

**Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society**  
**Registered charity No. 246145**

**Summary Minutes of the online Committee Meeting – 8.00pm 16<sup>th</sup> March 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, Sue Aldridge CEO Altrincham Chamber of Commerce.

**Report from the Chair**

Paulina, Leslie and I will be attending the first Broadheath Partnership meeting on Monday so will be able to report back on Tuesday evening. We have highlighted the Lidl problems and Woodstock Park. Leslie has done good job with Electricity North West which we hope to expand on. Have a look if there are any neglected substations near you. They tend to be surrounded by quite a lot of land.

We suddenly seem to have a lot of requests for help across the area either by email or through local social media groups so I think it might be a good idea to have a check list for residents e.g. contact your local councillor, where in TMBC/Amey you go etc. There does seem to be a problem with benches in public open spaces where repairs are needed e.g. the Cenotaph opposite St. Margaret's and the Crematorium.

Recent correspondence with Richard Roe is proving helpful re the Asset of Community Value for the Town Hall and Angela can give us an update .We have a problem with the part closure of Oxford Road and consultation with the closed businesses where Angela again can update.

Paulina has discovered the Friends of Denzell & Devisdale Group no longer want to include the Devisdale so they will concentrate on Denzell.

The Devisdale is very much at risk development wise so we need to think what is best.

On Tuesday I'd like us to look at what questions we can ask the local election candidates. The date for Candidates is open till April 9th.

**Report from Guest Sue Aldridge CEO Altrincham Chamber of Commerce**

It's been an eventful twelve months.

We have been a bit financially strapped, as our finances are based on subs, some members understandably have not been able to pay their fees, but we are keeping our heads above water.

Board meetings have been held by Zoom, have had a number of Q&A sessions with Graham Brady, Sarah Todd, Andrew western & Mike Caine. This gave members and non members an opportunity to ask questions of leading figures in Trafford, we had Andy Burnham a few weeks ago who was very good. Mostly Zoom has been used to interact and give information, as small businesses were asking what they should do when the lockdown started. Trafford have been very good with information about grants and advice.

I started a newsletter for distribution across the region.

At one point we lost our way, but we are now looking at a new business plan for the next twelve months.

We cover Trafford Wide and intend to create a new blueprint for Altrincham which can be transferred to Sale but make it unique to them. Over the last twelve months I have been working with Sale Regeneration Team and a few movers and shakers in Sale. We have now arranged a board of eight people, similar to the Altrincham Board, where we can then steer Sale in the right direction. The ultimate aim is to get a BID for Sale Town Centre.

For Altrincham, Angela Stone has joined our board which I am very pleased about, and she brought to our attention the issues surrounding Oxford Road partial closure and the future use of the Town Hall.

We have just done our Business Awards which brought a lot of camaraderie to Sale and Altrincham. We had a total of 13,881 votes in total which was incredible. So we want to continue with it.

Lobbying – We lobbied heavily with Jill Bottomley from the HR Dept regarding the Furlow Scheme. During last May to July I did a series of interviews to promote the flexible furlow initiative which Graham Brady took to Westminster and it was passed eventually, so we are pivotal in changing both local and national policy. We had a lengthy consultation with Stephen James from Strategic Growth for Trafford in terms of a lack of grants for people who work from home, as a result quite a few small businesses have benefitted.

## **Planning**

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

Robert asked why there were objections to the Lidl plans for the Homebase site. Paulina said it was mainly to do with a planned vehicle exit point directly onto George Richards Way which would cut across three lanes. Also local residents were concerned as Lidl want quite extended delivery times and the loading bay access road from Craven Road has no turning point behind Homebase so lorries have to back in. Stamford House landlords want to divide it into three small units which seems sensible. The furniture store is moving to George Street.

A planning application has been submitted for 46-50 Railway Street for erection of a two storey building comprising ground floor mixed use commercial and business floor space, with a single residential apartment. A few modifications are planned to the retained frontage left from the Down's Hotel and the Design Forum commented whether it should be restored with original brickwork, rather than being painted white.

Friends of the Denzell Gardens have said they can't support the Devisdale any more as they haven't got the funds. Some concern was expressed about how protected the Devisdale as a green space. Leslie said that it is common land, so it is already an Asset of Community Value. It's like a village green, you can't build on it.

**Town Centre Report from Angela Stone:** Night time economy ,Town Hall and Altrincham businesses.

Locanda, new opening heard it's going to be an Irish Bar and that Brian Kennedy (ex Sale Sharks is behind it.)

Terzo is now open offering a takeout and delivery service.

Work continues on The Drawing Room.

Bars are undergoing re-furbishment ready for opening.

## **Oxford Road – proposed road closure.**

I'm working with Andy Hague, we've been attempting to contact businesses currently closed by email and telephone and Andy has said the Council will accept comments after the Friday 19<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments.

I have spoken to open businesses Coffii22, Terzo, Yara & Big Fat Pizza.

There's also an on-line group involving Hale CS (Denise, Steve Cox, Jamie Shepherd & John Brodie), Daniel Chalkin, (Conservative Candidate for Hale Central). Hayley (Off the Wheaten Track) Jonny Oxford Road Café, Natalie (Oxford One Spa), Geraldine (Betty & Belle) Maria (Maria LB solicitors).

## **Town Hall**

No news on the ACV. I assume the building will re-open on 12<sup>th</sup> April in line with stage 2 openings. It's important to get in as soon as we can to have a look what facilities there are and how these could be utilised for events and activities.

I have asked for some property information from Richard Roe so that I can start to bring an idea of costs – lease cost, buildings declared value (for insurance) etc.

New issues this month:

## **Children on roofs of commercial properties.**

Subway, reports of youngsters throwing stones onto Stamford New Road, a girl fell off the roof of Abakan at the rear, falling 3 floors to the basement well. Luckily Barry Cooperman was going to move his van from the

Travelodge bridge and found her and got her to hospital. I have contacted Richard Roe who has passed the issues onto Properties and Safe Community.

There was also a report of youngsters on the roof of Bistrot Pierre, I have contacted the SQ but not had a reply.

## **Buskers**

There's been a number of issues around buskers over the years which have resulted in a Trafford Consultation on the subject. The questions aren't particularly open and are in favour of putting severe restrictions on buskers. However there is a comments box.

<https://trafford.citizenspace.com/governance-and-communities/code-of-conduct-for-busking-altrincham/>

The draft document limits buskers to 1 hour in a space, doesn't allow amplifiers (which some rely on for backing music and guitars, doesn't allow more than 2 performers, restricting hours to 10-6pm. The Code of Conduct only applies to Altrincham not other town centres

## **Hospitality**

Currently looking at the proposals in the Protect duty consultation, which follows on from Martyn's Law to see what we can do to improve safety in Altrincham.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/protect-duty>

For a list of Hospitality Venues hoping to open on 12<sup>th</sup> April, see APPENDIX 2

## **AOB**

### Elections

Chair said we should send out a questionnaire to the candidates, saying these are the questions that our electors would like answered and we will publish the results on our website.

Oldfield Brow: Leslie reported, at a recent meeting there were open discussions about the Cow Field area, a group have come together and some good ideas have come forward regarding the area surrounding the shops, the only concern is that not enough local residents are involved, but there are plans to improve that. So hopefully the ideas will enhance the local area.

Student Intern: Leslie said he will contact Jessica our intern to catch up with her planned activities for the Society.

Regarding the subscription to The Mill, Greater Manchester's new newspaper, the committee felt this was not necessary, Angela said the sub was quite high for what it was.

## **Appendix 1**

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS** 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

#### 22 February 2021

103414/FUL/20 Unit 1, Altrincham Retail Park, George Richards Way, Altrincham WA14 5GR  
Extension and sub-division of existing Homebase store (Unit 1) to create two new retail units (Use Class E(a)) comprising a retail warehouse unit and associated garden centre (Unit 1) and a discount convenience food store (Unit 1A) and formation of an additional site egress.

Note: Objection lodged. Also Lidl have appealed against the previous planning application 98127/FUL/19

#### 1 March 2021

103430/VAR/21 27-33 & 33A Regent Road and 1 Normans Place, Altrincham  
To allow an alternative roof detail, omitting the zinc and providing a lead dormer and flashing; and amended car park layout with the loss of 1 no. space. To allow for the occupation of plots prior to the parking provision being made available.

103490/FUL/21 and 103491/LBC/21 Stamford House 1-3 Stamford New Road, Altrincham WA14 1BD  
Planning permission and listed building consent for the sub-division of Unit 1-3 Stamford House into three retail units with individual off-pavement access.

#### 8 March 2021

103419/FUL/21 46-50 Railway Street, Altrincham WA14 2RE  
Erection of a two storey building comprising ground floor mixed use commercial and business floor space (Use Class E), with a single residential apartment (Use Class C3) above, together with associated works following the retention of the existing façade, the outward and upward extension of the existing archway.  
Note: The Design Forum has submitted comments. The application relates to the former Downs Hotel.

#### 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

List not available

## Appendix 2

### Hospitality venues planning to open on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

I'm currently working with GMP, Highways & Licensing to plan for opening, looking at pavement space etc.

We're waiting for the Covid guidelines from the Government and BBN Assessment document.

Planned openings depending on Covid requirements:

Batch Bottles Store  
California Coffee  
Cheshire Tap  
Costello's  
Green Room  
House – limited to food only  
Ikon  
King Pong  
Libero  
Mort Subite  
Traders Tiki  
Pi  
Riddles  
The Bricklayers  
The Con Club  
One Central  
The Bottle Shop  
The Orange Tree  
The Roebuck  
The Station  
Evuna  
Altrincham Market  
Sugo  
Tre Ciccio  
Wow Yau Chow

#### Café's

Altrincham Fish Bar  
Bap  
Batch Deli  
Blanchflower  
Café Cleo  
Café Nero  
Common Ground  
GranT  
Kingfisher  
Rhode Island

#### Yet to confirm

Smoke and Mirrors  
The Drawing Room  
Porta