

## Stalybridge Town Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Apologies: Cllr Adrian Pearce  
Cllr Kevin Welsh  
Cllr Basil Beeley  
Cllr Eleanor Wills

Congratulations were expressed for Cllr Eleanor Wills for the safe arrival of baby Enid Lily.

Katy Flanagan, Sam Gosling and Liam Billington are organising a pensioner's party for December that will include a 2 course meal and entertainment.

Fred Kieser thanked the councillors present for their support of the Ridge Hill Community Garden and the broader community of Ridge Hill.

As raised in previous meetings, it was felt that the more effort was needed to ensure prompt and easy access to town council meeting agendas and minutes and that the dates of meetings were well publicised ahead of time. Cllr Jan Jackson agreed to take these points on board and make sure that minutes, agendas and meeting dates are well publicised.

### **AGENDA ITEM 1**

Emma Varnum (Assistant Director of Stronger Communities) presented on Open Plus Libraries, a scheme to provide extended hours of access for library members.

The scheme will allow registered members to use their library card and a PIN, obtained when signing up to the scheme, to access their library when a librarian is not present. As well as unlocking the door, entry will turn on lights, public PCs, wifi and activate CCTV that will monitor the library while in use. Members will be able to borrow and return books or collect books reserved online using self-service machines. They will also be able to use PCs, wifi, print and copy services and hold community group meetings. The scheme will be rolled out across all Tameside libraries from October as each library is modified to allow unstaffed access. Further detail is available at <http://www.tameside.gov.uk/libraries>.

Questions:

What will happen if the scheme is abused?

EV – Damage and abuse of the library will result in withdrawal of Open Plus membership and potentially full library membership.

Are rooms available for community groups and will there be a charge?

EV – There are rooms available for community groups, though not for private meetings so check who else will be using the library when you want to book. There is no charge for booking a room for community groups.

Is this a way to make savings by cutting staff?

EV – Staff are leaving as they retire but there is no redundancy scheme in place. Open Plus is reducing staffing hours not staff.

Is there a possibility of using volunteers?

EV – The council does not want to replace staff with volunteers but are open to volunteers helping in libraries.

Cllr Ged Cooney – Open Plus allows libraries to be open for longer hours. The council will not replace staff with volunteers.

Cllr Clive Patrick – After attending the Hub Training Day on Open Plus it is clear that the automated systems for self-service are simple and well thought out.

Is the service only wanted because it is statutory and is it wanted by the public or the council?

EV – The libraries are valued by all for their ability to educate and spread knowledge. Libraries have to reflect changes in society, such as greater reliance on digital resources.

Cllr Dave Sweeten – Budget cuts have hit the council hard, EV is to be commended for ensuring that all libraries have been kept open.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2**

Jess Williams (Care Together Program Director) presented on the Intermediate Care Consultation about changes to NHS intermediate care provision by Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Intermediate care is provided to keep people out of hospital or to ensure that patients can be successfully discharged by providing integrated social and health care. The majority of intermediate care provided is for elderly people being discharged from hospital. This is done in the Stamford Unit at Tameside Hospital and at Shire Hill Hospital in Glossop. There are 68 beds across the two units and they are allocated on need rather than ease of access which means that Tameside Hospital patients can be sent to Glossop and patients from Glossop sent to the Stamford Unit. The Trust initiated a consultation to determine if people would prefer

- (i) to retain the current situation,
- (ii) move the Glossop beds to an empty floor of the Stamford Unit building,  
or
- (iii) commission beds in care facilities closer to patient's homes.

The trust's preferred option is the second option as 90% of patients in the area are within 5 miles of the Stamford Unit, while less than 50% are within 5 miles of Shire Hill. Due to the distance to transfer patients to Shire Hill there are often complications during transport with 27% of patient having to be readmitted to hospital.

The trust intends any move to have no impact on number of people employed.

Current week is the fifth of a twelve week consultation with public meeting to be held in Glossop, Droylsden and Ashton over the next three weeks. Associated health authorities and community groups have also been consulted.

Questions:

Where are the public meetings advertised?

JW – in the Tameside Reporter, on council websites, local area websites, health watch, more details available from <http://www.tamesideandglossopccg.org/intermediatecare>.

How do medical teams differ between the two current units?

JW - GP primary care is available in both units, but specialist care is only available at the Stamford Unit.

How are contributions to the consultation made, other than the public meetings?

JW – Online Clinical Commission Group (CCG) form available for submissions.

For further details on the consultation JW can be contacted on [jessicawilliams1@nhs.net](mailto:jessicawilliams1@nhs.net).

### **AGENDA ITEM 3**

John Adern (New Charter) presented on the Summer Quays development.

Building design and fire safety have been improved following the Grenfell Tower fire, this includes the addition of sprinklers to the building. These modifications have caused an estimated delay of 6 weeks. Details of the development are available at [summersquay.co.uk](http://summersquay.co.uk).

Taylor Wood have been chosen as the estate agent for residential sales and Impey are responsible for commercial sales. The commercial space is likely to be rented to a single company.

Reservations for flats will be available from the end of January following the determination of rent levels. To date, 200 people have expressed an interest in residential property.

Questions:

Will the commercial space be a Lidl?

JA - No, there won't be a supermarket.

Who will be renting at £520/month, where is the social housing?

JA – There is social housing elsewhere in the borough. This development is intentionally aimed at professional and retirees and will only have 67 units, all other developments currently planned will provide over 300 affordable homes.

Cllr Jan Jackson – There is an affordable homes development on Castle Street.

Is there security on the site as people have been seen climbing the scaffolding?

JA – There is security and it will be reviewed to try to prevent trespassing.

What will happen if not all of the units are rented? Will there be flexibility on the rent levels?

JA – A decision will be made if that happens.

How many parking spaces are there?

JA – 53 parking spaces for 45 2 bed and 22 1 bed apartments. The decision has been made to promote public transport.

How many floors are there? How has it been able to be built higher than Tesco when Tesco was denied permission to build a second storey?

JA – It has 6 floors and is higher than Tesco, though the original plan was 9 floors. The consultation prior to the development of the site was responsible for the reduction in height.

How many professionals will want to move to central Stalybridge with the current problems with disruptive youths?

JA – The management of the estate will be in cooperation with local police and other local authorities to deal with any issues that arise.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

Kevin Garside (Neighbourhood Services) presented on Integrated Neighbourhood Services and CCTV in Stalybridge.

There are currently 13 CCTV cameras in Stalybridge and operators have radio links to business owners and police to ensure rapid response to any incidents. Antisocial behaviour in Stalybridge is not as bad as in Hyde or Ashton. Most incidents are caused by young people, though the perception is worse than the problem. Neighbour complaints are high and Neighbourhood Services is working with New Charter to deal with antisocial tenants, in the first instance, and with the police if needed. During October a new act is coming in to effect that will allow parents of disruptive youths to be punished.

Debt and loan sharking are also issues that Neighbourhood Services is trying to address working with the police. Police have powers to take money from loan sharks and £10,000 of reclaimed money has been used to provide education about safe money lending.

Neighbourhood Services also has a range of home safety products that it provides.

Questions:

Cllr Jan Jackson – Are there links with the fire service?

KG – Yes, home safety products are also available from the fire services.

Will CCTV cameras be turned off?

KG – No, they have only been turned off for 18 months due to the control room moving from the council offices prior to their demolition.

Is the Rififi Club opening under the same owner?

KG – No

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5**

Chris Peacock (Newington Communications) presented on the Stalybridge Country Park Development in Millbrook on behalf of the developer, Casey.

The consultation run by Newington Communications will be available to view from 21<sup>st</sup> September. The housing development will be used to fund the setting up and initial upkeep of the country park.

The consultation at Stalybridge Cricket Club had 238 attendees with 130 people providing feedback. Of the feedback 63% were in favour of the country park and greater than 70% supported sustainable management of the country park. A majority of people supported housing supporting the country park, the retaining of historical buildings on the site. The effect on local infrastructure, especially, roads was identified as the biggest concern. Other issues raised were insufficient drainage and a lack of faith in the country park aspect actually happening. There will be a further, larger, consultation prior to the submission of plans.

Questions:

Are you working with Historic England?

CP – Yes.

Are the ancient woodland and conveyer in the country park?

CP – Don't know, but plans are available online.

Is the cross valley road still required?

CP – Don't know, following the consultation there are several options being looked at with the council.

How will the local roads cope given how much traffic they currently have to take?

CP – This has been taken on board from the consultation.

Could the council ask for the country park to be built first?

CP – This is a conversation for the council.

The comment was made that Tameside College students should be used on site in the project.

Shouldn't the mill be developed first as a brownfield site?

CP - The mill is outside the country park site. The focus is on the current site because this is where a planning application has been submitted.

The funding of the country park will be from 200 houses for a period of 8-10 years. Who is going to fund the country park beyond the 8-10 year period?

CP – This hasn't been decided yet. A process is ongoing to identify a management organisation with good track record.

Could it be residents?

CP – A long term management plan will be decided once a management team is in place. There will be a phased development of the country park matched by the building of houses. Casey will not be managing the country park.

Will Casey pay for schemes to divert traffic from Huddersfield Road?

CP – Casey are talking with the Highways Agency and the Council about the traffic needs of the area. Casey will provide some funds but there are other companies' development projects in the area and so the cost should be shared.

Would a 'Buy a Brick' type scheme that would allow local residents to ensure funding for the country park be feasible?

CP – This hasn't been considered.

Cllr Clive Patrick – There are plenty of beautiful areas around Stalybridge so there isn't a strong case for a country park. Given the development will harm Stalybridge due to the traffic, especially combined with other developments it should not go ahead. The country ark is a scam.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

Simon Elliot (Transport for Greater Manchester) presented on an effort to create a Friends of Stalybridge Station community group to make use of a newly refurbished room on the platform at Stalybridge Station.

Funds will be available for a Friends of Stalybridge Station group from train operators to develop the room. Community groups will be consulted over the next few months to determine the best use for the room. Suggestions can be sent to [simon.elliott@tfgm.com](mailto:simon.elliott@tfgm.com).

Questions:

Who are Friends of Stalybridge Station?

SE – Not yet formed.

Are you aware there has been a Friends of Stalybridge Group since 1996?

SE – No, but I will contact them.

Where is the space?

SE - On platform 4 (trains to Leeds) in a room that used to be a barbers.

The flooring under that room may not be safe.

SE – that will be taken on board.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8**

Cllr Leanne Feeley presented on the plans for Christmas celebration event in Stalybridge.

A meeting of the Town Team and Councillors has provided plenty of feedback for LF who has begun planning an event. The priorities are an event in the town centre that is family friendly and will increase footfall in town. Ideally it will have local school involvement as well.

A stage has been sourced that is 8x6 metres along with a generator, lights, snow machine and barriers.

The available budget is £3500; £900 is coming from ward funds, £2600 from the town council and there is a contingency fund of £400. The event is open for sponsorship and will seek to involve local businesses. A preliminary date of 18<sup>th</sup> November and a programme for the stage need to be confirmed. Alternatively the launch will be at the beginning of December.

Volunteers are needed – please contact [leanne.feeley@tameside.gov.uk](mailto:leanne.feeley@tameside.gov.uk).

Questions:

Will there be a reduced sponsorship rate for charities?

LF - There is no set rate.

Will Cancer Warriors be sponsoring the hi-vis jackets be able to take collection tins around?

LF – We will discuss this.

**AGENDA ITEM 9**

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Neal Merriman reported that due to ongoing problems with drunken youths in the store, Tesco will be locking their toilets from 7pm.

**NEXT MEETING 6 DECEMBER 6.30pm**