

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

**Summary Minutes of the online Meeting of the Committee – 8.00pm 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Present:**

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

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

**Guest:** Joan Scott, Principal of Trafford College

**3. Report from Guest** Joan Scott, Principal of South Trafford College

Joan has worked at the college for 30 years and has overseen several merges with other local institutions during that time. Twelve years ago a merger with North Trafford College took place, followed more recently with Stockport College, Cheadle and Marple Colleges.

These are now under the Trafford College Group, but each retaining their own campus and name.

As a result the £50m pound Group is the largest College Business in South Manchester.

Ten years ago Baroness Sharpe produced a booklet 'Colleges in the Community' stating that a college should be a 'dynamic nucleus at the heart of the community', which is our ethos today.

We are lucky that we have a pot of money for community learning, which is normally under the control of a local authority. This is all about confidence building to encourage people to learn about any subject they choose, in the hope they will progress to attending college to take a qualification.

We work with partners like libraries, community centres, churches, refuges to engage with local people and have about 25 organisations now signed up to support our work in this area.

We won a Beacon Award about 7 years ago for our community learning scheme.

Our Syllabuses include:

Study programmes for full time 16 -18 year olds, including BTechs at all levels.

A broad offer of A level subjects at Altrincham.

We are strong in hospitality, Hair & Beauty, Sports, Health & Social Care, Travel & Tourism & Business enterprise.

Foundation Learning courses for adults to retake subjects.

North Trafford campus is more practical subjects, like gas, plumbing, mechanics, building construction.

Stockport Campus is plastering, carpentry, building, and creative arts. We are currently spending £20 million to refurbish the Stockport Campus having sold off smaller areas.

Our Apprenticeship Schemes are extremely important, with 1500 adults and young people who all have a job and attend college one day a week. We work successfully with a couple of thousand employers across the region.

Adult Learning is also a large part of our service. We have a fast track course which leads to a University place after just one year. We also do professional programs such as AAT (Accountancy), CIPD (Human

Resources) & ILM (Management Qualifications). Trade union studies are also offered. Adult Maths & English brush up courses are popular either at college or in the community.

At the Trafford Centre we run 'Skill Shop', short two week courses to prepare people for interviews. At Manchester Airport we do the same there in our Academy. The Skill Shops work on the basis that there is a guaranteed interview at the end.

During lockdown we have organised about 400 distance learning courses.

We also do Higher Education Courses with a foundation Degree at the end, partnering with other organisations.

The 16-24 year old Government Backed Kick-start Scheme is also very popular.

Joan said she had only outlined a small part of what the Trafford College Group had to offer and thanked the Civic Society for the opportunity to champion their work.

#### **4. Report from the Chair**

I've written to Joan Scott at Trafford College who has agreed to do the beginning bit on Tuesday concentrating on community involvement especially in Broadheath, but inviting her to stay as a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group while we discuss the Stamford Quarter the Vision.

Paulina will hopefully sit in on the planning committee tonight and as far as the temporary application is concerned we'll have to suck it and see. I have spoken to Ryan at Stutter and Twitch about noise levels.

We have been very involved with the Interchange (thanks Ian and Bev) with poetry boards and plants and a meeting yesterday with Northern and TfGM was full of praise. TfGM have agreed to pay for WW1 outline soldiers at the bottom of the stairs to Platform 4 which will form part of the Bravest Little Street project. There is a derelict piece of land which we think belongs to Network rail where we have suggested a skateboard ramp site. There will be a Cheshire Best Kept Stations award ceremony on May 27th.

I am seeking opinion on whether we could ask NW ACTS to talk to us for the June meeting. We are members and hopefully Margaret from Manchester Civic could come too.

I'd also like to know whether you would support us having Ricia Kovach for our new Honorary President. She is a long time committee member and is also Court Leet, manages Graham Brady's surgeries and still very keen to know what is going on. Richard has written to Roger Bayliss to approve Altrincham Football Club as the award winners for the Don Bayliss Award.

The Broadheath and Oldfield Brow Partnerships are up and running under the able chairmanship of Paul Huxley from G Force. Oldfield Brow has a sub group looking at greening the area around the shops and there has just been an update on development plans for Cowfield.

Broadheath is looking at green space support from the National Trust. Help for neighbours of the new Lidl and the reinstatement of 2 Little Ducks to the Partnership.

We think it would be better to keep our meetings on line till September if that could be approved.

We are in contact with all the relevant ward councillors and meetings have been agreed.

There is concern about the continued closure of Minor Injuries at Altrincham. Graham has been offered a meeting by the Divisional Lead so let's see if we can be involved.

Many thanks to Martin who has been to a lot of things and hopefully the mist has begun to clear.

## **5. Treasurers Report**

Finance: Bank Curr A/c £ 924.88      Dep A/c £ 1427.35      HLF A/c £ 1.00

## **6. Planning**

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

### **Stamford Square Planning Application**

Bruntwood don't really understand the area. Paulina said it such a mixture of ideas, not really in keeping with the fact that there will be residents living above the area. Also details have not been circulated successfully to local residents.

Angela said she had raised several issues with Stamford Quarter about lighting and CCTV and it's no better. Last Friday none of the Globe Lights were working on the ramp down to the interchange. Music was playing at full pelt from the Stutter & Twitch Caravan Cafe, which was disturbing residents on Victoria Street.

Judie said we don't really know what happened at the planning meeting so we probably need to speak to Dan Jerome.

Angela said we need to escalate matters upwards through Stamford Quarter & Bruntwood Management, because she is not getting any responses now from the manager Tina Doyle.

There is a myriad of issues including management of glasses and licensing times.

Martin said will the outcome of the planning meeting be definitive or advisory? Judie said approval will be subject to conditions.

Robert said he would have thought the council should have someone responsible for liaising with them to ensure some cohesion. It was agreed we should approach Richard Roe, Corporate Director, Place, Trafford Council, also possibly our Ward Councillors.

Judie said the other complication is that according to a reliable source Nikal the company behind the Altair Development have gone bust. This is going to change things a great deal. She will try and find out more.

## **7. Devisdale – Consider future use and protection**

Paulina said that regarding the letter from Mr Phil Lynch, Facilities Manager at the AGGS regarding Creating a Travel Plan for the Pupils, she wasn't sure how many residents actually know about it. Richard said Bowdon Conservation Group have probably emailed all their members about his letter. In the meantime parking continues to be a major problem for residents when events are on at the High School. Further to the letter from a James Naylor, Senior Marketing Manager, VELYS™ Hip Navigation & Enabling Technology Global Strategic Marketing, sent to Friends of the Devisdale and Denzell Gardens, people felt that bringing the football pitch (currently fenced off by the AGGS) into use would be a good idea in protecting the area for community use, providing the parking issues could be addressed.

Leslie said that applying for the Devisdale to be a Village Green would take eighteen months and in either event Trafford as land owners would have the final say. Further more it was a very complicated process and we would probably be better going for Common Land Status.

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

Update May 2021

### **Hospitality**

Nearly all venues opened on Monday, we had support from Trafford Council GMP and Best Bar None to prepare everyone to reopen.

Most are being cautious with hours, closing midnight/1am. Some are still operating Challenge 25 (so discretionary over 21)

Kennedy's, the Irish bar on Greenwood St is due to open this week.

Plans over the summer are to introduce the 3 Bowdon venues, George & Dragon, The Navigation, Old Packet House (shortly to be sold off) and The Railway in Broadheath when it re-opens and work with The Railway in Hale to introduce Hale to create a wider group.

We've recently been made aware that the Hare and Hounds is to be sold to Churchill to turn into retirement homes and we are working with CAMRA

SQ event space, the Not so Secret Garden launches on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June. The Portaloo's seem to be permanently locked, without a notice explaining who has the padlock keys.

Consultation is underway to allow the complete closure of Goose Green with bollards on the far side of the bridge – hours proposed are 6pm – 3am during the week and 10.30am – 3am at weekends.

### **Altrincham 10k**

Takes place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September starting at 9am. The Altrincham section of the route takes in Stamford New Road, through to Ashley Road loops round Hale Barns and comes back in past the football club and over Moss Lane bridge.

### **Manchester Marathon**

Takes place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October. This year the route includes Manchester City centre, the Altrincham section is the usual loop around the town centre but goes the opposite way round so up Stamford Street, Market St, Regent Road and out along Stamford New Road.

### **Other activities**

Paint Altrincham Blue will take place in November, I'm still waiting to hear about plans to Paint Altrincham Pink.

Now the elections are over we should be able to progress ideas for the Town Hall.

Hopefully we'll also hear soon about the Public Realm, Buskers Consultation and Oxford Road Consultation.

### **AOB**

It was agreed that Mrs Patricia Kovach would be invited to become our President.

It was also agreed to Subscribe to the New Publication 'The Mill' for twelve months. Judie said they were really interested in what we were doing for the area. Robert said the writing was good and we should support it as we are distinctly lacking in local good news publications.

It was agreed after discussions with Roger Bayliss, that the next Don Bayliss Award would be deferred until next year.

### **Hare & Hounds Pub Timperley**

Marston's Brewery are selling the pub. Tim Field of CAMRA has been in touch about it. Angela said they have a big mortgage on it.

Regarding our next meeting guest, Judie suggested Kathy Fisher from NWActs. David suggested Ian Bowden Chairman of Altrincham Little Theatre, which was agreed on.

### **Bravest Little Street**

Bev Robinson has got TfGM to agree to pay for a WW1 Outline Soldier figure to go on platform 4 on the interchange, which will signpost to the 'Bravest Little Street'. A decision has still to be made on the Chapel Street Notice Board and the Time Capsule.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.35pm

**Next Meeting:** The next Zoom Committee Meeting will be Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 8.00pm.

## **Appendix 1**

### PLANNING APPLICATIONS

26 April 2021 – 17 May 2021

26 April 2021

104043/LBC Railway Inn, 143 Manchester Road, Altrincham WA14 5NT

Listed building consent for internal fire damage repairs to the property including rewire, replacement of timber staircase to the first floor accommodation, removal of timber lintel and replacement with concrete; replacement of partition at first floor with modern fire rated partition; re-plastering; replacement of fire damaged fixture and fittings, joinery at first floor and flooring to ground and first floor; non-historical finishes including 3 en-suite bathrooms, internal redecoration and new loft insulation. External works include roof repairs, replacement of the two damaged windows to the side elevation and installation of new external window security railings to the ground floor window on the side elevation.

4 May 2021

104042/FUL/21 47-49 Stamford New Road, Altrincham WA14 1DS

Hard and soft landscaping works on land adjoining the building on Grafton Street including the relaying of the existing cobbles and stone and formalizing of the 4 no. parking spaces. Creation of a roof garden via a new internal staircase with covered lobby.

Note: This is the former Burton building. Design Forum (Damian) submitted comments supporting this application.

104207/LBC/21 38 The Downs, Altrincham WA14 2QQ

Listed building consent for rear dormer with roof window to second floor, in-suite to first floor bedroom 1, reconfiguration of bathroom and sunroom to the first floor. Spiral staircase to sun terrace to access rear garden, partial basement conversion, including repositioning of existing first floor staircase to conceal communal shared internal rainwater gutter. New enclosed roof with glazed roof lantern to kitchen.

10 May 2021

104267/FUL/21 Unit 10, 7 Moss Lane, Altrincham WA14 1BA

Listed building consent for replacement shop front and internal alterations to retail shop.

Note: Adjacent to Stamford House. To be a Jewellers.

17 May 2021

104113/ADV/21 17 Goose Green, Altrincham WA14 1DW Hidden Hearing

Advertisement consent sought for 1 no. internally illuminated fascia sign and 1 no. internally illuminated projected sign.