



PUBLIC MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

6:30pm Tuesday 19th September 2017 at Smestow Community School

	ACTION
<p>FCCA: Chairman Andrew Atkinson Committee member Brenda Bates Committee member Heather Rous Committee member: Judith Tanswell Minutes secretary Barbara Cole</p> <p>Members of the Public: Andrea Cantrill John Rowley Pat Powell</p>	
<p>1. <u>Welcome</u> Andrew Atkinson welcomed everyone to the FCCA public meeting.</p>	
<p>2. <u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Angela Amer and Justine Crane</p>	
<p>3. <u>Minutes of Meeting 21st March 2017</u> Heather Rous proposed that the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the previous meeting. This was seconded by John Rowley. The minutes were duly signed off by Andrew and accepted.</p>	
<p>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>St Thomas Church Building</u> (Previous Meeting 6.2) Heather gave an update on the St Thomas Church Building. She said that it was all good news. A cheque for £70,000 has been made out by Windmill Community Church for the purchase of the property. It was expected to be signed off this Friday. The drains have been cleaned. Three surveys have taken place and no bats have been found. It will be possible to pile at the front of the building with a machine. The first priorities are to make the roof watertight and to address the subsidence. Funding letters will be going out and Lidl are on board with the project. It is hoped that £50,000 can be raised from the Landfill organisation. £120,000 is required in order to get the former church restored and fit for purpose. This is in addition to the £70,000 purchase price. John congratulated Heather</p>	

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<p>on the work that has been done.</p> <p>Heather continued to say that an extension would be allowed at the back and that this would not affect the front aspect. The neighbour has not objected to this extension. The property will be used as a Community Church. It is now totally empty. The altar and other fittings have been taken away and distributed amongst other churches. The bell has gone to St Columba but most of the fittings went twenty years ago.</p> <p>It was noted that although it was not an official charity, almost £1,000 of prime funding had originally been raised to initiate the project. FCCA have been involved from the start.</p> <p>4.2 <u>Castlecroft Playground Update</u> (Previous Meeting 6.3)</p> <p>Heather gave an update on Castlecroft Playground. The playground has been opened and is doing well. During the first week there were some disruptive children but they were successfully invited to form a park squad and now undertake activities such as picking up litter. It is lovely to drive passed and see the playground. There is a plan to plant flower bulbs. Heather has donated £5 worth of bulbs from Lidl. Andrea Cantrill said that she had some bulbs that she would donate. Heather thanked her and said that the students would be asked to plant them.</p> <p>4.3 <u>Bantock House Update</u> (Previous Meeting 6.4)</p> <p>There had previously been a concern that Bantock House would be closed during the week. It has been saved but with hours restricted to 11:00 until 16:00 every day. The cafe is open 09:00 until 16:00 every day. There were plans to upgrade the kitchen but this proved to be impractical because there was not enough seating area for people. Some groups are using Bantock House and weddings are now being held there. The Smart Yoga Computer classes are still being held there with a regular group of attendees. There is funding for the classes until the end of July 2018.</p> <p>4.4 <u>No 90 Castlecroft Road</u> (Previous Meeting 6.5)</p> <p>The bungalow by the little green is derelict. Brenda said that she had contacted Wolverhampton City Council but they had said that it was out of their hands, the bungalow fell down whilst it was being built. Brenda said that it looks like a church building. No one is living there. John asked if anyone had spoken to the planners. Brenda said that no one had spoken to them because it was already too late. She said that a lot was going on in the area but FCCA were not being notified about planning applications. John said that planning was not in keeping with the Local Neighbourhood Plan. Brenda agreed. John said that it was a pity that planners are not taking notice of the Local Neighbourhood Plan, he quoted several examples. He said that the development at Denham Gardens does not appear to have been publicised. If planning applications are not being publicised then not enough objection letters are going to the planning committee. Brenda said that she had spoken to the planners about things going against the Local Neighbourhood Plan. The planners had told her that they only look at planning applications, they cannot influence them. If the planners reject applications then they are sent to Bristol for approval instead. Brenda added that the TDCC seems to have fallen by the wayside. There had not been any meetings for a long time, the last one being about proposals for a Tettenhall Parish Council.</p> <p>John then spoke about the house on the corner, 94 Castlecroft Road, saying that his neighbour thought that it looked to have been badly built. John had contacted Wolverhampton City Council to find out whether the property complied with building regulations. The planning officer said that it had passed but the planner involved had since left the council. Building regulations can now be supervised by a commercial organisation rather than the council. John questioned whether the best service is being given by the planning office.</p>	<p>AC</p>

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<p>John asked whether the local councillors had looked into the issue of 90 Castlecroft Road. Brenda replied that Cllr Wendy Thompson knows about it. John asked if FCCA could ask the councillors to look into both 90 and 94 Castlecroft Road. Pat Powell commented that the TDCC Steering Group were also concerned about building taking place that should not be getting passed.</p> <p>A vote was taken and all agreed that Brenda would write to the councillors on behalf of FCCA.</p>	BB
<p>4.5 <u>Motorbikes</u> (Previous Meeting 6.7)</p> <p>John reported that the motorbike barrier was in place underneath Castlecroft Bridge. It had been installed by the Wildside Activity Centre and funded by the Aviva Community Fund. He said that more furniture would be added soon.</p>	
<p>4.6 <u>PACT Meetings and Police Response</u> (Previous Meeting 6.8)</p> <p>Andrew had told the previous meeting about an incident where someone had tried to access his property in broad daylight. He had phoned the police on 101 and had been told to send them an email. He had received no response. Subsequently he had raised the matter at a PACT meeting but still nothing had happened. He said that the threat had now gone away. However, Brenda said that there should be some support from the police. Previously, crime prevention officers would have been sent out. John said that this was serious, a response from the police was needed. It was agreed that Andrew should send an email to Jim Smith asking him to pursue the lack of response and to raise it at the next PACT meeting.</p>	AA
<p>4.7 <u>Under the Bridge Project (Castlecroft Bridge)</u> (Previous Meeting 6.9)</p> <p>This was mentioned under 4.5 Motorbikes. John said that he had nothing extra to report</p>	
<p>4.8 <u>Air Pollution</u> (Previous Meeting 6.13)</p> <p>John had previously raised the issue of air pollution from vehicle fumes around schools. Heather had spoken to Smestow School about measuring air quality as an activity for pupils but she was told that they no longer undertake science work in the curriculum because it needs to be supervised. John thanked Heather for trying and said that he would get in touch with local university departments.</p> <p>Andrea spoke of Friends of the Earth undertaking measurements near to Majestic Wine. She said that they were found to be over the recommended limits. She said that she would give the report that came out of the exercise to FCCA when it became available. She said that it was important to try to raise awareness.</p> <p>Brenda said that measurements had been taken at a junction on the Penn Road and no problems were found.</p> <p>Andrea observed that it is illegal to sit in a stationary vehicle with the engine running. John said that the Smestow Valley Railway Walk passes close by to several schools. The walk goes as far as Aldersley. If it was improved and made safer children may be more inclined to use it to walk to school. He recommended that FCCA should raise more awareness of the air pollution issue.</p> <p>Andrea said that she would get some figures from Friends of the Earth and it was agreed that the report and any thoughts on the subject would go forward as an agenda item for the next FCCA meeting.</p> <p>Andrea said that she would work with Heather and FCCA to produce a joint leaflet on air pollution. Local schools would then be asked if they would publish it.</p>	<p>JR</p> <p>AC</p> <p>AC</p> <p>BB</p> <p>AC/HR</p>

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<p>4.9 <u>TDCC Parish Council Application</u> (Previous Meeting 6.14)</p> <p>The Tettenhall and District Community Council have applied to Wolverhampton City Council in order to become a Parish Council. Brenda had read in the Express & Star that the consultation had taken place and people were not in favour. There was concern about the extra tax that people would have to pay. The response to the consultation was poor but no one knows the figures from the questionnaire that was issued.</p> <p>The entire area in the Local Neighbourhood Plan would be included in the Parish Council, (therefore including Finchfield and Castlecroft). FCCA had sent a letter to the TDCC indicating that the area was too large and diverse for a parish council. John said that he would like to see a copy of the letter. There was then a debate about whether the letter was sent on behalf of FCCA (thereby including residents) or on behalf of the FCCA Committee. Andrew said that the letter was sent on behalf of the Committee but he hoped that it had reflected the views of those present at the last meeting.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Social Activities and Future Events</u></p> <p>Andrew reported on the social activities that have recently taken place and the up and coming future events that FCCA is involved with.</p> <p>Three open air events have taken place at Bantock Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A mime play "Belle Vue Hotel" • FCCA helped Wolverhampton City Council with "Life is a Beach" • The first ever outdoor film show was attended by 260 people in the rain. 20 people left mid performance due to the weather because they had not realised that the event was taking place outdoors <p>FCCA plan to explore similar events</p> <p>Smart Device Yoga is gaining momentum with 12 to 18 attendees. There are some new faces, who have seen it advertised on the web site or have heard of it by word of mouth. Funding is available until July 2018. FCCA have plans in place to apply for further funding afterwards</p> <p>As part of the Wolverhampton Comedy Festival taking place October 25th to November 7th, a play will be staged by three girls from Stourbridge at Bantock Park on October 29th. There will also be a silent movie. The costs will be covered by the Creative Black Country allowance. Andrew agreed to send Andrea the details.</p> <p>Heather said that Wolverhampton City Council were asking for people to walk around Wolverhampton with a placard containing a joke. The festival is aimed at dispelling the image of Wolverhampton not being a pleasant place to live.</p> <p>John asked who to contact about the festival. He was informed that Rosalind Dargo of Creative Black Country was the person to contact.</p> <p>Another Barn Dance will be held on November 12th. The same band as last time will be performing. However, this time there will not be an interval.</p> <p>Andrew said that FCCA are still talking to Jeremy Brown and will be receiving another grant from Creative Black Country. Currently the 2018 grant will be the last one.</p> <p>Heather said that FCCA events have showcased Bantock House but the Committee is open to the suggestion of other venues. Andrew said that the former church of St Thomas could possibly be used especially if a café area is built.</p> <p>John congratulated FCCA on the good use of Creative Black Country funding and said that he hoped that the funding would carry on. He said that FCCA should be an organisation that people want to join.</p> <p>Compliments were paid to the very professional video that had been made of Smart Device Yoga.</p>	AA

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<p>6. <u>Wolverhampton Environment Centre</u></p> <p>Brenda said that there had been no further news from Wolverhampton City Council since the engagement meeting that was held in June. John said that Alison had said that she would send out a report to FCCA documenting what she was submitting to the council. However, nothing has been received so far. Brenda said that Karen James has now taken over Alison's work on the WEC.</p> <p>John said that the Deputy Leader of the council, Peter Bilson had stated the proposals in full on 30th June on the council website. Did this mean that they had been approved by cabinet? John said that he would have thought so. Alison had been in touch with FCCA about the petition, she was aware of it but she had said nothing about progress.</p> <p>Pat spoke of an article by John Reynolds which appeared on the front page of the Express and Star on 16th or 17th August. The article described the £1,000,000 of European funding that had been secured for the canal and the Smestow Valley Local Nature Reserve. It also mentioned that 90% of the land currently occupied by the WEC would be going into the local nature reserve. Pat said that this was in keeping with the Black Country Core Strategy.</p> <p>John observed that it was a pity that Wolverhampton City Council had not kept FCCA informed of what was happening before it appeared in the newspaper.</p>	
<p>7. <u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>7.1 <u>Car Park behind the Co-Op in Finchfield</u></p> <p>Brenda described a fall that her husband had had due to the poor condition of the car park behind the Co-Op in Finchfield. She said that she had written to them about her husband's fall and the car park was then resurfaced. FCCA had previously campaigned about the condition of the car park but the Co-Op had not taken any action.</p> <p>7.2 <u>Large Caravan in Pool Hall Road</u></p> <p>A large caravan has been parked in Pool Hall Road, overlapping the pavement. Environmental Health are looking into the issue.</p> <p>7.3 <u>FCCA Communication</u></p> <p>Brenda commented that FCCA must not lose sight of the small issues. It was agreed that Heather would have a page for small issues put on the FCCA website.</p> <p>There have been no articles from FCCA in The Park magazine recently. Andrew said that he needed to get back to writing some but he needs some help. He asked for submissions to be made by the 10th of each month. John made a request for the minutes of FCCA meetings to be sent out to attendees who have given their email addresses. This had previously been agreed in December 2016. Brenda said that she would make sure that in future the minutes are circulated.</p> <p>7.4 <u>FCCA Impartiality</u></p> <p>John gave his personal views on what FCCA could do to attract members of the public. He said that he felt that FCCA had become an agent of Wolverhampton City Council by taking an active part in prompting Alison Fowler's proposals for the WEC. Andrew disagreed with this saying that FCCA had taken on board the consensus view of the engagement meetings. John said that he felt that FCCA had also shown a lack of impartiality in other areas. He quoted the opening of Castlecroft Playground. He said that the mayor should have opened the playground rather than the council and as the mayor was not available then the opening should have been postponed.</p> <p>There was no other business. Andrew closed the meeting.</p>	<p>HR</p> <p>AA</p> <p>BB</p>
<p>Provisional Date and Time of Next Meeting: Date to be confirmed by Andrew</p>	AA