

## DRUIDS HEATH & MONYHULL WARD FORUM NOTES

<b>WARD:</b> Druids Heath & Monyhull	<b>DATE:</b> 18 December 2018
<b>VENUE:</b> Manningford Hall, Manningford Road B14 5TJ	<b>START/FINISH TIMES:</b> 7pm – 9pm
<b>COUNCILLOR</b> Julien Pritchard	<b>NOs OF ATTENDEES:</b> 8
<b>OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b> Richard Davies, Service Head Kay Thomas, Community Governance Manager	

<b>MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Druids Heath Library</u></b></p> <p>Richard Davies explained that the boilers at the library had not been working since September. The existing boilers were obsolete and the replacement cost for the 2 boilers was £75k. There was no capital budget available for library repairs to fund the replacements &amp; therefore officers were working on how the cost could be met. The library was therefore temporarily closed until heating/hot water could be provided. All services were facing financial challenges and the Library Service was addressing this by looking at ways of working with partners to come into the library or re-locating the library elsewhere – any imaginative suggestions or ideas of groups willing to work with the library were welcome.</p> <p>Residents suggested;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– approaching Sainsbury at the Maypole who were keen to support the local community for eg space, fund raising.</li> <li>– Obtaining an alternative quote as the cost seemed excessive. Friends of Storchley Library had managed to go out to tender for work originally quoted for by the council.</li> </ul>	<p>More to be found out about Storchley Library &amp; Richard Davies to try to obtain a break-down of the quoted cost</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Fund raising ideas to be considered</li> <li>– Concern for the loss of another community facility in an area with limited availability and general concern regarding the future of community libraries.</li> <li>– Druids Heath Estate was being redeveloped – was there any funding available within that to build a library/community building? Section 106 money available?</li> <li>– The British Legion Club was for sale and would be a good site as it was near shops, on a bus route and had a car park.</li> <li>– The library was important for other services such as internet provision as large parts of the estate were only ‘on-line’ because they were able to obtain access at the library. The estate was digitally excluded.</li> </ul> <p>Richard sought opinion on use of the Maypole Youth Centre as a venue to re-locate the library. Residents were not wholly opposed to the idea but were concerned about anti-social behaviour at the Maypole which might deter use of the library, the cost of moving and limited space.</p> <p><b>Resident’s preference was to keep the library open at its current site and to attract other services into the building to help with running costs.</b></p> <p><b>2. <u>Budget Consultation</u></b></p> <p>Councillor Pritchard briefly explained the budget process/consultation &amp; highlighted some of the proposals – increase in garden waste charges, cut to new book budget for libraries, reduced funding for fly tipping, no funding for school crossing patrols.</p> <p>Residents made the following comments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Loss of lollipop patrols from schools would endanger lives</li> <li>– More resources needed to be put into waste management to deal with litter &amp; fly tipping</li> </ul>	<p>Richard asked residents to contact him with ideas for third party organisations that could come into the library. He undertook to look into the other suggestions made and try to obtain a break-down of the costs for the replacement boilers.</p> <p>Councillor Pritchard to feed comments</p>
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