



CASTLEFIELD

Preserving, Improving, Living –
in the heart of our city



Castlefield Forum Quarterly Meeting

**Minutes of a meeting held at
7.00pm Monday 29 April 2019
Brindley Room, Dukes 92, Castlefield**

Attendees

Mark and Debbie Hubbard
Ian McIlveen
Cllr Marcus Johns
Cllr William Jeavons
Rosie Bull
Ian Scotland
Nicole Joseph
Stephen Broadheath
Cllr Joan Davies
Steven and Serpil Lindsay
Andy Hornsby
Rachael Teebay
Steve Bull
Louise Pullen
Laura Thomas
John Dawson
Andy Barclay
Helen Pidd
Jeremy Shine
CI Cherie Buttle
Aimee Whittles
PC Matt Hilton
John Wildman
Nick Pollard
Keith Bousfield
Phil Mitchell
Carol Middleton
Calum McGowan
Beth Hopper
Giles Grover

Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves

Apologies

Ian Christie; Carol advised the meeting that Ian has now officially stepped down from Forum duties due to ill health and thanked him for all his help over the many years he has served the Forum.

Post meeting note: It is with much sadness that we had to report that Ian passed away on 8 June.

Plus

Tom Dixon

Eleanor Eardley

Jon Stopp

Persephone Galanis

Liam Critchlow

James Bowers

Minutes of last meeting 21 January 2019

Agreed. No matters arising. Giles urged people to read them given the significant turnout after the community safety issues.

Presentation from Laing O'Rourke: The Factory

Emma King - Capital Director, The Factory, Manchester City Council

- Emma introduced a brief overview of the project, including how MIF will grow to operate the Factory
- Upwards £85m central government funding
- Assumes a step change in what Mcr can offer
- Also a place where local people can find incredible career paths right here in Manchester
- There is one giant central space called The Warehouse and is of a scale seemingly unknown in the UK
- Crashing into the side of it is a more traditional theatre
- It will be taller than the Bonded Warehouse in scale
- Huge spaces which are highly configurable; highly adaptable
- Warehouse standing – 5,000 people
- Theatre 1,500
- The main Warehouse is as long as a Jumbo Jet
- The idea is to build on the success of the Museum
- Emma mentioned that they'd be happy to come along again at later stages

Winston Watson - Project Director, Laing O'Rourke

- Introduced LOR's role. LOR have recently worked on the Metrolink, Airport regen, Town Hall Extension and Library
- Winston made the point that the whole job is just in time delivery as the site is huge and almost no storage on site, so a significant logical challenge
- The site even has facial recognition to ensure site safety

- 2 big tower cranes on site – two of the biggest lift capacities in existence due to some gigantic pieces including 15-ton sections of precast concrete panels
- factoryconstruction@laingorourke.com for queries
- There are quarterly newsletters and also works notifications letters for any irregular working hours required
- Winston also played a video timeline – to show the construction – **and today the steelwork commenced on site :)**
- Completion of third quarter 2021

Lauren Murphy – Social Sustainability Adviser, Laing O’Rourke

- Introduced the key local benefits which will be delivered in terms of social value. Something that LOR have done for 10 years.
- Includes upskilling supply chain as well as working with LT unemployed. Includes educational activity in Manchester. Includes enhancing community and sense of place.
- Involved with a STEAM programme – adds Arts to STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics)
- 50 work experience placements coming up
- 50 construction apprentices of which 25 will be new
- Also involved with St John’s homeless programme in association with Lend Lease and Maclaren [two other construction firms within St John’s Quarter
- There are also 60 community activities associated within the programme. An example was the ‘Ducie Street Doodle’ which supports both homelessness and the arts.
- We can benefit from: site tours and employer volunteering and specialist skills support

Questions from the audience

- Who will maintain area – private like Spinningfields or public? - It is expected that the St John’s management company (to be set up by Allied London) will maintain the public realm across St Johns and The Factory. It is too early in the process to confirm exact details or arrangements but this is the basis of the land agreements.
- Can we have indication of hours of work – normal working hours stated until 07:30 to 18:30 and until 14:00 on Sats. Anything out of that is submitted to Env’tl Health who will review including the noise levels.
- What will Water Street tunnel offer in terms of lighting. William J declared that there is now a scheme in place to ensure that this area will be well lit
- Nicole from YMCA offered to engage with LOR including around community safety issues – Lauren offered to make contact
- The new footbridge under Ordsall Chord – victim of success – cannot open until works are finished – this is cut off until Factory completed
- Question raised about the underground canal

Walk Ride Greater Manchester: The Great Deansgate Takeover

- £160m scheme allocated to improving walking and cycling – across ALL of GM so is already spread thinly as a fund
- Encouraged to raise walk-ride with councillors
- New cycling map to be issued in next month which includes ideas raised by local groups across GM
- Want to see a world where cars are no longer the priority
- Chose Deansgate as a target as not enough space for pedestrians - not easy to cross either

- 74% of people who drive into town do not have to - they have another way to get into town
- What if there was the “Deansgate Takeover” - closing 300m of the road from John Dalton St to St Mary’s Gate?
- Some very exciting ideas
- Are hoping to try this as on a Friday in September, how it affects businesses. Can also tie into the Let’s Ride event. Will be closed from John Dalton to St Mary’s Gate

Questions from the audience

- Louise also advised that Ellesmere Street will be closed for one day in June, probably on Clean Air Day for a day of play
- There was a question around how much support there is from MCC. William Jeavons suggested that there was
- YMCA - mentioned that there could be some synergy between a school they work with and to ensure it has a sense of belonging in the community. YMCA Alternative Education school. Contact made!
- Cllr Davies suggested chatting to people who work on parallel streets who would be affected by moving traffic off Deansgate to another street. Also didn’t agree that Deansgate is not a place struggling for pedestrian space. Suggests local residents should not be the sole arbiters. Concern raised for pedestrianisation in terms of feeling less safe after dark because no animation with traffic.
- Another point made around modelling traffic volumes if Deansgate is closed. Chris Boardman’s team is to model what happens.
- Straw poll: one against, more than half for and a few abstentions

Police update and community safety

- Chief Inspector Cherie Buttle (GMP) joined us
- PC Matt Hilton provided an update from his patch:
- Crime figures from April in Castlefield area (ie within GMP City Centre patch not Hulme)
 - 1 recorded robbery
 - 1 burglary
 - 8 theft motor vehicles e.g. Blantyre, Potatoe, Ellesmere
 - 4 reported theft from persons of which one is on Deansgate
 - Some plain clothes work is ongoing and they think they know the culprit for the burglary
- The tents in Roman Gardens with free for all; moved on but only to behind 360. Have now moved on again
- Issues at Barca with regards to noise and anti-social behaviour
- A burglar has also been apprehended
- There’s also a culprit now ordered a CBO which bans the offender for 3 years to Manchester
- 360 residents thanked Matt and Cllr Joan for moving on the tent community
- Britannia Basin Community Forum (BBCF) - raised issue of ongoing people who have their phones out. Lou P asked if some signs could be added to encourage not to leave stuff on display
- Matt has been speaking to PC Stapler in Hulme and they think the car activity is the same offender for recent burglary
- Separate question regarding kids on bikes roaming around and being a menace to residents
- Chief Inspector Buttle mentioned that further funding for Operation Valiant has been approved

Charitable Status update

Carol updated that after many months of waiting the Forum was now a registered charity - A Charitable Incorporated Organisation (Association model).

Action Group Updates

- Events, Marketing, Media & Signage: Debbie updated that there were no new events but now working on setting up new Forum website and thanked everyone for their input
- Gardening: Beth mentioned that we have stepped up activity for the Roman Gardens as it's always been 'up and coming' so more regular events including early evening gardening sessions. Next one is 2-4pm this Thursday 2 May 2019. Also 8th and 9th May and Saturday 11th May. Meet by the lighting tower at the far end of Duke Place
- Spirit of Place: Calum updated that there is in June a major workshop planned for key movers and shakers in Castlefield
- Roman Gardens: Carol updated on the wider masterplan to update the public realm. We are expecting to see the main Roman pathway resurfaced: was due by end April tho with 1 day left looking unlikely! We are chasing when this can happen by. MCC Neighbourhoods now have access to the room above the North Gate and the Forum used Neighbourhood Investment Funding (NIF) to fund electrical safety checks with the intention of using this space for community activities.
- Carol had discussed with Lauren Murphy, Laing O'Rourke's Social Sustainability Advisor the possibility of using their project management skills to assist in delivering the Roman Gardens masterplan
- Call for helpers for all of the Action Groups. Do come and join in!

Ward Councillor Reports

William Jeavons led on this.

- Since the issues raised around Community Safety at the last Forum meeting in terms of lighting: a whole bunch of the poorly lit areas are in mixed ownership so are lobbying local owners to try and move this along
- 101 (non-urgent reporting function) issue noted as frustrating; William has access to stats that average response time of 13 min 6 months ago to 3 mins now. GMP had been able to put more resourcing onto this. Would welcome community feedback on the impact to the service
- Canal tow path lighting from Merchants Bridge to Mancunian Way: Recent email advised signed lease agreement between Peel and MCC which had been inhibiting. great news... will be done "within the next 2 months". Calum thanked William
- Pioneer Quay. TfGM have been engaged in the process together with Canal & River Trust (CRT) and Friends of the Rochdale 9 (FOR9) and committed to improving the area. A boom is being installed on the canal arm to stop the huge volume of debris which normally aggregates there

Joan Davies

- Cladding: nearly 2 years since Grenfell, still unresolved situations in Manchester. Suzanne Richards and John Sawyer new director of housing who are helping to resolve any issues. Joan asked that if you live in a building and do not know the fire process, to find out urgently and also relating to any commercial units on the ground floor of a building
- There's a noise and odour concern from a premises on Liverpool Road and Joan is handing this over to William and Marcus to avoid any conflict as it's relating to a premises close to where she lives
- Power Hall at Science & Industry Museum is now closed due to potential safety issues with the roof, and until this is resolved, the building will remain closed
- Commercial Hotel on Liverpool Rd has been closed for some time and plans (previously brought to the Forum) are to convert and add to the building to create a hotel. The developer has recently suggest that the hotel would be themed around the Quality Street Gang. There was concern that

a gangster theme was not appropriate for Castlefield nor did it reflect in any way the heritage of the fact it was one of the first (if not the first) Railway Hotel. All three councillors have challenged this latest proposal. Some suggestions that it's being positioned as a late-night bar which raises significant concerns around

Marcus Johns

- Raised the point that the bridge near Atlas is at some point to be painted and so will leverage learnings from Mirabel Street at the top of the ward where some bridges are currently being repainted by Network Rail

Any Other Business

YMCA - Nicole Joseph, new in post as Head of Youth & Community Service at the Y Club would be working on increasing involvement with the local community. An early project was to encourage residents to use the facilities by offering free gym passes. Nicole advised that she would like to work with Lauren Murphy to identify links with Laing O'Rourke

Former Visitor Centre - Rosemary Aikman Bull raised the issue of the former visitor centre and whether it could be brought into community use. Carol advised that the Forum had made several attempts previously to find a sustainable solution, particularly when it was empty. (The building is currently in use by the Council). Rosemary wondered if Laing O'Rourke could be involved. Carol explained that more recently (2016) Jeremy Shine had undertaken a further extensive feasibility study and the Forum had agreed that it was a high risk project and not cost effective.

Date of next meeting

22 July 2019 @ 19:00. Venue: Dukes 92, Castle Street, Castlefield, Manchester

Close

Meeting closed at 21:00