

MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM
Parish Rooms, Tettenhall
9th October 2025
at 6.30 pm

APOLOGIES

Nicola and Malcolm Rudge.

There were 13 residents in attendance.

MATTERS ARISING

REGISTRATION

Robin Hacking (RH) updated the meeting on progress on registration. After various contacts and discussions the Steering Group was looking forward to a joint meeting with all 6 Tettenhall councillors and David Pattison (DP) COO of WCC on 10th October. This meeting had been arranged by DP's office following meeting he had had with the 6 councillors. At an event held at Tettenhall College on 2nd October RH bumped into Cllr Jonathan Crofts (JC) who informed RH that he understood that the meeting had been cancelled and rearranged for the 17th October because Cllr Uday Singh was unable to attend. This was particularly disappointing because it was understood that the date had been cleared with the diaries of all the councillors prior.

Subsequently it was confirmed to Neal Kelshaw (NK) that the meeting had been cancelled but rearranged for the 24th October not the 17th. This was very unsatisfactory because RH and a number of other Steering Group members were unable to attend on this date and at the time of this meeting it is understood that Cllr Sally Garner was also unable to attend the new date and had been obliged to tender her apologies for it. NK wrote directly to DP asking for the meeting to be reinstated on 10th October which was initially agreed through his office. In a further communication to NK a few days later DP informed him that the meeting could not go ahead on the 10th after all. We understand that it will be rearranged.

The Steering Group has concluded that having tried to engage with the Regis councillors (Wightwick councillors are already routinely engaged) for 12 months and similar efforts having been made by DP over the last several months only for meetings to be cancelled at the last minute because of the unavailability of a Regis councillor that the Steering Group would reserve its position and wait for the councillors and/or DP to approach the Steering Group with their proposals to consolidate the 2 applications which the council is considering and would respond positively to those proposals as and when they are received. In the event of no proposals being forthcoming the Steering Group would stand on its initial application which the council has confirmed is correctly constructed and authorised. Our understanding continues to be that in the event of meetings to produce a joint proposal the 2 separate proposals will be judged on their merit and one selected for approval.

Two other meetings on this topic have taken place recently. The first was between the Steering Group, councillors and facilitated by Tony Gethin, who is the chairman of the councillors' parliamentary constituency committee. The purpose of this meeting was to smooth the way prior to the meeting expected to be taking place on 10th October. However, although the discussions were useful, only 1 Wightwick councillor out of the 6

councillors invited attended but to be fair, with one exception, various circumstances had contrived to make their attendance impossible.

Another relevant meeting was a telephone conference between NK, Matt Caffrey (MC) and RH with Ian Culley (IC) the officer responsible to DP for the Neighbourhood Planning activity. This was a constructive meeting with confirmation that if a consolidated approach could not be achieved then the process was for the council to select which application it felt to be the best. The extent to which the Trust's membership covered the entirety of the district was also discussed having been indicated as a potential problem by various people. RH explained that in the outline planning undertaken by the Trust regarding first steps following registration of our application we would be seeking another leaflet drop to all 10,000 homes in the district building on our first leaflet drop outlining the objectives of the Trust. This second leaflet drop to focus entirely on the Neighbourhood Plan update and inviting residents to a public meeting to engage them in the work of updating the plan and the activities needed to complete the work. RH felt this would finally put to bed the mistaken observations being made about the coverage of the Trust but could only be undertaken when the funds available on successful registration had been allocated. It was at this point that IC announced that there is no longer any funding for Neighbourhood Planning as a result of the latest nationwide Local Government financial settlement which was issued to the council in June 2025.

It is particularly disappointing that the delay in registering our application has now resulted in a loss of funding. RH threw open the meeting to a discussion and to give those attending the opportunity to ask their questions.

Q – Has TG come back to the Trust regarding the change of meetings?

A - (RH) Currently we have no further information about dates for the meeting to be reinstated and it is unlikely that TG will continue to be involved in the detailed arrangements. TG's current advice to the Trust is that they will need engagement with the council in the various activities it undertakes and, whilst acknowledging our frustration, he considers that a conciliatory approach will be more effective.

Q - This question concerned the legality of the applications and their timing.

A - (NK) Our application was submitted in October 2024. It required 2 legal signatories which were NK and RH. We have no knowledge of the submission date of the other application nor who the legal signatories are.

Q - Are both applications public documents?

A - (NK) Our document is freely available via the Trust's website in the interest of transparency. However there is no public information regarding the other application available. There is no obligation to publicise an application although a successful application will have then to be available in the public domain.

Q - Can we go to the Ombudsman for a decision on this?

A - (RH) In spite of the fact that the second application in the name of the councillors has caused interminable delays DP's department, through IC, has consistently informed us that if the preferred solution of a single consolidated application from the 2 parties cannot be achieved then the process is for the council to select their preferred application. NK commented that in the event that this process was not adhered to then we would have every right to appeal to the Ombudsman to require a determination.

PETITION

Though residents were delighted that the Rock Junction TTRO now appears unlikely to go ahead they remain concerned to receive a response on the separate petition for improvements in the Rock Junction as a constructive alternative to the TTRO. Council Democratic Services confirmed on 16th April 2024 that our petition had been validated and had been sent to the Road Safety Team to provide a response and that we should expect this response by 14th May 2024. The petition had been dragged into the consultant's response to the TTRO. RH confirmed that following requests at previous meetings he had now written to John Charles (Head of Highways) asking whether now was an appropriate time to receive a response to the matters raised in the petition. A copy of this email is attached to these minutes. Regis councillors have been asked if they will assist in getting a response from the council on this important matter.

PLANNING

Chill Wine Bar

A number of residents have raised via WhatsApp their opposition to the current Planning Application for Chill Wine Bar in Tettenhall High Street. The wine bar's licence was suspended a while ago for 3 months following antisocial behaviour and breaches of the licence conditions. Following that suspension the licence was reinstated with conditions including a change of manager and requirement for security personnel to be on duty. The new application seeks to extend the licence into the small hours and to remove the requirement for security personnel on the door. There is also the possibility of extending the facilities to use the first floor as part of the wine bar. Two residents attending the Forum for the first time drew attention to the antisocial behaviour currently taking place - loud live music, lock-ins and noisy departing customers. One of the residents had engaged with Environmental Health who had attended their property to establish the justification for the complaint. It was also reported by a resident a laughing gas canister had been found in their garden behind a broken fence. The council are responsible for the fence and have not responded to requests to repair it over an extended period. The Forum determined to approach Cllr Jonathan Crofts to see if a licencing review could be arranged and members of the Forum were encouraged to write to object to the planning application by the wine bar by 22nd October. Residents can object directly online.

1 Wergs Road

Following concerns expressed by residents about the unsightly fence surrounding 1 Wergs Road Cllr Khan has informed us that the council have instructed the owners to remove the fence.

Avenue House

There have been further reports of rough sleeping in the Avenue House area which have been reported to the council.

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

Following the successful working party on 19th September significant improvements can be noted regarding the appearance of the churchyard. Thanks both to the working party and specific activities undertaken by Steve Robinson (SR) to spread weedkiller and construct collecting bays for trimmings. SR has approached Cllr Khan to see if the council workmen or contractors could be asked to help by removing the mound of green waste now piled up at the Grotto Lane entrance. Subsequently Cllr Khan had confirmed that he had approached the relevant people and asked for them to remove this waste. The next working party is on 24th October rather than the 17th as initially announced. In subsequent months we will revert to the third Friday in each month.

SMESTOW VALLEY NATURE RESERVE

There had been widespread concern amongst a number of residents about the work being undertaken on the railway walk. There had been an inconclusive public meeting about paths and access gates. Residents had tried to get involved in the council's plans regarding restrictor gates to prevent motor cycle riding on the path after, it is understood, 18 complaints had been received by the council. NK and John Rowley (JR) attended the site recently where work was underway. The workmen confirmed to NK and JR that it is planned to install 52 restrictor gates. It was pointed out at our meeting that this would prevent pushchair and wheelchair users from using the paths and that there are still many access points where motor bikes could get access to the path network. NK pointed out that this is because there is no significant boundary enclosure delineating the entire area. Concern was also registered about the removal of the "kissing gate" where 6 men in 2 vans had arrived to remove the gate and install a restrictor gate which now no longer provides a safe exit onto the road in Compton Hill Drive and prevents pushchair/wheelchair access. It is believed that the council is spending close to £200,000 installing these gates using a non-local contractor who appears to lack any understanding of how the facilities have been and need to be used. NK, who attends the Smestow Valley Liaison Group meetings will see if the Friends of Smestow Valley are willing to take up this issue.

STEERING GROUP UPDATE

No further items other than those already covered under previous items.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Sally Hathaway requested approval to take down a social media post regarding collapsed monuments in the churchyard. It is true that there are some collapsed monuments but the working parties are only involved in weeding and tidying up the churchyard and have not and will not be making changes to any of the monuments so it was felt that the post had not fully understood the activities of the working parties. It was agreed the post should be taken down.

Colin Whittingham noted that in Wood Road where, in common with many other roads in Tettenhall, temporary rubber strips had been installed. These have now been removed. These strips are believed to be for traffic monitoring. Speeding and traffic enforcement on the district's roads is a continuing cause for residents' concerns and it was also noted by one resident that high level cameras have now been installed opposite Rock House.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 19.50 hours.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Our next scheduled meeting is on **30th October** at 18.30 in the Parish Rooms.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FORUM MEETINGS

30th October

20th November

11th December

Parish Rooms, Tettenhall WV6 8QF - 18.30 start

FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

17th October 14.00 – 17.00 (meeting at Grotto Lane end). Thereafter every 3rd Friday in the month.

Interested parties can sign up on <https://www.facebook.com/TettenhallTrustPage>

TETTENHALL LIBRARY

There is an opportunity to meet with the newly appointed Tettenhall Dedicated Police Officer, Will Bolton-Betts, and PCSO Helen Denyer at 10.30 on Friday 24th October.

SMESTOW VALLEY NATURE WALKS

Every Thursday - Ramblers Wellbeing Walk. Meet at Windmill Community Church, Henwood Road, WV6 8PG at 10.00 for 10.15 start.

19th October & 16th November - She Wolves – Sister Stroll 10.00. Smestow Valley Nature Park – Bantock Park. For more info go to @she_wolves_sisters on Instagram.

BANTOCK PARK ANTIQUES FAIRS

Taking place on 2nd November and 7th December 09.00 – 15.00. £2 entry fee.

TETTENHALL COLLEGE

Fireworks night Friday 7th November. Gates open at 17.30. For more information and to book tickets go to seetickets.com/event/tettenhall-college-annual-fireworks-2025/tettenhall-college/3495056

CHRIST CHURCH TETTENHALL WOOD

Saturday 15th November 'Night with the silent stars'. See attachment for more details.

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY MEETING

15th January 2026

18.00 – 20.00

Wolverhampton Cricket Club

Danescourt Road WV6 9BJ



SILENT STARS FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

At Christ Church in Tettenhall Wood, we aim to recreate the magic of silent cinema with a 'pop-up' event for a very worthy cause. Short films featuring silent stars Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Laurel and Hardy will be given live accompaniment on the church organ by Donald MacKenzie. Donald regularly plays the mighty Compton organ at London's Odeon Luxe Cinema in Leicester Square, and he has performed on the organ in cathedrals and concert halls across the UK and beyond. His speciality is silent film performances.

There is parking nearby and there will be a licensed bar for the evening, selling wine, beer and soft drinks, and we hope to offer ice cream in the interval! Raffle tickets will also be available before the show. Profits from the evening will go towards the heavy costs of redecorating this beautiful Victorian church.

Christ Church was built 1865 - 1866 to serve the growing community. It was designed by the Birmingham based architects Bateman & Corser in the Decorated Gothic style. Constructed of rock-faced stone with ashlar dressings, it features cross gables, a wide nave, polygonal apse, and fine geometric tracery, reflecting the spaciousness and dignity praised in Victorian ecclesiastical architecture.

Christ Church remains a lively centre of worship and fellowship, offering inclusive services and activities that support the wider community. Its modern facilities host social groups, concerts, and events, while partnerships with local schools and churches strengthen community bonds. The church continues to embody faith, service, and hospitality at the heart of Tettenhall Wood making this event on 15th November a worthy cause.