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## LITTLEBOROUGH CIVIC TRUST

### Committee Meeting

### January 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

### Via Zoom

#### **Members present**

Ian Jackson, Michael Price, Gillian Price, Ann Stott, Barry Cropper, Bob Wetherly, John Kay, Nick Andrews, Vivienne Ashworth.

#### **1. Introductions and welcome**

The Chairman, Ian Jackson opened the meeting at 7.05pm

#### **2. Apologies for absence**

Frank Carter, Tony Rumbelow

#### **3. Submissions for AOB**

None

#### **4. Declaration of Interest**

None

#### **5. Minutes of previous December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting and matters arising**

Minutes agreed, no matters arising.

## 6. Treasurers Report

|                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Canalside Development Group</b> | <b>1277.82</b> |
| <b>Flood Resilience Group</b>      | <b>230.81</b>  |
| <b>Funds available</b>             | <b>1936.92</b> |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>3445.55</b> |

The slight increase in our total funds is due to membership renewals now beginning to arrive. Thanks all for your continued support.

## 7. Planning applications update

There has been a couple of recent applications, a development of (7) houses on a derelict brown field site at William Street, Littleborough and (2) houses on land belonging to Stubble Old Hall.

While we would not normally object to development of small brown field sites such as this it is becoming more and more of concern that there doesn't seem to be any plans for improving infrastructure in the area, traffic on the A58 being a prime example.

A letter has been sent to the council planning department highlighting our concerns. Copy attached.

## 8. Canalside Development Group update

It was agreed that to save time, a separate Zoom meeting would be arranged so that Canal Group members could discuss the next steps with the Café Boat project.

## 9. Safe Our Greenbelt update

None to report

## 10. Flood Resilience Group update

A recent planning application (now passed) to the council was for the capping of an "Artesian Well" at the New Street development which raised a number of questions (highlighted in last months minutes) by the Flood Group and our National Flood Forum representative

The term Artesian Well is rather misleading. An Artesian Well is a geological feature, what is actually being referred to is a Bore Hole.

A bore hole was sunk in 1936 to supply water to the Littleborough Tannery, it is this that the Environment Agency are asking to be capped. The location of this bore hole is at the top end of the development.

An engineers report has now been made public covering the subject which makes quite an interesting read. The inflatable plug doesn't inspire confidence! Copy of report attached.

## 11. News and events

None

## 12. A.O.B.

None

## 13. Rochdale Rail Corridor Strategy

With the potential demise of the GMSF document in its current form, attention has turned to the Rochdale Rail Corridor Strategy'

The final paragraph of this document states:-

**"We've got big plans for Rochdale and we want you to get involved.**

**Come and speak to us about how we can help you realise your next investment opportunity"**

The Trust feel that a structured response to this document be made, highlighting what we, the people of Littleborough and surrounding area would like to see.

Trustee Nick Andrews has started the ball rolling with his own personal views outlined below. We would now ask for the opinions/suggestions of the membership to add to Nicks ideas. We will also look to Social Media to gain the views of the general public of Littleborough and the surrounding area to gather their hopes and aspirations for the future.

**The issue for me is not what is in the strategy but what is not or needs to be developed as part of the overall strategy as it relates to Littleborough.**

**Whilst I am in agreement about being against the extensive development of our green fields, the strategy also offers opportunities for us to shape how we want to see Littleborough.**

**Essential to my mind is the enhancement of the village centre; there is mention of the Railway Arches, what about the Boyes site opposite, what do want see on this site? not a car park.**

**What about the village centre - land on Victoria Street - behind the opticians - could it be better used - servicing/parking?**

**Car Parking - essential - but let's also think ahead - car parking with charging points for electric cars - no more petrol cars after 2030, there will be a shift over the next 10/20 years. But need to be aware that improved rail services will bring people from across the border to take advantage of cheaper fares to Manchester. Limited time parking to prevent spaces being taken up all day by commuters.**

**Improvements to pedestrian environment, people walk around the centre - surfaces need to be good - flat/safe for those unsteady on their feet. / benches to be able to take a rest, public conveniences**

**Open spaces - the pandemic has shown how valuable local spaces are to the community, need to protect and enhance those we have, create more - how about opening up the river and creating a riverside walk (allied of course to flood defence measures). Personally I would like to see more public art, reasons for people to visit Littleborough.**

**The Square - can it be improved so that it is better suited to events and activities? i.e removal of kerbs, making it a pedestrian dominant space?**

**All of that is very much about the physical environment. We will also need to address the issue of none physical infrastructure provision - enhanced rail services; additional doctors; school spaces.**

**There should also be something about the opportunities of the Canal - links to Hollingworth Lake Country Park, our location as Gateway to the South Pennines**

**I would like to see the Trust response as a positive one welcoming the opportunities to improve Littleborough centre, we may not agree with everything but this is a chance for us to help shape the future of the village.**

**Regards,**

**Nick**

**Next meeting via Zoom will be on February 9<sup>th</sup> Start time 7.00pm.**



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