



Castlefield Forum Quarterly Meeting

Minutes of a meeting held at
19.00 Monday 28 October 2019
Brindley Room, Dukes 92

Presentation used for the meeting is available as an attachment on our website.

Attendees

Carol Middleton
Calum McGowan
James Bowers
Debbie Hubbard
Lou Pullan
B Hunter
Ian McIlveen
Andy Barclay
Ruth B
Keith Bousfield
Kelly Burton
Declan Cahill
Liam Chritchlow
Tom Dixon
Persephone Galanis
Mark Hubbard
Cllr William Jeavons
Cllr Marcus Johns
Nicole Joseph
Justin Kippest
Nic Loughlin
Kirsty Lovelock
Jamie Lovelock
Rachel Mutters
Nick Pollard
Alan Rooney
Matt Sutton
Claire Venables
Connie Whitham
John Wildman

Guests

Naomi Atherton – Estates Project Manager - Science Museum Group
Suzanne McNicholas – Estates Assistant - Science Museum Group

Welcome, introductions and Apologies

19.00 Carol Middleton opened the meeting and the room introduced themselves anti-clockwise around the table.

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Joan Davies
Jon Stopp
Carol Stansfield
B Hunter
PC Matt Hilton
Ken and Sandy Brown

New Trustees

- 19.04 Carol informed the meeting that the Forum had appointed three new trustees, one becoming Forum Secretary:
Louise Pullan (Also of the Britannia Basin Community Group)
B Hunter (Also of the Britannia Basin Community Group)
James Bowers (Also taking position of Forum Charitable Secretary)

Minutes of last meeting: 22 July 2019

- 19.05 Carol asked for confirmation that the circulated minutes were accurate and no matters were raised.

Police Update & Community Safety – GMP

- 19.06 Carol apologised for PC Matt Hilton who could not attend the meeting.

Lou Pullan gave feedback as part of the Britannia Basin Community Forum. She said that we were entering the time of year where personal robberies are higher; especially around the Ellesmere Street area of Castlefield. She suggest that there were a number of things that individuals could do to protect themselves, such as keeping to well-lit areas and keeping valuables hidden, even headphones. Looking to run a Safety Event in January, in conjunction with the local police. This is looking to be held in Castlefield, maybe in one of the bars on the main thoroughfare.

Science & Industry Museum Presentation – Naomi Atherton

- 19.08 Carol Introduced Naomi Atherton – Project Manager at SIM

Naomi started by explaining her role as project managing the redevelopment of the Power Hall currently being undertaken at the museum.

She then gave a brief history of the museum (specifically the Power Hall) and it's founding, focusing on a 'place that changed the world'. They are trying to open up conversation with visitors about the redevelopments and linking with the wider museum group of four sites.

'Revealing the Past, Inspiring the Future': Naomi pointed out that since the museums founding in 1983, it has been publically funded, and they are trying to keep it free to visit. Keeping the buildings in good condition is a big challenge and most still have the original roofs.

Power Hall and Air and Space Hall – Lack of maintenance, problems with gutters on both buildings. Reporting of maintenance required from Council (owners of Air & Space Hall) and own findings for repairs required. Power Hall has been closed since Easter due to problems with roofing and glass. New ventilation system, IT infrastructure, windows, floors, doors, stonework, brickwork and cobbles will be upgraded or replaced.

'What have we done?': The machinery in the Power Hall has been 'put to bed' and carefully protected or removed. Scaffolding has been put up around the building and hoarding messages have been added. Permanent hoarding instead of fencing with option of no adverts: Instead, to have Castlefield/Museum signage which is currently being chosen.

'What are we going to do?': Hard hat tours for visitors will be undertaken during the works.

There are several projects running at the same time:

-Repair projects

-Reinterpretation project (The museum is currently searching for Interpretation designers)

-'Bringing Steam Back' project (Currently 3.5years without steam, and want to get it working again. Looking at maintenance contracts and pipes being relocated and best location being chosen – slow progress).

Power Hall – Programme Dates: Repair project is costing £4.6million. Steam and Interpretation will be carried out after. Due to finish scaffolding in mid-January. Finish work on Liverpool Road sooner. Aiming to re-open fully by Summer 2021.

Sustainability- Energy: The museum is looking at the best way to use reusable energy and water management strategies. This includes widening gutters and finding where existing draining systems go to reduce flood risk. They plan to tell the story of sustainable energy from narrative by showing steam/coal to green energy changes. STEM <https://www.stem.org.uk/> to engage with visitors, staff and volunteers to raise new funds and manage existing funds.

Longer term vision: This year saw the 50th birthday of the museum, the next 18 months will be extremely busy with works to combine the existing museum spaces together and to look after the buildings. Substantial repairs of the 1830's warehouse will start next year.

A new exhibition will open next year in conjunction with GCHQ, entitled 'Top Secret' and will display in the Special Exhibitions Gallery.

Naomi stopped to take questions from the room:

Question:

There was a concern from a local resident that the current scaffolding on the Power Hall made Liverpool Road difficult to cross, as it disrupted the zebra crossing.

Answer:

Look at pushing permanent hoarding further back, will look also at additional lighting around site.

-Post meeting update: the road markings have been re-painted to improve visibility

Question:

Concerns over tours on scaffolding creating a privacy problem for residents opposite the site.

Answer:

Touring scaffolding is restricted 2.4/2.5m, main tours will be inside building or at gable ends, not on Liverpool Road side.

Question:

Concerns that 'Bringing Steam Back' project may create extra noise.

Answer: The museum are talking with new boiler manufacturers to find a system that can 'baffle' noise and keep it internally rather than let it out. The location of the new boilers is being looked to be moved to the upper yard further away from residential areas.

Question:

Timeline for repair of the Air and Space Hall?

Answer:

The building is owned by the council and leased on a long term arrangement. Cllr William Jeavons said he will look for details from the council on plans for the site, as there is also problems with the footpath surround the site with current scaffolding.

Question:

Are the repair works managed in-house or using external agencies?

Answer:

They are using a London Design Team and structural engineers. Also Steam specialists. There is an offer of tours and help/information for students/graduates studying as part of STEM.

<https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/learning/stem-ambassadors>

Question:

Coaches Drop-off point on Liverpool Road has been obstructed, coaches moving to Lower Byrom St with little room.

Answer:

Trying to reinstate coach bays, Idle engines are a problem and trying to talk to drivers about pollution. Cllr William offered to help with the problem of coaches parking on Lower Byrom Street, especially with the issue of large numbers of children crossing. Looking at other possible drop-off areas.

Britannia Basin Community Forum – Lou Pullan - Chair

- 19.40 Lou explained that two Britannia Basin Community Forum members, herself and B, had become Castlefield Forum trustees to try and encourage cross-help within the groups. Lou explained that officially, they are a 'Hulme' ward, and Hulme has its own unique challenges compared to the city centre. So far, the forum has been involved in Litter pickings, cleaning, green spaces, and history tours of the area. They have also been challenging the Freddie Flintoff tower construction to be built next to St Georges Church to make sure it works better for local residents. What next? They are looking at various initiatives, including street art installations, a Hallowed social 'A nightmare on Ellesmere Street' on the 30th October at the Banyan Tree, and traffic calming measure, specifically on the cut through from Chester Road. Lou explained that they had overlapping aims with the Castlefield Forum, so the plan was to work together in areas such as green spaces and litter-picking, safety and community, and development and construction.

Treasurers Report – Giles Grover

- 19.45 Carol explained that Giles had sent his apologies as he could not make the meeting, and therefore we were unable to provide a report update.

Gardening and Environment Group – Report Back –Beth Rose Hooper

- 19.46 Carol explained that Beth sends her apologies, as she was not able to attend the meeting. Carol said that the forum will find out on Wednesday how we did in the 'North West in Bloom Awards'. Last year we received an 'Outstanding' recognition, so we hope to do similar again. Carol wished to thank all the volunteers who helped get the area ready for judging in August, and that we needed further help for getting the area ready for the winter season on weekdays and weekends if anyone is able to help. We had pledges from Lend Lease as part of their CSR commitment that they would offer volunteers to help with gardening, the next gardening event was scheduled for Thursday 7th November. The PowerPoint was used to display pictures of the recent 'In Bloom' judging and volunteers gardening preparation.

-Post Meeting Note: The Forum was awarded Outstanding for both Castlefield General and The Roman Gardens in North West In Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' programme

Roman Gardens Group – Report Back – Carol Middleton

- 19.50 Carol gave a brief history of where we are up to with the project, and used the PowerPoint to show the masterplan designed. Areas between White Lion and Ox Noble pubs needed reconsideration with seating and extending/minimising pub gardens to maintain the Roman road - Planning permission has been obtained for this. Crown funding raised £19k to fund the Planning application and associated surveys and reports. Much more will be needed to complete the works set out in the master plan in the future. Cleaning of North Gate has already been completed, thanks to the council and new lighting has been positioned.

The 'Roman Road' path has been recently been resurfaced, funded from the Council's Clean and Green fund. Carol showed before and after photographs on the presentation.

Carol Stopped to take questions from the room:

Question:

Is the forum working with children's charities to 'sponsor a tree' to bring more greenery to the gardens?

Answer:

Something that we can consider, but we are restricted by planning constraints in that area due to the history and archaeological sites.

Question: Are there going to be any further archaeological digs are the area?

Answer: Test pits were undertaken with the University of Salford in September 2018 , but no more planned at the moment. There is a substantial cost involved for digs.

Question: Problem of no taps for gardening in the gardens, could we approach United Utilities to have one installed?

Answer: Liam Chritchlow from Manchester City Council said they were currently looking at funding arrangements for this. They had an estimate of between £750-1500 from initial investigation. They will be linking this in with the Spirit of Place Project with the council.

Question:

If a water pipe is installed, could his be used for drinking water?

Answer:

For drinking water, there are additional costs involved. There is also trouble with how water is assessed.

Question:

Who owns land of the Roman Gardens?

Answer:

Manchester City Council

Question:

Could the council not provide a drinking fountain for free as they own the gardens?

Answer:

Council will look into the feasibility of this.

Spirit of Place Action Group – Report Back – Calum McGowen

20.00 Calum gave feedback on the summit held between the forum and stakeholders of Castlefield. He showed photographs on the presentation of the summits. Calum feedback that we have received 47 pledges from stakeholders, covering master planning and area management (E.g Lendlease mentioned in gardening earlier). Calum mentioned that it took a while to decipher some pledges and the group is currently trying to liaise with those who pledged to agree follow-up meetings with them in the New Year.

Events, Marketing, Media and Signage – Debbie Hubbard

20.05 Debbie explained that the new website <https://www.ourcastlefield.co.uk/> is now live after a lot of work, but is still an ongoing project. Debbie demonstrated this on the screen to the room. We are looking to embed social media feeds, add more gallery images, and the possible addition of a 'Donate' button.

Linked to the 'donate' button, Debbie spoke about possible setting up a new Fundraising Action group, asking for volunteers to spearhead it.

Debbie mentioned how Calum McGowan and James Bowers were interviewed by Phil Trow of BBC Radio Manchester at their live Saturday recording in October to celebrate 50 years of the Science and Industry Museum. Calum and James used the slot to talk about the forum and its work, as well as ways listeners could get involved. This can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07qf6lv>

The BBC used Castlefield for a filming location in the summer and this recently aired in its flagship drama 'World on Fire', Debbie showed filming images and a clip of the programme containing Castlefield to the meeting.

Events: Debbie again talked about the Britannia Basin's Halloween community event, and also suggested that January was a good time to hold the Forums AGM. Details to be finalised.

Question:

Filming contracts and parking suspensions in the city centre create a revenue stream, who manages this?

Answer:

Cllr William Jeavons responded to say that Filming funds and commercial operations for filming in the area are paid to and managed by Film Manchester. William mentioned that there has been instances recently where not enough notice had been given to residents on suspensions of parking.

Question:

Follow-up: Can the money raised be given back to Castlefield Community?

Answer: Liam Critchlow and Cllr William Jeavons will speak to the Council about this.

Question:

During Filming and Event road closures recently, there had been a lot of complaints about noise, lack of communication and notification on parking and event timing/noise levels for residents. Road closures and residents' access to car parking with attendants managing traffic flow, unprepared of what to do with residents wanting to get in and out.

Answer:

Cllr William Jeavons would raise this with the council, along with the previous question.

Point raised:

Callum McGowen asked if anyone could offer help or work volunteer/CSR days to aid the forum with would be highly appreciated. He highlighted Olliers Solicitors as an example and their continued work with aiding gardening.

Ward Councillors Reports – Ward Councillors

20.20 Cllr Marcus Johns started by explaining that there had been feedback about concerns over safety around the zebra crossing on Liverpool Road next to the Science and Industry Museum. He said they are in talks with SIM to move the building work hoardings back and look at how they can reduce coach waiting/idling engines for dropping off visitors during the works.

On anti-social behaviour and speeding around Castlefield, he said that police are stepping up patrols in the area. There has been a new late night management trial put in place on Peter Street to control traffic and this may also help if rolled out to Deansgate/Liverpool Road.

New signs for the 20mph zone have been suggested as well as random patrol/checks.

Marcus reported that The Canal and River Trust have been awarded 'Green Flag' status on the Castlefield stretch of the Rochdale canal. It is hoped this will help investment in the waterways.

Marcus thanked everyone for submitting anti-social behaviour reports to the council website, and asked for this to continue so the council can take action and monitor.

Work has been undertaken on the Merchants bridge, which Peel Holdings will be charged for, in a similar way, graffiti removal may be charged to Lend Lease on their bridge next to Potato Wharf.

There is a plan to make Manchester Carbon Neutral by 2038. The first meeting to discuss City Centre climate aims will be mid November.

The Friends of St Johns Gardens group have met with Allied London to discuss the park improvement plan and vision that can be achieved through investment.

New franchise scheme proposed for City Centre buses. Please submit your say on proposals on <https://www.gmconsult.org/>

Great Jackson Street development - School and Medical Centre update: Agreement reached between NHS/DFE and developers. The developers of Great Jackson street will fit out buildings as part of agreement. The school has been awarded an Academy contract.

Cllr William Jeavons added that new lighting posts have been installed for canal tow path lighting.

Question:

Can the zebra crossing lines be repainted on Liverpool Road?

Answer:

The Councillor will look into this.

-Post meeting update – this has been completed

Question:

Anti-Social Behaviour: There have been many incidents of drug use on Duke Place, as well as planters being vandalised.

Answer:

If we are able to get number plates, this helps greatly. The Council are able to send letters to owners of vehicles.

Question:

In Edinburgh, there are food recycling bins in city centre blocks, Can Manchester take this scheme on?

Answer:

Manchester has a 'not on street' policy. But action can be taken by individual buildings and the council can provide for this. Building Management can request from council website.

Queens Award for Voluntary Service – Carol Middleton

- 20.39 Carol showed pictures of the presentation, as well as the physical award and certificates at the meeting of the ceremony for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service that Castlefield was awarded in August at The Monastery in Manchester. Attendees were invited to come and have a closer look after the meeting if they wished.

AOB – Carol Middleton

- 20.41 Nicole Joseph, Head of Youth and Community Services at the Castlefield Hotel talked about how they wish as a charity to engage more with the community. They were running many initiatives including special rates on corporate gym membership. Room hire rates as well as developing community engagement. The details about these can be found here: <https://ymcamanchester.org.uk/get-involved/> or contact Nicole directly at nicole@ymcamanchester.org.uk.

It was raised that litter in the canals had become an increasing problem; we need to do more to group together to combat. It was suggested that attendees could contact and join 'The Friends of Rochdale 9' to get involved. Their details are here: <http://www.for9.org.uk/>.

Date of Next Forum Meeting

20.48 Carol said that the Castlefield Rooms have been agreed again for 2020 meetings. These have been agreed to be Monday nights, and will be held on:

- Monday 9th March
- Monday 8th June
- Monday 7th September

Meeting Close

20.50