**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Parish Rooms, Tettenhall**

**6th March 2025**

**at 6.30 pm**

**APOLOGIES**

Neal Kelshaw, Colin Whittingham

There were 11 residents in attendance.

There being no specific items for discussion the agenda was restricted to Matters Arising.

**MATTERS ARISING**

 **910 AD BATTLES**

A conversation has been opened regarding the possibility of using part of the Severn Trent site on Regis Road for a museum and to consolidate into that site opportunities for further community involvement. John Green (JG), Becky Cresswell (RC) and Neal Kelshaw (NK) have been engaged with Severn Trent and after several attempts to secure a meeting they attended a walk around at the site with the director responsible for managing Severn Trent estates who appeared keen to take the discussions further. There is substantial car parking potential, a range of currently unoccupied buildings and the main tower, which is Grade II listed and has sufficient space for a range of facilities in addition to a museum. JG showed some pictures taken through the main doorway revealing the beautiful tiled interior and illustrating the scale of the available space. It is not yet clear what arrangements could be made with Severn Trent but a project of this scale would need substantial financial support from businesses and local residents and organisations. Underlying Severn Trent’s interest is their need to keep their depot open to service the aquifers and as a regional depot for service teams and plant. There would need to be substantial changes to the entrance arrangements to allow segregation of the business and community sections and the costs of bringing a listed building into use and maintaining it would be very high.

Post meeting the Trust has also been approached by Tettenhall College who are keen to make the college and its facilities more open and available to local residents. NK and RH attended a meeting on 6th March also attended by staff, Historic England, WCC Listed Buildings Department and received a presentation from the architect who had been responsible for restoring substantial parts of the college buildings, particularly their roofs with their famous water collection system. Repairs and developments had been taking place for a number of years and further work is planned over the next 3 years. The college is seeking to defray some of its costs by increasing access from the community which already enjoys access to the swimming pool and occasional events at the famous internal theatre and these and other facilities of the college could be available to further use from community groups. The indicaitons are that the college will need to make substatial changes to the old main entrance and immediate surroundings which have been divided into a number of small and difficult to use rooms which are currently unoccupied. NK and RH had a tour of the building which again clearly suffers from the potential requirements of a Listed building but it was noted that the history/drama teacher who showed us round the building was very supportive of the 910 AD Battles project. She explained that she taught it and re-enacted the battles with her students in the Tettenhall College grounds which were belived to be the site of some of the battles and skirmishes which took place. She pointed out that the school badge has an emblem reflecting the battles at the point of the shield. She was already actively in discussion with RC and this connection is clearly an opportunity for the construction of educational material celebrating the 910 AD Battles.

 **ROCK JUNCTION**

Robin Hacking (RH) has replied to the email sent to himself and NK dated 23rd December 2024 which did nothing to add to the Council’s position as stated in early November 2024. RH has once again requested a meeting to achieve better understanding of the residents’ and Council’s positions. He has also asked for a meeting with the consultants engaged by the Council on the basis that the November communication from the Council indicated that a very inaccurate and misleading summary of residents’ concerns, as officially raised and registered with the Council throughout 2024, had been supplied to the consultants. The purpose of the meeting with the consultants would ensure that they had an accurate understanding of the views and concerns as expressed by over 300 residents. He also sought clarification that if the consultants were also to consider the residents’ petition regarding alternative proposals for the Rock Junction, which has not yet been responded to by the Council, then he was seeking confirmation that the entirety of the petition would be considered rather than a cursary analysis which was indicated by the Council’s November 2024 communications.

The 23rd December 2024 letter from the Council to NK and RH had referred them to the Council’s plans for the junction as identified in the December 2023 TTRO via the council’s website on that proposal. RH has further reviewed that public information and in his reply asked for further clarification on traffic volumes and comment on whether the traffic volumes should be reassessed to be more up to date.

At the time of the meeting no response had been received to the further queries being raised and the Council’s position appears to be that they will say nothing until the consultants have reported. The Council refused to tell us when the consultants are due to report. RH will seek support from the Tettenhall Councillors attending the Steering Group in trying to establish when the consultants will report.

Noted, we understand that there is an allocation in the Council’s 2025 budget for changes to the Rock Junction at the level of several tens of thousands of pounds. It has also become clearer that the cost allocated to the consultants’ exercise is very conservative and unlikely to be sufficient to cover all the issues which the Council say the consultants have been charged to cover.

The residents attending the meeting were increasingly frustrated and angry about the Council’s lack of response on this important issue and asked the Chairman to write again to the Council demanding a better response. Residents were concerned that the letters to RH and NK were marked *restricted* preventing them from circulating the Council’s position to residents and resident groups and the Chairman was encouraged to put his next response into the public domain and he agreed that he would attach his subsequent correspondence to the minutes.

**PLANNING**

Notwithstanding the disappointing decision of the Council to retrospectively approve the roof railings on the Lower Green Health Centre RH has been assisting a lady who lives in one of the cottages opposite where her neighbour is extensively modifying the adjacent cottage without applying for Planning Consent and Listed Building Consent. She has written frequently to the Council asking them to require retrospective applications but until recently the only action the Council had taken was to advise the developer to stop work. However recently there has been a further complaint from another property owner further down the terrace. It appears they may have been seeking approval from the Council for similar modifications with the Council now demanding in this instance appropriate applications. Having pointed out the unfairness of this the Council has now required the initial developer to stop work pending an inspection.

**STEERING GROUP UPDATE**

The previous Steering Group meeting having been cancelled there is no report.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

 NOTICE BOARDS

 It was felt that we could make more use of local notice boards.

Nicola Rudge (NR) informed the meeting that she was stepping back from the Social Media group and that her responsibilities will be taken over by NK.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.30.

Outline agenda for next meeting:

* APOLOGIES
* MATTERS ARISING
* STEERING GROUP UPDATE
* SMESTOW VALLEY NATURE RESERVE UPDATE
* ANY OTHER BUSINESS