



Altrincham  
& Bowdon  
Civic Society



## Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society Community Action Plan

A programme of work has been commissioned by Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society as part of a national pilot to: consider how the community can take greater control over the local area; consider how the community could maximise the potential to secure resources and assets to deliver community priorities, and involve more people in taking part in shaping the future of their community.

A workshop was held in Altrincham on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2015, to raise awareness of the community rights and to provide a question and answer session. Approximately 12 people attended, including representatives from the neighbouring civic societies of Sale, Timperley and Hale; the Altrincham Town Centre Manager and our partner organisations; Altrincham Forward and the Altrincham Town Centre Business Neighbourhood Plan Forum. Over the last four weeks, the Altrincham & Bowdon Society has discussed and created this 12 month action plan for Altrincham.

The action plan for the town has 5 key programmes. These are:

- Raising awareness of the Community Right to Bid (Assets of Community Value)
- Developing community connections, especially with neighbouring civic societies and community groups
- Building community ownership of assets
- Protecting green spaces
- Protecting historic environment and local distinctiveness

This plan is the work of the community and reflects the issues in Altrincham.

### **Altrincham today: Strengths and opportunities**

Real community spirit and civic participation. Strong civic voice!  
Work underway on Altrincham Town Centre Neighbourhood Business Plan. Draft plan is currently subject to consultation.  
Historic heart to the town centre  
Improvements to the public realm are underway  
Proposed Altrincham Business Improvement District (BID)

### **Altrincham today: Weaknesses and threats**

Concern that the Trafford Council may sell off land/buildings in the future.  
Town centre suffers from high vacancies  
Need for a high quality environment  
Desire to change the negative perception of Altrincham

## Actions towards nominating Assets of Community Value:

<b>1. Raise awareness of the Community Right to Bid and inspire others to take advantage of the right</b>			
<b>What</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Who will lead</b>
Organise a community rights workshop for neighbouring civic societies and partner organisations	To inspire others to take advantage of the Community Right to Bid and encourage nominations for Assets of Community Value.	5 March 2015	Civic Voice and A&B Civic Society
Disseminate information about community rights to neighbouring civic societies and community groups	To improve understanding of community rights locally and encourage nominations.	Throughout the year by 31 March 2016	A&B Civic Society
Publicise and consult upon potential nominations through social media, website and drop in sessions.	To increase public awareness of the project, address concerns and gain support/feedback on nominations.	Throughout the year by 31 March 2016	A&B Civic Society (for nominations within area)

<b>2. Prepare nominations and submit to Trafford Council (Appendix A)</b>			
<b>What</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Who will lead</b>
Discuss the list of potential Assets of Community Value with A&B Civic Society members.	To encourage support/feedback on potential nominations and to agree an approach for submitting nominations to Trafford Council.	30 April 2015	A&B Civic Society
Make contact with the lead officer for Assets of Community Value at Trafford Council.	To build a working relationship with the local authority and establish a point of contact for any queries with applications.	30 April 2015	A&B Civic Society
Establish an Assets of Community Value working group.	To establish a lead within the society for each nomination, assess suggested nominations against criteria and resolve any queries with nominations.	31 May 2015	A&B Civic Society
Contact the Friends of Stretford Public Hall for advice.	To learn from their experience of asset transfer and, submitting a	30 April 2015	A&B Civic Society

	nomination and successfully listing an Asset of Community Value.		
Submit nominations to Trafford Council	To encourage greater protection for Altrincham's valuable community facilities	31 March 2016	Each civic society/ community group
Inform the community of Asset of Community Value listings	To keep the community informed of progress and to ensure they remain engaged in the process	Ongoing	Relevant nominating organisation

### Other Actions:

<b>What</b>	<b>Why</b>	<b>By when</b>	<b>Who will lead</b>
Undertake further research and consider the benefit of using the Community Right to Build for Cowfield, Oldfield Brow.	To respond to the suggestion put forward at a recent Our Place workshop	30 September 2015	A&B Civic Society?
Organise a workshop to discuss participating in national Civic Day and generate ideas for activities?	To celebrate Altrincham, stimulate civic pride and encourage greater civic participation.	20 June 2015	A&B Civic Society (with support from Civic Voice)

## Appendix A – Potential Assets of Community Value

Following the presentation about Assets of Community Value (ACV's) given by Sarah James of Civic Voice, which Judie and I attended, I drafted a definition of ACV's, which Sandra passed to all Committee members.

I included certain suggestions which I give below, together with other suggestions from other members and their agreements.

Each Civic Society/community group will prepare nominations for Assets of Community Value as appropriate to their geographical area:

### Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society

Altrincham Town Hall. This is our priority. Built for Altrincham Borough Council and opened in 1901. Trafford has many more Councillors, so Council Chamber too small. Neo-Jacobean style, fine stained glass windows. Available for weddings and other functions but not adequately marketed. Net cost after income, £56,000 p.a. Assured by two successive Council Leaders that it will be preserved. I have almost finished a detailed history which will probably be published by the Altrincham History Society in due course.

Old Market Tavern Original part built by 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Warrington circa 1690, extended to be new Town Hall circa 1855 by 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Stamford. Fine original features, well patronised.

Orange Tree Very old restaurant, well known in area, well patronised.

Salisbury Road Playing Fields. Large open green space given by last earl of Stamford. Part open space, part football, etc. In constant use by walkers and players.

Davenport Green Very large open space removed from Green Belt about 15 years ago pending huge development which has not taken place. My wife has extensive documentation.

Conservative Club In constant use for its original purpose and often used by non-political groups. About ten years older than neighbouring Town Hall, well maintained.

Working Men's Conservative Club. Recently closed.

Market House Built circa 1873 to replace Old Market Place. All market area was owned by Earls of Stamford, now under covenants of National Trust

Covered Market Adjoins Market House

Central Square, Lower Market. Recently regenerated, on site parallel to above.

Station Hotel Recently refurbished and changed ownership. Prominent site opposite Transport Interchange in town centre

Shaws Green Small green space near town centre, recently reduced in size by adjoining offices. Partly saved by local campaigners

Dunham Massey Village Hall. On Stamford Estate, built 1920's by last Countess. In constant use by village.

Seamons Bridge      Not sure if this would qualify. Is well-used, but so are all bridges

Cow Field            Green open space, just subject of planning application, withdrawn a few days ago after extensive local protests and opposition

Goose Green        Small retail and eating premises. Beautifully preserved area.

Bricklayers' Arms    Well-patronised pub in town centre.

Altrincham Clock Tower. Famous local landmark close to public transport interchange

Garrick Theatre      Amateur theatre, recently recipient of Lottery Grant. Established 1925.

Altrincham Little Theatre. Possibly the oldest amateur theatre group in England, established 1896 and still thriving.

The Old Don.        A Chippy, in probably C17th building, close to town centre in Old Market Place.

The Roebuck        Very old pub close to Old Market place. Well patronised.

John Leigh Park    Public park with Friends Group.

Churches, Synagogues, Bridgewater Canal, Railway Line Footpath, footpaths generally. Unsure if these would qualify.

#### Bowdon Conservation Group (BCG)

Devisdale            (BCG) Large open green space, under constant threat from developers.

Spring Bank Park    (BCG)

Denzell Gardens    (BCG) Beautifully maintained gardens, locally famous and well visited.

Bowdon Community Centre (BCG)

Bowdon Downs Congregational Church & School (BCG)

Stamford Arms      (BCG) Local pub & restaurant, very popular

The Griffin          (BCG) Very close to Stamford Arms, also very popular locally

Jubilee Rooms      (BCG)

Bowdon Parish Centre (BCG)

Jubilee Community Centre (BCG)

St Luke's Bowdon Vale (BCG)

Bowdon Assembly Rooms. (BCG)

Timperley Civic Society (TCS)

King George V Pool (TCS) Fishing Pond and surrounds given by 10<sup>th</sup> and last Earl of Stamford in 1937 in memory of King George V. Regenerated recently, extensively used by local fishing club.

Timperley Golf Course. (TCS)

Beech Field Timperley (TCS) Open green space, walkers, dog walkers, five football pitches, site of annual Altrincham festival. Also Council Allotments and Timperley Community Orchard.

Timperley Old Hall Archaeology Dig. (TCS) Recipient of Lottery Grant, laid out for public.

Hale Civic Society (HCS)

Ashley Heath (HCS)