

Altrincham & Bowdon Civic Society
Registered charity No. 246145

Minutes of the Committee Meeting – 16th November 2021
Altrincham Town Hall 8.00pm

Present:

Committee members: Judie Collins (Chair), Trevor Stone (Treasurer), Paulina Lewis (Planning), Leslie Cupitt (Green Spaces Lead), Robert Redford, Martin Garrett, David Eastwood BA,

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

3. From the Chair

We reported back on the following meetings:

One Trafford and Amey (See Appendix 2)

Trafford Housing Trust (See Appendix 3)

The Community Carol Service is on 12th December at Altrincham Football Club

Sarah Marles wishes to stand down from committee to build her business and it was suggested she did something for the newsletter.

4. Treasurers Report

Finance: Bank Curr A/c £ 926.88 Dep A/c £ 1427.35 HLF A/c £ 1.00

5. Planning

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

6. Broadheath

The Planning Inquiry on the Homebase/Lidl application entered its final day on 12th November a day ahead of schedule. At the moment it is very evenly balanced. The Tesco QC is excellent but does not take prisoners. The Rapley QC is very pedantic but thorough. ABNP has made its case for Town Centre First, then edge of town second (Altair), with out of town last. A&BCS has made its case for the local residents. The inspector in summing up, advised she had a very heavy case load and would be unlikely to advise her decision until the new year.

7. Town Centre Report from Angela Stone: Night time economy, Town Hall and Altrincham businesses. Update November 2021

New openings

Work is underway in the old Sardus unit. The note on the window reports it to be Glass Spider Limited and work in the former Cohen's on Ashley Road

One Central opened there "Carol-oke" huts at the weekend and have erected heated yurts in the under the canopy.

The Bottle Shop are opening a second unit in Hale at the end of the month

Hospitality

BBN Assessments are continuing

The report in drink spiking has created a concern for venues. London Pubwatch have advised venues to "Ask for Angela" which is what we've agreed with our venues.

I've completed a template for Welfare and Vulnerability Training and "Ask for Angela" for venues to use to be agreed with GMP and Trafford Licensing then we're looking to roll out Ask for Angela to restaurants, cafes (many who have licences) and other venues such as the cinemas.

Venues are now planning for Christmas trading, consideration needs to be given to possible Licence variations for Boxing day which falls on a Sunday.

Street Poppies

This went amazingly well this year resulting in 75 poppies being sponsored. We ask for sponsorship of £10 each and with some extra contributions raised £820 which McHale Solicitors have offered to round up to £1,000 which is amazing. Now we have a stock of poppies all money raised goes directly to the RBL

We welcomed the Mayor Cllr Laurence Walsh and Sir Graham last week to look at our initiative and meet some of the business sponsors.

Paint Altrincham Blue

Tony Collier completed a week of activities raising awareness and money for Prostate Cancer. Judie, the Chamber and I have offered to help out next year, It's such a lot of work for one person to do.

Christmas

The Christmas Lantern Parade and lights switch on takes place this Saturday with entertainment in the Not So Secret garden and Goose Green. The lights are being switched on by an Altrincham star being voted for on the Altrincham Today Facebook Page.

Rotary Santa is back in town from Saturday and will be at various venues on Saturdays and Tesco in the week before Christmas.

They also run a toy appeal & there are collection boxes around town for toys for the Salvation Army toy appeal.

8. Update on the interchange

Chair reported that the meeting rooms had to be cleared of rubbish, and Northern Rail will be asked to arrange a skip. Problems with staff shortages continue to affect the passenger experience for both Trams and Trains, with nobody around to assist with directions and operation of ticket machines.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.00pm

Next Meeting: The next Committee Meeting will be Tuesday 18th January 2022 8pm-9pm at Altrincham Town Hall.

Appendix 1

PLANNING APPLICATIONS 25 October 2021 – 15 November 2021

25 October 2021

105847/FUL/21 Hare & Hounds Hotel, Wood Lane, Timperley WA15 7LX

Erection of 62 Retirement Living Apartments and 9 Retirement Living cottages - including Lodge Manager's office and Reception, communal facilities, guest suite, car parking and landscaping following demolition of the existing public house.

1 November 2021

106198/FUL/21 Former Rackhams Department Store and Former Bentleys Fish & Chip Shop,
2 George Street, Altrincham WA14 1SG

Application for the refurbishment and remodelling of the former Rackhams and Bentleys buildings to create offices, retail/food and beverage/leisure floorspace. Works to include two storey upwards extension and creation of external terraces, selective demolition including bridge links to Sunningdale and Kingfisher buildings, associated plant and infrastructure, landscaping and works to public realm and access.
Note: Comments submitted

106142/VAR/21 The Range Unit, 7A Altrincham Retails Park, George Richards Way, Altrincham WA14 5GR

Application for variation of condition 8 on planning permission H/OUT/38342 (Demolition of existing buildings and structures and redevelopment of site as a retail warehouse park including non-food retails units, garden centre, 2 restaurants and associated parking employment development and construction of new access road). To allow for the sale of a limited range of food goods for consumption off the premises.
Note: Comments submitted

8 November 2021

106098/COU/21 17 Regent Road, Altrincham WA14 1RU

Change of use from mixed day nursery and residential to day nursery.

105648/FUL/21 and 105649/LBC/21 Scriven House, Richmond Road, Bowdon, Altrincham WA14 2TT

Change of Use of the existing offices into a residential dwelling along with associated external alterations that include removal of the existing air conditioning units, a dropped kerb, and new French window to the rear elevation. Also Listed Building Consent as above

15 November 2021

None

Appendix 2 Trafford Housing Trust

Hi Judie,

Thank you for your email.

As I mentioned yesterday, before we can engage with any external stakeholders or the wider community concerning plans for our homes, we need to speak to those residents and customers directly affected by

any potential change. This is particularly important when change can involve people moving homes. This is to avoid any misinformation, rumour or hearsay raising concern to our customers, especially the elderly and vulnerable customers.

The engagement event that I was running yesterday was inviting our customers to find out more about thoughts on the future of the New Street blocks and the process that we will be going through over the next 18 months and what this means for them. It was a follow-up to previous engagement that they have already been involved with.

You may have seen the press release which was issued today inviting the wider public to attend an event on Monday, which will discuss the same information. Local Cllrs have also been informed, invited to the event and briefed on the information that we will be presented.

We are in the initial stages of design development for the potential redevelopment of the site that will include engaging with various stakeholder groups, including the civic society, as part of the normal planning process, but we would not begin this external conversation until our customers have been notified of our intentions to explore this option.

Therefore, the civic society and local residents in the wider neighbourhood would not have been notified prior to the conversation with customers taking place. I'm sorry if this has caused concern or upset. I'm happy to arrange a meeting to come and talk to the Civic society formally about the emerging proposals for our site, and a follow up conversation with your New Street neighbours concerning their issues regarding parking, through-traffic and amenity space.

I believe the cherry-tree issue has further complicated the New Street conversation and I am still trying to understand how this happened. I have had confirmation from the tree surgeon that the tree will be evened out on Thursday and remain in situ until further notice. However, the canopy does need to be cropped to allow an unusually large vehicle to exit the adjacent development site next week. Further comment was made yesterday regarding the conservation area status and I just wanted to clarify that whilst the period properties on New Street do fall within one of several surrounding conservation areas, our flats and landholding, including the Cherry, does not fall within the conservation area.

I am happy to discuss all of these issues in more detail and meet with the society when prudent to do so. In the meantime, I hope to see you at the consultation event next week.

Best regards, Rachel Rachel ter Horst MRTPI Senior Manager New Business - MRTPI

Appendix 3 Meeting with Trafford Ref: Issues with One Trafford and Amey

Notes from my attendance at the Civic Society meeting (Russell Clarke).

Date of attendance: 8/11/2021

Altrincham town centre

The group raised concerns about supposed temporary repairs to lamp posts which have been covered with a temporary cover that looks unsightly and needs replacing with the correct part. Also the heritage lamp posts need painting. The group also requested why some lamp posts had been removed and stubs had been left which were unsightly.

Action: Russell to raise with Andy Hague to seek the correct inspection covers and painting of the lamp posts along with an update on the position with removed lampposts and could the stubs be removed.

The group also requested that an audit of the bins in the area is undertaken as some of them are broken and in disrepair.

Action: Russell to raise with Andy Hague

The group expressed concerns over blocked drains and gully's throughout the town centre but particularly on:

- Regent Road
- Delemere
- Shaws Road

Action: Russell to raise with Andy Hague re attendance and drain/gully clearance

The group raise concerns that public realm paving has been repaired with tarmac and not block paving as originally installed

Action: Russell to raise with Andy Hague to investigate

7 Year Review

The group mentioned the 7 year review and Russell gave an overview of the process so far. The Group requested that Sharon attend for a further update and that if possible the Friends of Parks were able to input.

Action: Sharon Walls to attend a future meeting by mutual agreement and put forward some dates

Action: Russell to ask Sharon which documents can be shared

Altrincham Tow Hall ACV

Russell updated the group re the position of the ACV and agreed to chase estates on the progress.

Action: RC agreed to chase up the Estates Team, *Martin Tucker has fed back that the application will be completed in draft by the end of the month.*

Leisure Refurbs update:

Russell gave a brief update in terms of the sites currently being considered for refurb.

Action: Russell to get an update from Chris Jennings re the project and likely timescales

Moss Park

The group raised concerns about the condition of the path across the junction which needs resurfacing.

Action: Russell to raise with John Stevens to take up with Highways

The Devisdale

The group raised the current state of the Devisdale and the need for the area to be cleared of blackthorn and ragwort and general tidy up along with the pond which needed maintaining.

Action: Russell to raise with John Stevens

General Parks

The group requested to see management plans which included lamps, area maintenance and pathways/car parks. The group wanted these to be shared with Friends groups for consideration and to compliment the work of the friends groups.

Action: RC to raise with John Stevens for a response and update

Report it now

The group raised concerns that when reporting items there was little or no response unless they went direct to officers. Could an update as to whether the report it now function is working following the recent crash of the Amey system.

Action:RC to share the Client team organisation chart

Action:Russell to raise the report it now query with Amey as to whether the system is working correctly and why members of the public are not receiving timely responses.

Russ Clarke

Estates and Facilities Client Manager

Highways Transport and Environment

Trafford Council | Town Hall | Talbot Road | Stretford | Manchester | M32 0TH