**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Parish Rooms, Tettenhall**

**at 6.30 pm**

**3rd October 2024**

**APOLOGIES**

Nicola and Malcolm Rudge, Steve and Fran Jackson and Jane Meek.

There were 9 attendees, including 1 Ward Councillor.

**MATTERS ARISING:**

**TDCT APPLICATION**

Our application for registration has now been in the hands of the council for about 3 weeks. As yet there has been no response from the council and no requests for clarification. Neal Kelshaw (NK) will progress the issue next week.

**CONSULTATION WITH POLICE COMMISSIONER**

Ongoing. NK and Nick Berryman (NB) have a meeting on 4th October to progress this. Contact with the Police and Crime Commissioner is important, not only in its own right, but because it relates to one of the points in our suggested 6 point plan for the Rock Junction, namely traffic regulation abuse at the junction and opportunities to enforce traffic regulations. See item on the Rock Junction.

**REPORT ON LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY MEETING 24.09.24**

The TCF had asked Chris Jellyman on 17th August for approval to have a table at this meeting to promote the TCF and explain our purpose which could be summed up as Love Your Community (Tettenhall). Robin Hacking (RH) also sent emails suggesting changes to the way the meeting was called, run and minuted to improve the effectiveness of the meeting for both the council and the residents of Tettenhall. None of these emails had received the benefit of a response until 14.30 on the afternoon of the meeting when RH received an email from David Pattison, Chief Operating Officer of the council, refusing us permission. Unfortunately the email is restricted so we cannot share the contents but we attach to these minutes a copy of RH’s reply. There are no council minutes or notes available from the previous 2 meetings in January and April. We have, however, attached to these minutes notes from the TCF attendance at the meeting since it is not clear whether any minutes will be issued by the council, although they did explain at the meeting that they had taken notes of various actions based on the discussions at the meeting. NK commented that he had approached Emma Harris and offered to publicise the new arrangements she had outlined regarding the collection of small electrical items and batteries and the intentions regarding recycling coffee pods via our social media platforms. Having had no response he has provided the information in any event for the benefit of Tettenhall residents.

**ROCK JUNCTION**

A wide ranging discussion took place on the entire Rock Junction situation from the start of the council’s declared intentions in mid December 2023 to the current date. After the council’s attendance at the PACT meeting in January where the Head of Service gave many undertakings, most of which have not yet been discharged, eg public meeting, detailed responses to the 300+ objections and suggestions made by individual residents, there has been no information from or dialogue with the council regarding their intentions. Equally, following the petition by residents with its 6 point plan for improving the junction as a constructive alternative to the council’c plan and, although Democratic Services have confirmed the validity of the petition and promised at least one date for a response nothing has yet been received. There was widespread anger expressed at the meeting at the way residents were being ignored so we will now seek through NK a formal meeting with the council to clarify the whole range of matters consequent on the council’s original plan, its future intentions and its complete lack of response to our petition. The question arises as to whether the council is fully compliant in relation to their failed promises and nil response to the petition. We will consider all available options in encouraging the council to the table, including contact with the Ombudsman.

**TREES**

Following a further potentially life threatening failure of a large and ancient lime tree on Upper Green a number of questions arise. A significant amount of work has been undertaken by Paul Wilson (PW) and Councillor Sohail Khan in recent months as a result of which a number of dangerous trees and boughs have been removed from Upper Green adjacent to the footpath. During this work the council had indicated that they had an appropriate Tree and Management Policy for all publically sited trees in the council’s area. However the tree which fell on the morning of 1st October had clearly not been inspected as external evidence on the trunk of the tree clearly showed presence of beeswax fungus. Several Forum members had taken photographs of the tree and RH has photos of the fungus clealy visible at the base of the tree and following attention by the tree surgeons who were removing the fallen tree the fungus could be clearly seen inside the massive hollow trunk. Trees continue to remain an important topic for residents in all its many facets and will remain an important item on the agenda for future meetings. In the meantime there was widespread interest in the Green being selected as a site for one of the the 49 Sycamore Gap saplings. Andrew Riley (AR), who attended the meeting for the first time owing to his particular interest in this matter, encouraged the Forum to consider an application on the grounds that although there were only 49 of these sites to be selected it was anticipated that they would need to be spread around the country and there were many important aspects which we could put forward in support of an application. AR agreed to prepare an outline application for consideration at a future meeting.

**UPDATE ON 910 AD BATTLE PROJECT**

Becky Cresswell (BC) produced a PowerPoint presentation on the Aims and Objectives of the project together with an outline budget (budget currently excludes costs of a building for an exhibition). BC explained how she had discussed with Catherine Perry various funding opportunities including opportunities for common signage related to the Smestow Valley project. She is now identifiying a range of organisations who we could approach for funding. It is important to avoid conflict with funders already engaged in the Smestow Valley project. See our website for further information regarding this project.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Possibility of reducing the frequency of meetings was discussed but since agendas are so full at the moment it was agreed to keep them fortnightly for now.

NK asked for Steering Group update to be a full item for the next meeting and it will be a regular item in future meetings.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:-**

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| 17th October 2024 | Spotted Cow Function Room, Royal Oak, Tettenhall Wood | 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm**Please note time** |

**AGENDA FOR 17th OCTOBER MEETING:**

* APOLOGIES
* MATTERS ARISING
* STEERING GROUP UPDATE
* APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION
* MEETING WITH POLICE CRIME COMMISSIONER
* ROCK JUNCTION ACTION
* ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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| **Love your Community Meeting 24/09/2024**1 message |

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| **Robin Hacking** | 24 September 2024 at 18:05 |
| To: David.Pattison@wolverhampton.gov.ukCc: Neal Kelshaw  |
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| ﻿﻿David,Thank you for your email which arrived in my box at 1430 this afternoon just 4 hours before the Love your community mtg is due to start. In many ways this speaks to the issues of frustration felt by our community in its dealings with the council.I first emailed Chris asking for a table at tonight’s meeting on 17/08/24 the day after he sent me the calling notice and followed it up a couple of times. It would have been preferable to receive a response a little earlier than this. No matter, the many hours resident have put in to prepare for this meeting and the material they have produced for it will stand us in good stead for a future occasion.With regard to your “purpose of the meeting” you may be content with the arrangements that are being made but I can assure you that the residents have a very different view based on the last two meetings.At the January meeting promises were made regarding Rock Junction proposals which have simply not been honoured by the council. Following our petition which was accepted by the council in late April further promises and undertakings have been given by Democratic Services which have also not been honoured.Neal will be seeking a formal meeting with the Council on this topic following our steering committee meeting tomorrow evening.The April meeting was frankly a shambles poor presentations and poor management of the meeting, and with the attending police officers unable to answer question which had been previously briefed by ward Councilors because “they did not know about the meeting until the day before”. There were many questions about enforcement or the lack of it and the standard responses to the many constructive suggestions made were on the lines of “we can’t” or “we don’t do it like that”.As for tonight’s meeting who knows what’s in store but the elephants in the room will be The Rock Junction, Bins and council’s lack of response to various matters.With regard to your last two paragraphs I did attend the meeting you refer to earlier in the year and we are clear about your views  on this and in agreement.Our organisational entities are the Tettenhall District Community Trust incorporating a Community Interest Co. (Which is already registered at Companies House) and the Tettenhall Community Forum with membership open to all residents of the two wards and their ward Councilors. Not a “council” in sight.Finally and to return to the them of “Love your Community”  the TCF has been meeting fortnightly since late January to discuss and act upon opportunities issues and problems which affect the wellbeing of Tettenhall residents and their environment whether that be:The Rock junction, 5GPoles, ASB, Trees and tree replacement, Tettenhall Station and traffic enforcement or:an Art Trail from Wednesfield to Tettenhall to celebrate the Battles of 910 AD,  input to The Wolverhampton Plan and a refreshed Neighbourhood Plan.The agendas and minutes for these meetings of residents can all be found on [TDCT.ORG](http://tdct.org/) and would make interesting reading for anyone interested in loving the community of Tettenhall. And you will already be aware of our application for recognition and registration of The Trust as recently submitted by Neal to Ian Culley.I will let you know how tonight’s meeting goes.Kind regards Robin Hacking Chair |

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**Love Your Community Meeting**

**24th September 2024**

**Wolverhampton Cricket Club**

The speakers;

Chris Jellyman - Council

Hannah Pawley - Council

Police Sergeant James Newton

Bob Maddox - Tettenhall Regis

Sohail Khan - Tettenhall Regis

Wendy Thompson - Wightwick

Sally Garner - Wightwick

Jonathan Crofts - Wightwick

Emma Harris - Waste Services

Chris Jellyman (CJ) opened the meeting and proposed some time for attendees to have an opportunity to speak to the above and then they would come back to the meeting for these individuals above to speak to us.  About 25-30 mins elapsed and CJ had to call everyone back to their seats so the updates could start.  At this point the policeman still had quite a queue waiting to speak to him.

The first person up was Sergeant Newton who informed how the officers have gone 'back to basics' and are now investigating every report made to them - even down to a 67p tube of Smarties from a shop.  He said that there have been good results in catching and prosecuting individuals/gangs for a range of offences.  He also mentioned the West Midlands Police and Crime Plan which can be found at

[The-West-Midlands-Police-and-Crime-Plan-2021-25.pdf (westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk)](https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-West-Midlands-Police-and-Crime-Plan-2021-25.pdf?x32340)

You will see that the "*law requires all Police and Crime Commissioners to produce a Police and Crime Plan within the first financial year after they are elected.  A Police and Crime Plan can last for a PCC's term of office or be renewed periodically."*

Next up was Emma Harris of Waste Services. She asked if anyone was aware of the introduction of new items that will be collected with the weekly bin collections.  The first was introduced on 5th August for small electrical items and batteries.  There are pods on the sides of the waste collection vehicles for this purpose and as long as the item/s fit inside a carrier bag they will take it/them.  The items can be left out either week but the bag must be left open.  Regarding the batteries, this is only meant for smaller household ones.  These should be placed in a see-through bag, tied in a knot, and placed on top of the bin.  The batteries should not be leaking or damaged.  From 1st October they will also be introducing a Pod Back Service for the disposable coffee pods. There are 3 ways to recycle and information can be found on the council’s website.

Then it was the turn of the councillors.  Regis went first and the first thing mentioned was trees and specifically the overgrowth affecting the lights at the Rock junction.  These are now scheduled to be trimmed.

The subject of replanting was brought up and there is some being done in what is designated 'tiny forests'.  However, these rely on local people effectively taking care of them.

The leak at the bottom of Malthouse Lane - the council have now made a decision that it is the responsibility of Severn Trent, which they have accepted, however no date is yet in place for rectifying the problem.

The councillors have had their Ward funds cut from circa £10k to circa £9k.  They pointed out that the mobile camera supplied for monitoring the drug dealing in Long Lake Avenue cost around £9k eating up a whole year's allowance.

With regard to the Rock junction Councillor Khan said that he has been following this up and told that there are some financial issues so we are still not sure how this is progressing.  He did ask them again for the trialling of the lights to be considered.

When these councillors had officially finished PS Newton interjected with information that the police hold a big pot of funds thanks to the Proceeds of Crime Act and that this money is available to communities via an application to the My Community Fund.

Next potholes.  According to the Road Traffic Act the council is not liable for any damage caused to vehicles unless they have previously been made aware.  In addition to this the hole itself must be subject to certain criteria eg how deep it is. This criteria can also be found on the council’s website.

Wightwick has suffered flooding due to the recent rainfall and the state of the drains. There is also graffiti and fly tipping in the area.

As it was getting close to 8.30pm CJ was keen to wrap up the meeting.  A Forum member stayed to talk to PS Newton about Community Speed Watch and he said he had intended to mention at the meeting that they are training new cadets to use the hand held speed cameras which they will deploy in various areas and said if there are any particular concerns to let him know.