



Community Voice News Online

The Altrincham and Bowdon Civic Society Management Committee meet bi-monthly.

As so much is going on we will be producing an online newsletter every alternate month to help keep residents better informed about local issues.

This first newsletter starts with a focus on the implications of a very political year.

The May elections for the three wards we represent, Altrincham, Bowdon and Broadheath will also have the Mayoral election for Greater Manchester. And at the general election we shall be looking at a new MP as Sir Graham Brady steps down. For the parliamentary seat we shall hold a hustings together with the other parts of the constituency and St Georges Church has offered to host and chair.

There have been some boundary changes since last May so areas like Oldfield Brow will find themselves with new ward councillors and with wards with new names. It may be that not all sitting councillors will remain.

To see details of the new Ward Boundaries, Ctrl click on the link below to our website and scroll down the page: [New Ward Boundaries in Trafford](#)

When contacted about local issues, we usually say to people have you contacted your ward councillor. None of ours hold surgeries but Sir Graham Brady does with a local councillor. The South of the borough presently has six Liberal Democrat Councillors in the Timperley wards, six Green Party Councillors in Altrincham and Hale Central and two Labour and a Conservative Councillor in Broadheath. The Civic Society has regular contacts with all of them. We also talk regularly to the Labour executive for topics like Neighbourhoods, Regeneration, Green Issues and Planning.

Civic Societies have been operating since the introduction of conservation areas and the green belt half a century ago. All have different issues and activities and we probably meet with officers more than most. Developers don't have to talk to communities before submitting their applications to planning, but in many cases they talk to us to ease their path. Heritage and Conservation are a major theme for us and our Planning Lead will respond as appropriate. We are fortunate that most of our developers are local but a Housing Association now based in London is causing us concern both in planning matters and tenant management.

Altrincham Town Centre obviously forms a major part of our discussions and activities. There are Conservation Areas, a Neighbourhood Business Plan (NBP) and an Altrincham Business Improvement District (BID) all with different geographical areas.

The future of Altrincham Town Hall remains unconfirmed as we await the outcome of the Community Bid Process from Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council (TMBC). Community groups are finding it increasingly difficult to find somewhere to hold meetings. This now extends to council consultations and even the NHS who struggle to hold clinics. The Town Hall has been the centre for community meetings for decades but its loss to commercial use would also leave us without anywhere to showcase the town.

The South of the Borough remains badged by some authorities as wealthy, entitled and unworthy of its own hospital which remains greatly unused with the lack of minor injuries leading to major wait times at Wythenshawe. So there is much to do.

Many Civic Societies like Chester have a long list of corporate members. We like to do things differently so we'll be looking at help in kind as part of the social value which TMBC has just adopted. We shall also be looking for influencers to assist in our activities so any suggestions will be welcome.

We also have committee members ex officio like Friends of Altrincham Interchange. We feel the Interchange should be marketed more efficiently both by the multi modal transport authorities and the council. In the past we have had a representative from Altrincham Market and from the Chamber of Commerce on the committee and we would welcome any thoughts as to other possibilities.

Returning to the political year we find much more activity from ward councillors in the run up to the May Elections and we will keep our readers up to date as more news emerges.

TOWN CENTRE NEWS & EVENTS

Mathnasium a Drop In Maths Tutoring school for children is opening where Toni & Guy Hairdressers were located at 72 Stamford New Road.

Starbucks will be opening a coffee shop in the Spring located in the Stamford Quarter's Foundation building.

Alt Space in Kennedy House has gone into partnership with leading flexible work space provider IWG.

EZ Hampers have opened in the Arches on Viaduct Street, Broadheath using merchandise from local suppliers and environmentally driven companies.

Masa UK Art Gallery has opened on The Downs.

Altrincham vs Cancer takes place this month, raising money for the Christie. This is a 5k run (or more) taken on by local residents and business owners.

Plans for Paint Altrincham Pink are taking shape, it will run from 4th March for 2 weeks. This is to raise funds and awareness of Prevent Breast Cancer.

Please visit our website which is an excellent source of local information and has links to other organisations. altrinchamandbowdoncs.com