

**Minutes of Shard End Communities
A Neighbourhood Forum
meeting
19.10.21 at The Crown Shard End**

1. Introductions

Roger Leek: Chair of Shard End Communities – a Neighbourhood Forum
Mo Ball: Treasurer
Lauren - Welcome Change
Jim – Friends of the Cole Valley
Lizzie - resident and works at Age Concern
John and Jeanne - residents of Castle Bromwich
Mike - Parade Organiser for Shard End, British Legion
Jean - resident
Margaret - resident
Everton - resident
Giulia - Birmingham City University

2. Previous meetings.

This is the first meeting after covid19. Previous agenda and minutes are now irrelevant.

AGM, next meeting, will be at the library. Unsure where the future meetings will take place. Various conversations taking place with Moorfield Hall and The Crown.

3. Police

Neighbourhood Watch still exists but there is not a representative on the group.
The local policing unit stated that a police representative will be in attendance for the next meeting.
Roger has not received a synopsis of crimes from police which he was promised. He was informed that burglaries will go down because a prolific thief has just been jailed again.

4. All Saints Square

It is dangerous and unsafe due to bad work done on the surfacing. On-going problem and Zurich (insurer) is there to pay out for people injuring themselves. Cllr. Ian Ward is working to resolve the issue. Alan Porter is the City engineer.

Roger put a bid for Commonwealth Games funding to watch games from the square as a community. Awaiting for Alan Porter's risk assessment.

5. Moorfield Hall

Lizzie introduced Coffee and Cake from Age Concern: every Tuesday 4:30- 6:30pm for people who are at risk of isolation, anybody from B33 and B34. Various external speakers every week. It is a great initiative to get people together. Funding until beginning of February 2022 and Lizzie is looking for ways to extend the project.

6. British Legion

Remembrance Parade will take place on Sunday, November 14th at 11:00am with a service in All Saints Church followed by a parade to the cenotaph at The Crown. British Legion didn't support it with insurance due to a problem elsewhere in a previous year. Fundraising is on-going for next year's event up to £1,200 (just to cover the band). Other funding sources are being looked at. Roger suggested to look into The Cooperative Society which gives funding for community groups near their shops. It was suggested to approach Jack's as well.

- Looking for volunteers to fundraise at Morrisons in Castle Bromwich by the tills. Last year, in this way almost £90,000 were raised for the British Legion.

Shard End Communities is in support of initiatives where it can help other groups with their projects.

7. Christmas event

Last year the event was a sort of open food bank organised by a lady living in a flat on the square who seems to have disappeared. Shard End Communities helped her with this event.

The Christmas event needs fresh ideas from all sections of the diverse community.

There is some money that can be spent on Christmas lights in the square. Slide, grotto and lights can be used.

Roger is keen on a collaboration between residents and businesses for Christmas lights.

- Needed somebody to act as liaison between businesses and community- possibly Welcome Change? They could encourage businesses to make contributions towards environmental charge.
- A person in charge is sought who is a good organiser and can commit for a few months.
- Looking for foodbanks that can get involved or donate items. Maybe Russel Trust, Kingfisher Foodbank or Family Action.

8. Cole Valley

Not managed to do much during lockdown.

Struggling to get interest.

Considered to do something as a memorial or as thank you for NHS staff, possibly planting some trees in the park. It was stated that trees previously planted as memorial had all been destroyed by vandals.

9. Finances

Not much has changed since last year and the accounts will be presented at next month's AGM.

Over the past year some money was received and addressed to Tile Cross and Shard End. Mo contacted the council to clarify the confusion but they said they don't know anything about it. It has since been thought to be the Forum grant from the council.

Main expense of this year has been the Christmas event.

Roger will put in funding application for next year's neighbourhood forum.

10. AGM

November 16th at 7:00pm at Shard End library, All Saints Square

11. AOB

Giulia introduced the East B'ham project of Birmingham City University: working with some local residents as community researchers to explore issues such as intergenerational activities, anti-social behaviour and opportunities for young people. An event will be held at Shard End library on 23rd Nov. focused on unemployment. Happy to get inputs from residents on issues of concern and to support the community wherever needed.

- Will look into students volunteering for Christmas event, fundraising support and laptops