

Castlefield Forum
Minutes of meeting held at
7pm Monday 24 April 2017
Merchant Room, Dukes 92, Castlefield

In attendance:

Mike Beck, Resident
James Bowers, Resident
Tom Brothwell, Resident
Ian Christie, Resident (Secretary)
Thomas Crossley, Resident
Cllr Joan Davies, City Centre Ward Councillor
Jo Flynn, Resident
Beth Rose Hopper, Resident
PC Matt Hilton, GMP
William Jeavons, Resident
Debbie & Mark Hubbard, Residents
Rhys Lewis, University of Manchester
Serpil Lindsay, Resident
Jacqui Lindley, MSI
PCSO Mike Long, GMP
Calum McGowan, Resident
Carol Middleton, Resident (Chair)
Stephen Moran, Resident
Andrew Morland, Resident
Rachel Mutters, Resident
Sarah Ramsbottom, Castlefield Estates
Ben Roberts, Resident
PC Mark Semple, GMP
Jeremy Shine, Resident

Apologies:

Ruth Billingham, MCC City Centre, Hulme & Ardwick Central Neighbourhood Team
Tom Dixon, Resident
Roy Jackson, Resident
Vince Lee, Resident
Vicki McCarrick, Resident
Emma Molloy, MCC City Centre, Hulme & Ardwick Central Neighbourhood Team
Chris Pandolfo, MCC Neighbourhood Officer, City Centre
Andy Parkinson, Resident
Hilary Sayers, MCC City Centre Regeneration Team
Harry Slater, Barca
Claire Venables, Resident

1	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies Carol Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves. Apologies as above. It was noted that the absence of Council officers at the meeting was due to the	
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	<p>period of purdah before local elections during which Officers cannot be present at any public meeting which Councillors are attending.</p> <p>Agenda item 8 was taken immediately after item 4. These Minutes follow the Agenda order.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting 23 January 2017</p> <p>These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p>Great Northern Square</p> <p>Kevin Redhead from Planit – Intelligent Environments (http://www.planit-ie.com/) gave a presentation on draft plans for re-designing and re-inventing Great Northern Square at the junction of Deansgate & Peter Street as part of proposals related to the Great Northern Strategic Regeneration Framework. Workshops run by Pathways Consultancy had revealed that many people felt that present the Square was not a comfortable place in which to sit or spend time and that the aim should be to create a ‘calm oasis’ within the city, a much greener and more enclosed space with fewer changes of level, the amphitheatre covered in, Dean Street behind the Deansgate frontage running on ground level rather than up in the air and with greater attention in design to wind, daylight and microclimate.</p> <p>After questions, answers and discussion it was agreed that Ian Christie should consult May Molteno from Pathways Consultancy, who were organising consultation around these plans, to see it was possible to give further feedback on-line.</p>	IC
4	<p>2- 4 Chester Road proposed development</p> <p>Sarah Ramsbottom reported that the 9 February MCC Planning Committee had voted 5 to 2 in favour of the Renaker proposals. Castlefield Estates, supported by the Forum, had then requested the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, to ‘call in’ the planning application for decision but on 13 March he had decided not to do so. Beth Hopper had also made an FOI application for information on all meetings between Renaker & MCC in relation to the application and Sarah had taken legal advice on whether there were any options worth pursuing to attempt to seek to overturn the MCC decision but there appeared not to be.</p> <p>Sarah said that while we had to accept we had ‘lost’ our campaign and that the development would very likely go ahead as proposed, during construction there would be scope for substantial scrutiny for which she was now pulling together some advice. Issues worth considering were party-wall permissions, rights of light and over-sailing rights over neighbouring land. Sarah would be happy to look at all the issues which might affect neighbours and to be the point of contact for them.</p> <p>The meeting thanked Sarah very much for taking the lead on this campaign.</p>	SR
5	<p>Neighbourhood Plan update</p>	

	<p>Carol Middleton reported that since the 19 October 2016 MCC Executive decision on the boundary for the proposed Castlefield Neighbourhood Plan (NP), the Forum Committee had considered the issue of whether or not to continue preparing a NP on a number of occasions and was still recommending to the Forum that we should no longer do so. This was because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was clear that Sir Richard Leese and other Council Officers saw little point in NPs, considering they raised unrealisable and unrealistic expectations and complicated the planning process • the small area agreed by the Executive included no development sites except for 2 - 4 Chester Road and Plot G for which planning applications had already been decided • the Forum had limited people-power with now only 8 Committee members compared to 11 last year • the 'Spirit of Place' study involving the National Trust might carry as much weight as an NP in influencing the future of the area and would cover the whole of Castlefield and not just the much smaller NP area • exclusion of the St John's gardens area, Deansgate Quay and other areas from the NP meant the Forum would be covering both a NP area and a non-NP area. <p>Nexus, the planning consultants working for Castlefield Estates on the Chester Road proposals, had provided a summary and timeline for preparing a NP, as requested at the last meeting, but this had reached the Forum too late to circulate prior to this meeting.</p> <p>After discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Forum would 'park' preparation of an NP and that the MCC Planning Officers and Sir Richard Leese should be informed of this.</p>	IC
6	<p>Spirit of Place (SoP) Calum McGowan reported that findings of the March workshops (one for businesses, one for residents), collated by the National Trust and discussed by the SoP Action Group, had led to a first draft SoP statement on which the Action Group had commented. The next stage will be a second draft to go out for comment to all Workshops attendees. A final draft would be available in time for wider consultation at our Castlefield Food Festival stall on 11 to 14 May.</p> <p>As well as the SoP statement, other background material or guidelines would be available. Together these might contribute to a new Forum Action Plan or new priorities for the existing Plan.</p> <p>Jacqui Lindley new in post at Museum of Science & Industry, said she would very much like to become involved in this project.</p>	CMcG
7	<p>Manchester Homelessness Charter Beth Rose Hopper reported that plans for Barca to be a collection point for items donated to homelessness charities had been thwarted by Barca closing for</p>	

	<p>refurbishment almost as soon as this had been agreed. She was meeting Harry Slater of Barca next week. In the meantime she had posted this link on Facebook https://streetsupport.net/give-help/help/ listing the help/donations/support currently needed by the agencies and organisations involved with Manchester Homelessness Charter. This would be circulated to our database.</p>	<p>BH</p> <p>IC</p>
8	<p>Police update</p> <p>Mark Semple reported that the City Centre Police Team now had a new shift pattern which would provide more overlap between officers. One crime in every 50 reported to GMP in the city centre was in Castlefield, although of course not all crime does get reported. Currently, violent crime was really low compared to last year.</p> <p>The Police were liaising with the Canal & River Trust to evict the barge moored in the canal arm by Pioneer Quay.</p> <p>Mark would be happy for all members of his Team to be contacted by Forum members directly to their individual email addresses or mobile numbers – he would liaise with Ian Christie about circulation of relevant information.</p> <p>Tom Brothwell asked if it would be possible for the Police to circulate some Top Tips on crime prevention and reporting (e.g. when to use 101 and when 999). Mark said he would be happy to do this although on the 101/999 issue this was always a 'judgement call' and he hoped we would understand that the Police would not be willing to be categorical about which should be used when.</p>	<p>MS/IC</p> <p>MS</p>
9	<p>Action Group report backs</p> <p>Written reports on Group activities since January had been previously circulated. Carol Middleton added that the Events, Marketing & Media Action Group now had a new Convenor, Andy Parkinson. The Group was preparing for the Castlefield Food Festival 11 – 14 May where the Forum would have a stall promoting the Forum, the Spirit of Place study and the Roman Gardens Timeline. Volunteers would be needed to staff the stall for 2 hour slots and our database would be circulated about this soon.</p>	
10	<p>Ward Councillor report backs</p> <p>Cllr Joan Davies reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she was talking to the MCC Events Team to try to ensure that the few problems that occurred last year during Sounds of the City did not re-occur this year • the Council had resolved on a new drive to make the city centre cleaner and more attractive by reducing litter, anti-social behaviour, begging & homelessness. This was to be achieved by making the City Centre Manager a more senior post, providing extra funds, purchasing a new machine 	

	<p>specifically designed to pick up cigarette ends and creating a new City Centre Accountability Board - which Joan would be attending on a monthly basis - to keep this work under review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joan was also concerned at the dirty graffiti-covered state of many city litter bins and happy for Forum members to contact her about them, preferably with photos and details of the location, at cldr.j.davies@manchester.gov.uk she wondered if the arrival of 400 mopeds in the area for the St George's Day parade had caused anyone any problems? No one had any problems to report and Tom Brothwell said he thought they had all been very courteous, 	
<p>11</p>	<p>Environmental issues</p> <p>Kenworthy area & Arena repairs Carol Middleton reported on a meeting she, Cllr Joan Davies & Ian Christie had had with Ruth Billingham and other staff from the MCC Neighbourhood & Public Realm Teams about the repairs that were being or were to be carried out (including lighting, re-surfacing, and cleaning the canopy and repairs to or replacement of parts of the canopy etc).</p> <p>The meeting learnt that no safety inspections of the canopy had been carried out since it had been built, that electrical tests had not been carried out since 1992, that the electricians were in need of urgent attention and that, as a result, costs had escalated.</p> <p>In relation to the Kenworthy duck stones area, the meeting had been told there was no truth in the rumour that there was a plan to tarmac it. In the short-term (i.e. before upcoming events this summer), the plan was to put down a temporary gravel-type surface which would be removable without damage to the stones. In the long-term, one possible surface being considered was a cleanable resin material, but a final decision would not be made without further consultation with the Forum.</p> <p>Bridgewater Canal Co & Peel public realm A report of the main items coming out of the recent walkabout Ian Christie & Carol Middleton had had with Peter Parkinson & Chris Wareing from Peel/Bridgewater Canal Company had been previously circulated. Ian said that the headlines were that Merchants Bridge was to be cleaned between October & December this year, probably November, and that the legal terms between Jacobs Engineers & Peel Holdings needed for installing towpath lighting from Merchants Bridge to Edgerton Street had nearly been agreed.</p>	
<p>12</p>	<p>Any other Business</p> <p>Roads & construction traffic Forum member Rosie Aikman had emailed to express concern about damage to roads and drains in the Owen Street area, presumably being caused by heavy</p>	

	construction traffic for the new development. She was concerned about who would pay for repair work and if the road surfaces might completely fail before construction work in this area is completed. Agreed: Ian Christie to forward the email to Cllr Joan Davies who will look into the matter.	IC/JD
13	Date of next meeting 7pm Monday 24 July (guest speaker Lucy Powell, MP had agreed to attend prior to the announcement of a General Election).	