**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Spotted Cow Function Room, The Royal Oak 6.30 pm**

**23rd May 2024**

The meeting was opened at 6.30 pm.

There were no apologies and 14 local residents in attendance.

**STEERING GROUP UPDATE**

Neal Kelshaw (NK) updated the attendees on recent Steering Group activities. The Memoranda and Articles of Association for the Tettenhall District Community Interest Company have now been approved by the Charity Commission and a bank account has been opened with the Co-operative Bank. This is the vehicle that allows the Trust to apply for and hold funds to support its work. NK is now in a position to resubmit our formal application to Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) for approval and recognition. Members of the Tettenhall Community Forum will automatically become members of the Tettenhall District Community Trust. After approval members of the Trust will appoint 12 District Trustees at a public meeting to broadly represent the 12 Tettenhall villages and 2 of those Trustees will be appointed Directors of the Community Interest Company (CIC). The initial Directors of the CIC are NK and Matthew Caffrey (MC) and were appointed to enable the company to be constituted. They will resign at the first AGM to be reappointed or replaced by election. One of these directors will have to have the appropriate financial qualifications to satisfy the Regulator.

From Monday 27th May 2024 a leaflet drop to all households in the 2 Wards making up the Tettenhall district will begin. These leaflets will advertise the Trust and enable residents to join the Trust and become members. Attendees were given copies of the leaflets and encouraged to distribute them in public places where they had access, eg pubs and community centres.

One outstanding action is to engage with Ward Councillors now that the local elections are over so that their role in the Trust can be discussed and agreed.

**RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Robin Hacking (RH) circulated copies of recent planning applications from 1st April up to the date of the meeting for information and attendees were encouraged to study the applications and raise any concerns or issues with the Forum Chairman that they could foresee.

A discussion took place regarding the many applications concerned with removal and trimming of trees, particularly with regard to safety. A number of important points came to the fore, namely that some trees, whilst mature and safe, had reached such a scale that they were overbearing and dominating to a local property. There needed to be some mechanism to reduce/remove these trees before they became a danger but with the proviso that there should be an associated replanting. The work already done in relation to trees on the Green at Tettenhall by Paul Wilson (PW) was discussed. NK suggested it would be helpful if PW could attend a meeting of the Forum to have a wider discussion on the issue of trees which was a major concern to all present.

A discussion took place around the planning consent for Stockwell House, which appears to have been approved on 24th November 2023. It was noted that there was a specific requirement for Stockwell House and Groom Cottage to be fully restored and brought back into habitable use before the erection of the 3 new detached houses. Condition 7 records the requirement for details of all proposed and retained boundary treatments to be submitted and approved in writing. Given that the ancient brick boundary wall on Danescourt Road has been demolished over a substantial distance, and given that assurances at public meetings were given regarding this wall, we would like to examine and comment on how this boundary is to be reconstituted. The Chairman will make further enquiries with the council planners to gain more information on this.

**ROCK JUNCTION**

On 16th April 2024 WCC Democratic Services confirmed to the TCF that they had received the Action Plan for Rock Junction petition and that it had been verified as legitimate. We were informed that the petition had been sent to officers in the Road Safety Team to provide a response and we should expect to receive this response by 14th May 2024. No response having been received by the date of this meeting, in spite of emails confirming our expectation of a response, NK confirmed he would contact Democratic Services to make further enquiries about the council’s response.

The Steering Group and the Forum need to progress point 3 of the 6 point Action Plan regarding speeding and traffic enforcement by seeking a meeting with WCC and the Police/Crime Commissioner’s Office for the West Midlands Authority regarding access to and the processing of traffic data and offences data from the Rock camera. Nick Berriman (NB) is progressing this on behalf of the Steering Group.

Post meeting members are encouraged to see Express & Star 28th May 2024 page 4 *“City one of most likely places to run a red light”*. Apparently Wolverhampton is the fourth worst area for road collisions caused by running red lights according to personal injury experts at claims.co.uk who analysed data from the Home Office on the number of road collisions caused by drivers disobeying an automatic traffic signal in 2022.

**AETHELFLEAD**

The work of David Guest and Rachel Arnold is progressing and since the ultimate objective is a permanent exhibition somewhere in the borough and a tourist trail which will include Wednesfield and Tettenhall, it is important that the TCF engages with this project in a formal way, both to encourage and influence its development – particularly in the sense of its impact on Tettenhall. RH circulated a list of objectives for a TCF Interest Group to develop and progress this opportunity together with a role description for a Team Leader of this Interest Group. The meeting was supportive of the idea of making these 2 documents available on the website (action RH) to encourage involvement and RH will separately send these documents to the attendees of the 9th May meeting on the basis that several of the people who attended that session are likely to be interested in the Special Interest Group and there were a number of potential candidates for the role of Team Leader (action RH) who attended that meeting.

Members were reminded of the walk on Saturday 1st June. For those who wish to take part please register at [Battle of Tettenhall & Wednesfield 910 AD Walk Tickets, Sat, Jun 1, 2024 at 12:45 PM | Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/battle-of-tettenhall-wednesfield-910-ad-walk-tickets-895502210217#:~:text=Join%20us%20for%20the%20Battle%20of%20Tettenhall%20%26%20Wednesfield%20910%20AD%20Walk!&text=The%20Battle%20of%20910%20AD,the%20unification%20of%20the%20kingdom).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Future meetings are scheduled for;

6th June 2024 - 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm - Parish Rooms Tettenhall.

20th June 2024 - 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm - Parish Rooms Tettenhall.

11th July 2024 – 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm - Parish Rooms Tettenhall.

25th July 2024 – 6.30 pm – 8.30 pm – Spotted Cow Function Room, The Royal Oak.

**Preliminary agenda for 6th June:**

* Apologies.
* Timescale for public voting.
* Rock Junction;
  + WCC response to petition;
  + Traffic regulation enforcement re red lights.
* Aethelflead;
  + Formation of Steering Group;
  + Feedback from walk.
* Tree Policy.
* AOB