering Study.

Councillor Grey went on to report that a resident of Ringwood Drive who had alleged that the residents of Ringwood Drive had received a letter that had stated that the access to the station car park would be via Ringwood Drive had recently approached him. Councillor Grey had been unable to obtain a copy of the letter but had assured the resident that access to the proposed car park would not be from Ringwood Drive.

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

The following letter from CENTRO was submitted.

(see interleaved document no. 1)

- 78 RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to West Midlands Travel advising them of the problem caused by buses parking up on Boleyn Road between Gannow Meadow Crescent

and Crompton Road and requesting a solution to the problem; further, that West Midlands Travel be requested to give consideration to the provision of a lay-by so as to enable the buses to pull off the road.

The meeting end at 2028 hours

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Chairperson