

MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM
Parish Rooms, Tettenhall
13th February 2025
at 6.30 pm

APOLOGIES

Sally Hathaway, Fran and Steve Jackson, Marion Reeves, Jane Meek and Dorothy Bennett.

There were 9 residents in attendance.

MATTERS ARISING

ROCK JUNCTION

Neal Kelshaw (NK) summarised the position following the public pool vote and noted that it was considered that the Council were still in maladministration with regard to a number of matters as follows:-

- Failure to respond to formal complaints, some dating back over 12 months, and refusal to upgrade these complaints to Stage 2.
- Failure to respond to the residents' petition.
- Incorrect procedure followed regarding an item raised by the public at a Council meeting.
- Failure of the Council's Scrutiny Committee to consider these matters.

NK and Robin Hacking (RH) reported no further communications from the Council subsequent to John Charles' letter to them dated 23rd December 2024. RH has responded to the John Charles letter restating our position and requesting clarification on traffic volume data quoted on the Council website. No response to this subsequent letter. A reminder will be sent by RH.

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION

Ian Culley has confirmed that he has finished his evaluation and the matter will now be referred to the Governance Committee. Decision still awaited.

AGM UPDATE

A summary of the proceedings at the AGM was given by NK. A 6 week consultation period on Neighbourhood planning has begun and will complete on 21st March. Also a 6 week consultation has started on the Community Hub proposal, also to be completed by 21st March. Residents, and particularly regular Community Forum attendees, are encouraged to make their personal responses to these consultations, details of which can be found on the Trust's website.

With regard to the Community Hub and the potential for this being sited at the Severn Trent site in Regis Road there will be a meeting with Severn Trent on 6th March attended by John Green (JG), Rachel Cresswell and NK.

A team from Tettenhall Towers wishes to consult with us regarding the use of this part of Tettenhall College as a Community Hub and an exploratory meeting has been requested by them which will take place on 27th February. NK and RH to attend from the Trust.

The EGM of the Trust to appoint officers and trustees will be scheduled on 29th May and the AGM of the Community Interest Company will be held on 25th September to re-appoint directors standing for re-election (2) and to appoint 2 further directors.

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY MEETING UPDATE

This was attended by 5 Councillors and 12 residents, including 7 residents from the Forum. Between 6.00 pm and 7.15 pm residents were able to discuss their issues with Councillors and the Council representatives. At 7.15 pm there were reports from the official attendees.

Sgt Newton spoke first. He is now the Neighbourhood Sgt. Under the new Chief Constable responses are to be improved. Phase 2 will be improved crime investigation. There are now 4 PCs and 4 PCSOs forming a new team dedicated to improving responses and making a difference. ACC Bell is meeting neighbourhood teams. A new Neighbourhood Policing Plan is to be released engaging in problem solving and improving the culture.

Burglaries are down, shoplifting down, vehicle thefts increased to 5 and 1 robbery. One suspect has been arrested for 10 burglaries. This is now the highest detection rate in the West Midlands.

In response to questions relating to lack of enforcement Sgt Newton pointed out that photographic evidence provided by the public, eg dashcam evidence, could be sent to the SNAP operational centre in the West Midlands and where possible these are leading to prosecutions.

<https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/operation-snap/>

Next was the representative from the Antisocial Behaviour Team. This and the following reports were brief because of shortness of time. However a new red team had been formed with the objective of stopping antisocial behaviour before it happened.

Next was the representative from the Waste Disposal Department. The following points were reiterated:-

No batteries in bins - batteries to be left in a clear bag (eg freezer bag) on top of the bin (please note that the pod on the wagon might be full so if batteries are not collected please leave them out again for the next collection).

Electrical items to be left at the side of the bin in a carrier bag (SMALL electrical items only, eg toasters, phones, handheld items etc).

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/small-electricals-recycling>

A new initiative "Wolverhampton Technical Aid" is / will soon be available at certain libraries whereby items such as tablets, laptops can be cleaned and re-issued to deserving causes.

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/news/donate-your-old-devices-and-help-wolves-tech-aid-delete-digital-divide>

The next speaker was addressing the issue of scams. A number of helpful documents and leaflets were issued to attendees. A specific warning was issued regarding an HMRC related scam where the QR code provided had been amended to divert funds.

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/community/scams-advice>

Councillors Reports

Wightwick Ward

Wendy Thompson reported on a number of issues which had been addressed regarding bin collections in Wightwick Bank, also a number of tree issues which had been reported to Council officers. Also serious road safety concerns regarding schoolchildren at Westacres School have been raised. Also the state of disrepair of the police station has been raised at a Council meeting.

Sally Garner reported her concentration on a number of graffiti issues. She has also had agreement from the Council to replace the 2 lime trees which have blown down on the Green during the recent gales. These trees have been purchased out of Ward funds. The lamppost damaged by the falling trees will be upgraded to be more in keeping with the other lampposts.

Jonathan Crofts had nothing additional to report.

Regis Ward

Sohail Khan confirmed that they were still awaiting responses from the officers on the Rock Junction proposals and that significant effort had been put in to resolving various pot hole problems. Due to the very poor condition of the road surface in Windmill Lane he was once again asking for it to be resurfaced.

Uday Singh reminded residents that trees near houses could not be cut down as many of them would have Tree Protection Orders. Permission should be sought from the Council.

Following this report Colin Whittingham asked how the Government's recent pot hole fund could be accessed. RH to raise this at the Steering Group with Councillors.

It was also discussed how NK's App for reporting tree problems could be used for many other items such as pot holes, fly tipping as well as tree problems and this is entirely possible. The benefit of using NK's App is that the Trust will have a record of the matters raised with the Council which can therefore be monitored whereas the Council App does not allow for this facility.

STEERING GROUP UPDATE

Most items have already been covered under previous agenda items but to note that the West Midlands Mayor intends to consult on public transport franchising. Consultation to be completed by mid March and residents should take this opportunity to input their views.

MUSEUM CONSULTATION

Already covered under AGM report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING CONSULTATION

Already covered under AGM report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

JG proposed that residents should be encouraged / allowed to sponsor items on the 910 AD Battles Trail, such as statues and installations. He has also suggested the same for seats and replacement trees on Upper Green and suggests that many residents would be interested in this kind of sponsorship.

NK reported that Catherine Perry (CP) wanted to present an update on the Smestow Valley Nature Reserve and it was agreed that she should be offered a slot at the next but one meeting. NK to offer CP time on the meeting of 27th March.

RH reminded the Forum that meetings are now every 3 weeks not 2 weeks and that the next 2 meeting will be on 6th March and 27th March in the Parish Rooms, Tettenhall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.30.

Outline agenda for next meeting:

- APOLOGIES
- MATTERS ARISING
- STEERING GROUP UPDATE
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS