

Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society
Registered charity No. 246145

Summary Minutes of the online Committee Meeting – 8.00pm 16th February 2021

Present:

Committee members: Judie Collins (Chair), Trevor Stone (Treasurer), Robert Redford, Richard Hagon (Sec), Paulina Lewis, David Eastwood B.A., Leslie Cupitt (Green Spaces Lead), Vivian Labaton MSc.

Co-opted Members : Angela Stone (Town Centre & Business Lead)

Guests: Mr Ken Garrity- President Altrincham Rotary Club, Mr. Martin Garrett a member, Guest, Sgt Joanne Reynolds from GMP Altrincham.

Report from the Chair

FRIDAY UPDATE

The combined efforts of the Civic Society and Neighbourhood Business Plan working group encountered some difficulty when it became obvious that there had been discussions with the BID without feedback. This was remedied by a cordial meeting yesterday with the Chair and agreement for us to present to the Board. We were also somewhat disconcerted to discover the Trafford had undesignated with NBP without telling us. Adrian Fisher Head of Strategic Planning is trying to discover why not and he is now on the BID Board so will be a useful contact

I have notified Bowdon Conservation Group about the Town Council but have received no response. The Leader has said Broadheath councillors are not interested in being involved. They were the only councillors not to respond to our original queries saying what we were planning. There are major problems in Broadheath not being addressed and also in Oldfield Brow who have decided to take things into their own hands as Cow Field continues to deteriorate and progress seems to have stopped,

Please let Richard know if there is anything I have missed and we are so pleased he is safe home from hospital.

CHAIR'S REPORT

We have our speakers for the next two management committee meetings Greater Manchester Police for February and Sue Aldridge of Altrincham Chamber for March. Both would like questions. For the Police I suggest more of a presence in Altrincham Town Centre and some clarity about the Interchange where there are GMP, British Transport Police and the Metrolink enforcers.

Planning wise The Wheatsheaf got approved and the Bungalow refused. Most of the planning agenda now centres on the recently published Local Plan and the renamed Places for Everyone (ex Greater Manchester Spatial Framework) I'm going to suggest we have a small group to look at these perhaps Paulina Leslie and myself unless anyone else is keen. We can then feed back. I have offered some mystery shopping to TMBC as I can't find the consultation on the Trafford website so would appreciate feedback

We are now awaiting the outcome of our Asset of Community Value application which is of course a renewal though Trafford are choosing not to look at it that way and we need to protect other buildings like pubs and the Conservative club. Many thanks to Angela for her hard work. There has been widespread support for the town hall protection.

Trafford will be going into Purdah in April now that the local elections and the Mayor will take place so anything that can't wait needs to be hurried. Meetings about the town council are continuing and there was a meeting with the Chair of the BID Ewen Miller this week, with a presentation to the BID Board agreed for after the election.

Report from Guest Sgt Joanne Reynolds from GMP (*Greater M/c Police*) Altrincham

Antisocial behaviour a few blips in the Altrincham area around Goose Green and the car park there, kids coming out smoking and drinking. We are aware of it and monitoring the situation.

There have been a few issues recently surrounding the Bowdon Croquet & Bowling Club, complaints from residents about teenagers congregating and making noise late at night. A few antisocial behaviour orders have been issued to both girls and lads. We work closely with Trafford and have calmed it down quite a lot.

Crime Burglary & Robbery have significantly reduced, however a lot of lock snapping type of breaking and entering at the moment. PCSO Simon Hughes has done a leaflet to guide people on their choice of locks to buy. Cars with keyless entry are getting targeted, but there are Faraday Lead Pouches which can be bought cheaply, to block signals from the keys.

Parcel theft is on the increase, so we are trying to encourage people to get neighbours to take parcels in rather than be left outside.

Lots of Social Media Scams at the moment, so we are trying to educate people to ignore them and take care when clicking on texts and emails.

Regarding school children on the Interchange, we will be going down there and the schools are very responsive with us when we contact them. We are aware of your concerns, the staff at the interchange have been very good and we have been getting CCTV footage from their system. Together with Lindsay King, Safer Communities Officer, Trafford Council (Stretford Police Station), we have issued many antisocial behaviour warnings visiting many different houses. However please encourage people to contact us by email or phone if they have any concerns.

Planning

For current planning applications **see appendix 1**.

Paulina reported that there were no issues with any planning items. Although some discussion took place about the partial closing of Oxford Road and how impractical it was to consider using Peter Street as a thoroughfare as it is too narrow and would also force people who use the parking spaces there to park on Oxford Road instead.

Report on the meeting with Ewen Miller and the BID (*Business Improvement District*) team Ref Formation of a Town Council

Robert Redford reported that Ewen Miller seemed very keen to work with us and it was a positive meeting. Mike Shields has sent out several missives on it but I agree with him that we need to get our act together on this Town Council Issue and not rush it.

Vivian said we really need to find out whether people want a town council or not.

Angela said a lot of work needs to be done.

Leslie said it's going to take a lot of money and many willing people to get the whole project off the ground, but it's clear that the area covered by the new council will be Altrincham, Bowdon and part of Hale.

Richard suggested that perhaps we could use social media to gauge people's opinion.

Ken Garrity suggested we use his interview slot on Radio Alty to get information out in the field and he can talk to the presenter about doing this.

Robert said he would be happy to be interviewed. We can also get an audio file to put on the website for people to listen to.

Town Centre Report from Angela Stone

Business Open Grants Issues. Very hit and miss.

Some Café's and coffee shops have been paid, others being told they don't qualify!

Sir Graham emailed Sara Todd and I've now responded to Graham's office that the arbitrary selection of those who qualify simply doesn't make sense.

Flooding 19th and 20th – Much better planning from Highways and grids had been cleared less flooding in the town centre and Goose Green escaped – possibly thanks to the snow while we were holding our meeting,

Oxford Road Consultation due in March. Justin Cali Coffee keen as it benefits him, other businesses less keen.

Town Hall started pulling information together and information we need to look at a feasibility study. Interest from CS and NBP to join the group then specialists – Jonny Red House Farm has already come forward.

Best Bar None has new Management team and a new assessment. I'll find out more in March then the Committee want to push ahead again this year. We had 9 venues in 2020 2 others wanted to o it but I didn't get to them before they closed (again!) There are currently 36 bars in the whole of Altrincham and as the Bowdon Rooms want to join in this year we'll also talk to the other 2 in Bowdon.

Bowdon Rooms are doing a live FB event from 6.30pm on Saturday

Consultants Harper Dennis Hobbs have rated Altrincham as 37th in their list of 1000 retail centres.

John Leigh Park Jon the ice cream man sadly died from Covid last week. Unrelated but Jonny (Red House Farm) has put in an application to use the park for a silver bullet trailer for drinks and snacks.

Town Hall Angela reported that the ACV has been submitted for the Town Hall. The Trafford budget meeting is tonight and she now needs to pull together the costings so we can start to look at a feasibility study if we are going to take it on as a community. Some of the neighbourhood plan group have said they would like to be involved as well as Johnny from Redhouse Farm. She needs to talk to Richard Roe about current costs of insurance and maintenance contracts. Trafford want to be released from their financial obligations for the building. Solicitors and Surveyors will also be involved.

Appendix 1

PLANNING APPLICATIONS 25 January 2021 - 15 February 2021

25 January 2021

None of interest

1 February 2021

103202/FUL/21 Alderbank, St Johns Road, Altrincham Retrospective application for demolition and rebuild of boundary walls and like for like replacement of stone gate posts.

8 February 2021

103173/FUL/21 8 The Downs, Altrincham WA14 2PU

Change of use of the first and second floors to 1 no apartment, creation of a first floor terrace area with balustrading following the erection of a single storey side and rear extension. External alterations to include a rear dormer, alterations to the shop front, creation of a cycle/bin store.

15 February 2021

103340/FUL/21 Regent Road Car Park, Altrincham

Change of use of Block B commercial unit during construction from approved Use Classes A1-A5, D1 and B1 (flexible Retail, Restaurant and Business) to flexible Use Classes E (Commercial, Business and Service) and C2 (Residential Institution)

NOTE: Use for a private medical clinic for treatments and overnight stay if required.