

MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM
Parish Rooms, Tettenhall
26th June 2025
at 6.30 pm

APOLOGIES

Neal Kelshaw (NK)

There were 16 residents in attendance.

MATTERS ARISING

Robin Hacking (RH) updated the Forum on the following;

ROCK JUNCTION

Although we have received no official confirmation from the council that their Rock Junction proposals have been abandoned it appears to be extremely likely that this is the case. The Trust now believes it is counter-productive to continue pursuing the council and no further actions will be taken to engage the Ombudsman and to challenge the council's use of their various processes and administrative behaviour.

It appears to be the case that the strong public reaction against this scheme and the internal pressures placed on the council by ward councillors not to go ahead with the scheme has been effective.

Whereas the Trust will confidently challenge the council where necessary it seeks a positive and constructive relationship in developing our improvement plans for the district and the work on registration for production of the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan. In the event that the scheme or an alternative proposal appears the Trust will treat that on its merits or otherwise and consult with residents in order to make their representations.

One outstanding matter is the future of the petition. Although it is entirely separate from the council's TTRO proposals it was being considered together with the TTRO by the council and we now need to explore quietly how we can seek an appropriate response to the petition without opening up further discussions on the TTRO.

REGISTRATION

This has been held up now for 4 months since Ian Culley (IC) drew to our attention that there was a second application for the Neighbourhood Plan in the names of the 6 ward councillors. Whereas Wightwick ward councillors have continued to be involved with the Trust and work with us we have so far failed to persuade the Regis councillors to do the same. A number of approaches have been made to the Regis councillors both by the Trust and via their local political organisation and at the time of writing discussions were underway as to how the 2 applications could be joined. David Pattinson (DP), COO of Wolverhampton City Council, is now engaged and is seeking to combine the 2 lists of residents who have expressed a willingness to work on the Neighbourhood Plan into a single focussed group. He has stated that he seeks an early resolution to this.

910 AD BATTLES/ART TRAIL

Becky Cresswell (RC) updated the meeting with details of the significant work done by NK and herself to put forward a substantial proposal to the Arts Council for funding. The proposal has been costed at approximately £450,000. It includes 30 different commissions, costed outdoor sculptures and a number of permanent features. Catherine Perry of WCC is keen for the artwork to be developed but has not yet been able to confirm any funding and the application will require approximately £46,000 of matched funding if the go ahead for it is accepted. Raising this match funding is a substantial challenge but we will have 12 – 14 weeks before we can expect an answer from the Arts Council and in the meantime RC is looking to launch a newsletter and seeking collaboration with the National Trust. There is a possibility that some permanent installation could be arranged at Wightwick Manor. The Trust is already working with the National Trust regarding their event at Wightwick Manor on 9th August. Residents are encouraged to attend.

RC has also been involved with Heather Clark (HC) from WCC. Heather is responsible for External Funding, Museum and Art Projects. We were able to meet Heather at the Smestow Valley Summer Festival and she was keen for Rachel Arnold (RA) to receive a more constructive approach from Wolverhampton Art Gallery as Rachel's work to develop art with local residents is an important aspect of the Art Gallery's terms of reference for the future for which, at the moment, there is limited visibility.

RC is hoping to meet with HC in September to update her on the Art Trail project. RC told the meeting that we were still looking for exhibition space. The option for space on the Severn Trent site is not now viable but approaches are being made to Majestic regarding a pop-up exhibition in their unused space under the Majestic shop.

Work is ongoing on the educational opportunities from the Art Trail. Contact is being made with schools and universities and Tettenhall College has expressed an interest in helping to write the educational documentation. RC is also looking at creating an illustrated book and map and looking at the use of digital resources.

PLANNING

Avenue House

Residents local to Avenue House, Clifton Road, attended the meeting and outlined the appalling behaviour which had been occurring at this derelict listed building. A large group of teenagers, some masked, had attended after information on Snapchat had encouraged them to attend. This is the second time that this site has been discussed at the Forum thanks to residents' involvement. The local residents had involved all the possible agencies who could assist and the police had had to attend on a number of occasions as a result of neighbours having to lock themselves in their homes for safety. RH attended the site during the week and had been able to speak to police officers on site. The officers were concerned at the number of calls they were receiving and noted that the site needed to be made secure and the windows professionally boarded up to prevent further risks of squatters and unsavoury groups using it as a meeting place. Councillor Khan had been heavily involved since this was initially raised several weeks ago and had moved quickly within the council to ensure the necessary actions took place to secure the property. It is also understood that Cllr Khan is proposing the installation of the mobile CCTV facility to ensure any antisocial behaviour can be monitored

and dealt with. Sylvia Parkin (SP) was able to report that she had received information immediately before the meeting that the site had been secured and that the windows would be secured over the next few days. Although this has resolved the short-term issue at Avenue House the longer-term arrangements for the property need to be carefully scrutinised by residents who, though not necessarily expecting every listed detail of this heavily damaged property to be re-instated, are keen that after 5 years of dereliction a long-term solution acceptable to the community, the developer and the council needs to be determined. The discussion broadened to identify that this had been, and was still, a common issue regarding listed properties in Wolverhampton generally and the Tettenhall district in particular. There was a consistent view that it was necessary for residents and the developer to be engaged at the start of the process facilitated by the council with a view to preventing these important buildings deteriorating whilst their future was discussed. RH pointed out, after a review of the Land Registry documentation and information on Companies House, that the property had originally been purchased by a developer under a company name and that that company had been subsequently sold on. It now appeared that the owner of the company was also the owner of a number of other companies, including the one redeveloping the Eye Infirmary, and although the exact status of ownership was not particularly clear it was apparent that there would be much work to do to achieve a satisfactory outcome such as has now been achieved at Sockwell House for example.

In response to a question from the Chair Cyril Randles (CR), who was the main architect of the existing Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan, advised that it was entirely reasonable to seek to build further safeguards into the planning considerations regarding listed buildings in the district via the Tettenhall Neighbourhood Plan when it was updated and that IC of WCC would be best placed to advise us on what could be achieved in this important area.

SMESTOW VALLEY SUMMER FESTIVAL

This event took place on 19th June and, in spite of some heavy showers, was a great success. A number of residents and visitors attended and our stall and gazebo was well visited, particularly during the morning. NK should be thanked for his efforts in setting up the stall and gazebo and thanks also to RA for displaying creative work and to David Talbot who informed and explained to visitors at the stand the importance of the 910AD Battles, Aethelflaed's involvement in those and her influence in creating England from the disparate Anglo-Saxon realms. RH and Fran and Steve Jackson shared the responsibility of manning the stall with NK. Over £100 worth of David and Jennifer Guest's booklets, *Aethelflaed – The Battle of Tettenhall or Wednesfield and the Beginning of England* were sold raising some funds for the Trust. The opportunity for RH and RA to meet with HC was extremely useful, and we were pleased to welcome Councillor Bhupinder Gakhel to the stall. He stayed for some time speaking to DT, NK and RH about the Trust and the Art Project about which he was exceptionally positive. He is the cabinet member responsible for Residential Services and as an ex-councillor from Wednesfield indicated that he was intending to raise the matter with DP to encourage the council to support our projects.

ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCHYARD

CR, who is a Church Warden, outlined the difficult situation relating to the closed churchyard at St Michael's and All Angels. The responsibility of the council to maintain closed churchyards was at a very restricted level (see information attached to minutes dated 6th June as provided by Sally Garner). He was very appreciative on behalf of the church that the Trust was seeking ways to assist in improving the image of the

churchyard. There had been some contact with organisations who were hoping to attend the meeting but had unfortunately not been able to find the venue. The meeting explored avenues for organisations who could help such as Cosford Outreach, Rodbaston College and also various funeral directors eg Funeral Partners, Tettenhall Wood, and the Forum would like to register that this is not a conflict of interest for NK who is employed by Funeral Partners. Discussion also took place on insurance liabilities regarding volunteers and CR agreed to enquire whether the church insurance would be adequate for this. However, see NK's Steering Group Update attached to these minutes under Trust Public Liability insurance, which has now been arranged with Zurich for volunteer events etc.

SP drew the attention of the meeting to the Round Table event on the Green on Saturday 5th July and offered raffle tickets for sale. 50% of the proceeds this year are designated for St Michael's and All Angels church so local residents are encouraged to attend.

NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

This item continues to concern members of the Trust and Forum but as yet we have been unable to take any positive concrete steps to improve matters. Colin Whittingham (CW) has raised the issue of speeding traffic on Wood Road/Mount Road with Cllr Jonathan Crofts so this is now officially recorded with the council. Engaging with further organisations who can help with enforcement has proved difficult. We have yet to arrange a meeting with the appropriate people in the West Midlands Crime Commissioner's organisation. Liz Hacking drew the meeting's attention to the Cuppa with a Copper meeting and CW indicated he would attend if possible to try to get this issue on the agenda for the local police. There was a further discussion about Community Speedwatch but the administrative demands on communities was currently believed to be too substantial for us to take advantage.

STEERING GROUP UPDATE

Please see the attached Steering Group update from NK expanding on the issues briefly reported on by RH under Matters Arising.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Steve Jackson updated the Forum on the recent local announcement that the council had acquired a camera car specifically to address issues on pavement parking causing danger eg near schools and that this would result in direct prosecutions of offenders. Fran Jackson raised the issue of fêtes and festivals on the Green. Notwithstanding the local community's support for locally organised initiatives such as the Round Table event on 5th July there are a number of other events providing facilities for organisations external to the community. A consultation with local shopkeepers revealed that these events routinely restricted trading for the village shops from the point of view of traffic and pedestrian congestion. It was also pointed out that often the heavy vehicles involved damaged the Green and surrounding pavements. The Forum needs to establish contact with the council regarding the positive and negative effects of these events and should perhaps seek agreement with the council for access to some of the funds received by the council for these events to be spent on repairing and upgrading the footpaths and green area.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.15 hours.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Our next scheduled meeting is on 17th July at 18.30 in the Parish Rooms.

The agenda at this meeting will be;

- APOLOGIES
- MATTERS ARISING
- PLANNING
- ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS CHURCHYARD
- NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING
- STEERING GROUP UPDATE
- ANY OTHER BUSINESS

From: Neal Kelshaw
Subject: Trust Report
Date: 26 Jun 2025 at 14:53:51
To: Robin Hacking

Steering Group Report, Neal Kelshaw Chair TDCT
The last steering group was held Tue 23/Jun

910AD.

Meetings held with Catherine Perry (CP) with agreements made to form a project stakeholder group incl Heather Clarke, head of funding WCC. Group to be set up by Sep following EGM. Rebecca will produce newsletter and brief TCF on opportunities for other volunteers to help as secretary or on stakeholder work such as Schools. Pending responses from Tettenhall College and Majestic. In discussion with Wightwick Manor about hosting elements of commissions, displays or TDCT leaflets, and Wightwick Manor leaflets to be produced to advertise August 910AD event.

Agreed with Coppice High School, Wednesfield to provide pilot lesson on 910AD to history class and work with teaching staff on producing material and conduct survey about other educational and heritage experience that may be of school interest.

Funding bid ready to be entered (pending accounting statement). Applicant to be TDCT / TDCiC but with intention discussed with CP and Councillor Gakhil that this comes as the adopted neighbourhood authority.

Rebecca is working on a newsletter and branding options (latter to be discussed for design brief approvals by members at EGM)

District Business Forum

Steering group discussed and agreed to initiate a business forum for local businesses. Nick Berriman reaching out to local business contacts, 12 expressions of interest so far. Governance to be discussed at steering group.

Social Media/Advertising

"About TDCT" advertising has recommenced with more members signing up from this week. Once neighbourhood forum adoption has been approved more leaflets to be placed in pubs and shops.

Friends Of Smestow adverts placed in Swan Tettenhall and other pubs.

Posting reference to Friends of St Michaels appears successful with interest to attend 26/ Jun. Funeral Partners (Roy Quinton Tettenhall Wood) have agreed to provide manpower at some times. Request that chair TCF asks forum if this is a conflict or not as N Kelshaw is employed by Funeral Partners. Dignity may also be approached, but to date have not been.

Trust

Companies House filing of compliance statements have been done. Accounts filing will be Feb 26 for which auditors to be appointed by steering group. Public Liability Insurance now arranged with Zurich for volunteers, events etc.

Smestow Festival

The festival was very successful with over £100 of Aethelflaed booklets sold £5 from each

sale is for TDCiC community funds. Other festivals and fetes will be a great idea to leaflet about The Trust/Community Forum and our community initiatives and interests. Suggestion made to leaflet about the trust at Tettenhall Fete 5/Jul (organised by Round Table). NK is away for that event - Rebecca to discuss at TCF.

Neighbourhood Forum Adoption

Cllr Crofts reported that all ward councillors had met and are happy to proceed with a meeting with David Pattinson, and TDCT trustees to agree adoption of single application with shared priorities. merging lists of petitions and interested names.

N Kelshaw 26/Jun

Regards,

Neal Kelshaw

M: +44 7756 330161

CUPPA WITH A COPPER

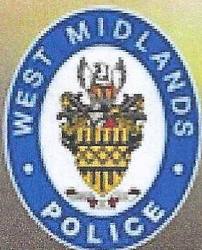
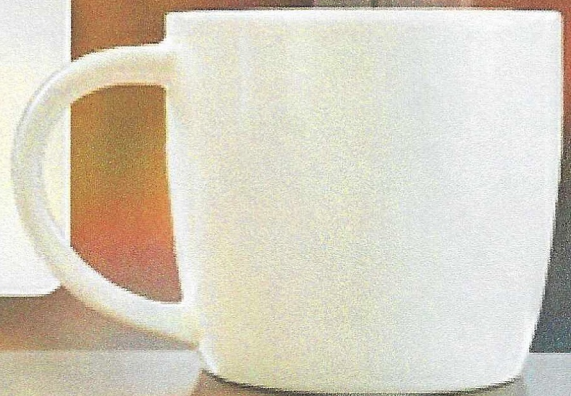


Meet your neighbourhood officers for a cuppa and chat. We are here to listen to any concerns you have and offer crime prevention advice.

Date: Wednesday 2nd July 2025

Time: 11am - 1pm

Location: St Peter's House Coffee Shop
4 Exchange St
Wolverhampton
WV1 1TS



Working in partnership, making communities safer
www.westmidlands.police.uk