

**MINUTES OF THE TETTENHALL COMMUNITY FORUM**  
**Parish Rooms, Tettenhall**  
**29<sup>th</sup> January 2026**  
**at 6.30 pm**

**APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies received prior to the meeting.

There were 13 residents in attendance including 2 ward councillors.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**REGISTRATION**

Nothing further to report. The meeting arranged by David Pattison's (Chief Operating Officer) department between the Trust's Steering Group and the 6 councillors is still scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> February at 1300 in the Civic Centre.

**PETITION**

Nothing further to report. Following receipt of an email from John Charles (Head of Network Management) to Robin Hacking (RH) dated 17<sup>th</sup> October 2025 confirming that consideration of the next steps are ongoing and that the council will consider the suggestions put forward through the petition as part of this work. There has been no further communication from the council on this matter. Cllr Wendy Thompson (WT) commented that petitions in general had been discussed at a recent full council meeting and a Tory motion to reduce the threshold at which a petition was considered at council was rejected by the controlling group in favour of an amendment for the council's Scrutiny Committee to consider whether any changes were necessary. Cllr Bob Maddox pointed out at the council meeting that the threshold for national petitions presented to the national parliament were on a per capita basis 12 times lower than for a petition presented locally to WCC. Cllr Sohail Khan pointed out that the evidence of a democratic deficit was so clear that the council should take a decision on the proposal rather than allow it to be lost in the council's administrative processes. There is an opportunity for residents to raise the continued delay in dealing with their Rock Junction petition proposals as an example of the prohibitive nature of the current council rules, notwithstanding the suggestions that the hurdle should be made even higher, it was pointed out in the council meeting that the rules had protected the council from the accountability of responding to residents' petitions to the extent that it had not been obliged to consider any for many years. RH will make further representations to the council.

**SMESTOW VALLEY NATURE RESERVE**

This item was taken out of sequence to allow WT to update the meeting on the results of Wightwick councillors' meeting with John Roseblade (JR), Director of Resident Services. She informed the meeting that the councillors had received apologies from the officers for lack of consultation, particularly in relation to the changed circumstances 3 years after the initial steps were taken regarding motor cycle intrusions.

At the council meeting however, where this topic was also discussed, the cabinet member backed the decisions of the council officers, claimed that full consultation had taken place and that the current plans for 50 motor cycle inhibitor gates were backed by the police as

an antidote to antisocial behaviour. Basically, in response to representations by councillors and many resident groups, the Trust and the Smestow Valley resident group a decision had been taken by the council to press ahead with this costly and inappropriate proposal. All the objections of the various groups have simply been rejected by the council.

## PLANNING

### Planning Applications in General

Following the meeting between Ian Culley (Lead Planning Manager, Regional Strategy), Vejay Kaul, (VK) (Senior Planning Officer), RH and Neal Kelshaw (NK) to discuss planning deficiencies, in making future planning representations to the council we need to remember that there is no specific group allocated to the Tettenhall district in spite of its unique characteristics and the presence of a Neighbourhood Plan. We are obliged to deal with whoever picks up our queries in the planning department, bearing in mind that that person may have no special knowledge of the Tettenhall district. Based on our recent representations there is a clear indication that some residents are gaming the system by failing to apply for Listed Building consent and when this is exposed are seeking retrospective planning consent or appealing any decision to restrict their activities to the guidelines. As a last resort they are then appealing to Bristol which as often as not allows them to get away with work already completed. Having been told that all planning officers and supervisors are qualified and competent to deal with these issues RH will write again to VK to pursue particular problems.

RH will also take up the issue of proper consideration being given to conservation areas and green spaces. Many of the documents describing these areas are historic and a better understanding of them will be an essential requirement to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is updated correctly. Cllr Jonathan Crofts (JC) pointed out that the website [wolverhampton.maps.arcgis.com](http://wolverhampton.maps.arcgis.com) will give a current analysis of the status of the various green spaces.

### Chill Wine Bar

As reported in the last minutes the licence at Chill Wine Bar has been withdrawn. However, the licensee has 21 days to appeal and continue to operate the licence during this period. There is no information yet as to whether an appeal has been made but we will keep our attention focussed on this item.

## FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

There has been a significant amount of tree damage due to the recent weather but Tree Patrol had attended to clear the tree which had fallen on headstones. There are still broken branches which need attention but the general tidiness and appearance is much improved as a result of the work of the Friends. Snowdrops are now starting to appear and we are looking forward to seeing the results of the significant bulb planting which has taken place over the last few weeks. The date of the next working party is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> February at 1400.

## STEERING GROUP UPDATE

NK reported that a bid had now been submitted to the Arts Council with support from a local partner who had assisted in optimising our approach. NK was also investigating the possibility of a compact agreement with the council. The James Beattie Trust and Rotary Club had been approached for financial support regarding our Arts Council bid.

He also reported that the budget and accounts for the Community Interest Company were now being prepared by Matt Caffrey for the first year to end of March 2026.

NK has now signed a contract with Andre Fratto, composer of the *Æthelflæd* opera, and tickets are now available for residents to attend a preliminary event at Tettenhall Towers, Tettenhall College on 21<sup>st</sup> February with a further, more significant, production scheduled for August at the Grand Palace. There are discussions about the possibility of an outside event at Wightwick Manor. NK is also hopeful of receiving a substantial donation towards the first night of the opera from a well known international actress.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

RH reported he had written twice to the local MP Warinder Juss raising various issues of democratic concern and had taken the opportunity in the second email to draw the attention of the MP to the difficulties we are having in dealing with WCC - namely lack of decision on the Neighbourhood Plan, no response to the Rock Junction petition and no constructive response to residents' concerns about the motor cycle restrictors in Smestow Valley. Bearing in mind the council's current debate around petitions RH will write to him again specifically raising that matter.

Colin Whittingham mentioned his concern that we should be getting our fair share of the various funds available for pothole repairs. He reminded the Forum of Cllr Simkins' interview on local radio in August 2025 where he identified that in relation to potholes he had secured £2,000,000 from the West Midlands mayor. £10,000,000 had been set aside by the council and he indicated that he would possibly get access to another £12,000,000. We need to be sure that we are getting our fair share of this funding in the district.

JC reported that those areas which have been reported will be inspected and prioritised and residents are encouraged to continue reporting the worst cases.

Jane Meek (JM) noted that a homeless person in regular attendance at Sainsbury's Compton and there had been problems with debris and toileting. JC was asked to report this.

JM also reported some tree damage to the left hand side of Yew Tree Lane where damaged branches were impeding the road. JC said he would investigate this, it may be part of either Wolverhampton or Staffordshire.

Fran Jackson reported that on 5<sup>th</sup> February there will be a very large funeral at St Michael's at 1215. Enquiries have been made to the various agencies for assistance in handling traffic and parking.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 2030 hours.

#### **MEETING SCHEDULE**

Our next scheduled meeting is on **19<sup>th</sup> February 2026** at 1830 in the Parish Rooms.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## FORUM MEETINGS

19<sup>th</sup> February 2026

12<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Parish Rooms, Tettenhall WV6 8QF - 18.30 start

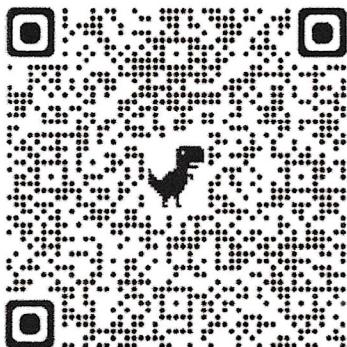
## FRIENDS OF ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

Meets on the third Friday of each month. Scheduled dates are 20<sup>th</sup> February and 27<sup>th</sup> March.

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

## ÆTHEFLAED – THE BATTLE OF 910AD OPERA

A recital is scheduled for 1900 on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February at Tettenhall Towers, Tettenhall College WV6 8QX. For more information and to book tickets see 910AD.TDCiC.ORG.UK or scan the following;



## LOCAL POLICING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

### Chatter & Natter – Oxley

1400 – 15.30, Tue 03 February

Oasis Cafe, Whitburn Close, Tettenhall

### Oxley - Love Your Community Meeting

1800 - 2000, Tue 03 February

Rakegate Methodist Church Renton Grove

[Tettenhall, Penn, Merry Hill and Oxley | Police.uk](https://www.tettenhallpennmerryhillandoxley.police.uk)