## **DRUIDS HEATH & MONYHULL WARD FORUM NOTES**

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

MATTERS DISCUSSED AT THE MEETING:		ACTION
1.	Druids Heath Library	
	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 & 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.	
	Residents suggested;	
	<ul> <li>approaching Sainsbury at the Maypole who were keen to support the local community for</li> </ul>	
	eg space, fund raising.	
	<ul> <li>Obtaining an alternative quote as the cost seemed excessive. Friends of Stirchley Library had</li> </ul>	More to be found out about
	managed to go out to tender for work originally quoted for by the council.	Stirchley Library & Richard Davies to
		try to obtain a break-down of the
		quoted cost

- Fund raising ideas to be considered
- Concern for the loss of another community facility in an area with limited availability and general concern regarding the future of community libraries.
- Druids Heath Estate was being redeveloped was there any funding available within that to build a library/community building? Section 106 money available?
- 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.
- 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.

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.

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.

## 2. Budget Consultation

Councillor Pritchard briefly explained the budget process/consultation & 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.

Residents made the following comments;

- Loss of lollipop patrols from schools would endanger lives
- More resources needed to be put into waste management to deal with litter & fly tipping

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.

Councillor Pritchard to feed comments

- Cost of the bulky waste collection should be reduced to encourage more use and reduce fly tipping – pay per item?
- More resources for youth provision, improve playground equipment and better inspection of existing equipment
- Libraries accepted cut to 'new book' budget given the financial circumstances
- Objected to cuts to the 'arts' an underestimated service that alleviated isolation, loneliness, improved mental health, general health etc
- More resources for community facilities which in long term would help save money on older people's, young people's and health services

## 3. Other Issues

## a) Local Meetings

A resident asked that local meetings be co-ordinated/amalgamated so that there were fewer meetings and that they did not take place on consecutive nights.

into consultation process

Councillor Pritchard advised the next 3 ward meeting dates had been arranged and that they had been planned to alternate with Monyhull Residents Forum. The Police tasking meetings were quarterly and he would try to ensure they did not occur in the same weeks.

Councillors (s) Signed:
( )
Councillor(s) Name(s) (please print):
FINAL, ND-C, ver 3