**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Parish Rooms, Tettenhall at 6.30 pm**

**11th July 2024**

The meeting was opened at 6.30 pm.

|  |
| --- |
| **APOLOGIES**  There were apologies from Neal Kelshaw (NK), Nicola and Malcolm Rudge, Jane Meek and there were 6 local residents in attendance. |
| **MATTERS ARISING**  Nothing yet to report on the completion of the application to the Council but the leaflet drop across all addresses in the 2 wards has been completed. 58 new members have joined and the Steering Group has undertaken to consolidate all memberships of the various groups as members of the Trust.  There has still been no response form the Council regarding the Rock Junction since the Council accepted our petition, including our 6-point plan.  Steering Group members are still seeking a meeting with the West Midlands Police and Crimes Commissioner to discuss enforcement of traffic regulations at the Junction.  With regard to trees, Robin Hacking intends to offer Paul Wilson either the 25th July or 8th August meeting for a more detailed discussion on trees and replanting. |
| **AETHELFLEAD**  The rest of the meeting was largely devoted to discussion with Becky Cresswell (RC) with the intention of establishing a significant number of initiatives around the contribution made by this historic figure.  RC went through a presentation which has been copied to regular attendees of the Forum meetings. She outlined her experience in installing artworks in public places such as cruise ships, hospitals (eg Birmingham Children’s Hospital) and Compton Hospice. She stressed her significant local credentials and demonstrated a strong interest in the project from a number of perspectives - the opportuntiy for improving health and wellbeing and for demonstrating Aethelflead’s credentials as a role model for strong women. The tourism opportunities for external visitors and local residents are significant. The effectiveness of the recent walk from Wednesfield to Tettenhall and the interest shown in this illustrated the importance of a joint project including Wednesfield residents, the Art Gallery and the Council. A close working relationship would be sought with David Guest and Rachel Arnold who are already well advanced with their current art project focusing on this topic.  It is surprising how little awareness of this important historical time, which established the first king of a united England, is widely understood locally but recent films such as Games of Thrones and The Last Kingdom, which specifically mentions the battle of Tettenhall, have awakened a broader interest in this period of history.  The opportunities for educational projects relating to local history for local schools was also discussed. RC suggests a website with information about a trail and artwork and separate Facebook and Instagram pages. In her experience we should think carefully about materials for sculptures to avoid vandalism and theft.  RC outlined an approach which involved her producing an outline project plan based around a walking opportunity between Wednesfield and Tettenhall with information boards and installations along the way. In order to engage with the communities along this route she proposed, as part of the project plan, to produce a questionnaire for the wider community in order to get feedback on residents’ preferred options and to get them fully engaged and interested in how the project can excite community interest, improve wellbeing, contribute to the educational aspects in relation to local history and stimulate tourism. Schools and local organisations could also be involved in submitting their views via the questionnaire.  There were further discussions on funding and the opportinities to approach potential local and national commercial and Government organisations in the project.  RC will present her plan at the Forum meeting on 22nd August, which we hope will be at the Parish Rooms. Specific invitations will be sent by email to the people who attended the original meeting in June. |
| **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**  Fran Jackson proposed that we should plan to contact the new MP to update them on our activities and build a relationship.  POLES  It has become clear that BT do have automatic planning approval for their poles, which seem to be sprouting up everywhere, but they are constrained by good practice guidelines which constrain them to act bearing in mind the interest of local residents. This gives us influence, particularly in areas where local Conservation Plans and the Neighbourhood Plan are in effect. Following action from Councillor Sohail Khan the Council have excercised their influence in this matter and have pursuaded BT to remove the most offending pole in front of the old Mitre in Lower Green. It may well be possible to achieve similar results with help from councillors and the Council.  There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.  **Next meeting 25th July 2024 at the Spotted Cow, The Royal Oak,Tettenhall Wood at 6.30 pm.** |