

Comments made on the July – August 2019 survey and responses from StWF

Comment: StWF aren't experienced enough to deliver this funding.

Answer: StWf are the leading group and maintained a good record of delivering complex events for Stirchley. StWF worked with Suzanne Carter in organising a competition for Stirchley Schoolchildren, their ideas of Loneliness back in 2018. StWF promoted the dementia friendly high street. StWF formed Stirchley in Bloom. StWF have assisted with litter picking. StWF have organised the Xmas window competition. Stirchley, the Way Forward has been asked to develop the S106 proposal so we could put in an expression of interest for 4 million pounds to benefit Stirchley. StWF are the preferred group to deliver this proposal. Although BCC will oversee any funds and will issue the legal framework and funding direct to projects.

Comment: Don't want StWF to work with other groups who haven't the community at heart.

Answer: This a personal opinion but to work with the representatives of the traders and residents is surely a good thing?

Comment: Who would look after the planters?

Answer: Either we would encourage traders to adopt a planter to water and weed alongside SIB or we would take on a watering contract with BCC or equivalent.

Comment: Thought the money had been spent already?

Answer: Part of the money has been spent on Stirchley Library. I believe BCC and council officers decided to use £50,000 on repairs for the Library.

Comment: I am concerned the questionnaire has too tight a time frame.

Answer: StWF have been discussing this and face to face consultation with traders and our neighbours from 2016 where there were two well attended public meetings. The survey is one major part, asking opinions, this will we hope lessen the possible intimidation, towards community members when attending public meetings. (We have proof that this has been suffered by some members of the community). The form drafted by Chris a member no longer on the committee was agreed at a meeting and minutes were taken. All but one meeting of StWF has mentioned S106 there has been ample opportunity for other groups to put their ideas forward. Those who have spoken to StWF face to face or by email have given us their wish lists, and we have tried to produce a proposal that pleases the majority.

Comment: Even though we have a cycle paths throughout Stirchley, cyclists on the high street are very rare.

Answer: Perhaps we should ask the cyclists how often they cycle on the high street, canal path and if rarely, why not?

Comment: There is a large empty space on the Cadbury site, entrance on Mary Vale Road. This site is empty 7 days a week. Rather than bulldoze anything or lay a massive square of fresh tarmac, I think it would be much better to try and use existing space, like this one. Could we engage with Modelez and see if this could be open for public use?

Answer: This seems like a very good idea, perhaps we could engage with our councillor on this and Modelez?

Comment: Might be better to work towards reducing car use. Could existing spaces Inc Co-op & Printigo become 3 hour free parking and/or pay & display?

Answer: Printigo car park belongs to three businesses. The owner does not want a pay and display car park. The Co-op do offer free parking for a short period of time when events are on, but this does not help those less able to walk from co-op to the high street.

Comment: The British Oak car park belongs to the council so park there.

Answer: We are not aware of this, we will check with the Council.

Comment: I would prefer a statue or something rather than planters.

Answer: What type of statue, of whom, where?

Comment: You should ask other community groups if they have ideas for spending the money.

Answer: After two public meetings. A group was formed called Stirchley Circle. The members comprised of representatives of other major groups in Stirchley. After a few meetings, Rose from Stirchley Community Group, the secretary, the attendees started to dwindle, until there seemed little interest in continuing.

Comment: We need recycling bins on the high street.

Answer: we could look at this and we agree there should be a better system in place for tenants living above shops. We are liaising with Louise Council Officer in charge of greener cleaner Birmingham Streets.

Comment: Landlords earn enough money surely they can afford to repair their own buildings.

Answer: this isn't about landlords, this is about helping those businesses who are possibly struggling and would benefit from some assistance. New co-operatives, social enterprises, single unit shop all benefit from small business rate relief. Those larger businesses pay full rates.

Comment: Why should StWF be the group to deliver this proposal?

Answer: What makes anyone a person or group decides they can deliver this proposal in a better way? StWF respectfully invited the traders to establish what they would naturally prefer to see happen in Stirchley. StWF concluded this because as reiterated at the SNF meeting July, local Tesco S106 money was precisely for public realm improvements including aid to shopkeepers. Therefore, as StWF are the representatives of the traders who better than StWF to liaise with them. We are aware some traders aren't supportive of the established traders. However, we genuinely believe in adequately representing all those who trade on the High Street. Believing this delivers social benefit to local residents too. We are content to work with other leading members of the home community. If the ultimate aim is precisely to continue earnestly to present the specific S106 proposal, carefully aligned with and as agreed by our local partners who signed up to deliver an expression of interest for 4 million pounds of Future High Street Funding for Stirchley.