

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

In attendance:

Andrew Morland, Resident,
Carol Middleton, Resident (Chair)
Cat Goodall, Resident
Debbie Hubbard, Resident
Ellie Lyons, Nation Trust
Helen Wewiora, Castlefield Gallery
Jacqui Lindley, MOSI
James Bowers, Resident
Jennifer Dean, Castlefield Gallery
Jo Caldwell, National Trust
Joan Davies, City Centre Ward Councillor
Jon Stopp, Friends of Rochdale 9 Community Group
Keith Bunt, Resident
Laura Tomas, Resident
Liam Crichlow, City Centre Regeneration, Manchester City Council
Linda Macaulay, Resident
Louise Pullan, Resident
Marcus Johns, Resident
Mark Hubbard, Resident
Nick Shakibai, Resident
PC Bradley, GMP
PC Matt Hilton, GMP
PC Paul Egan, GMP
PC Rob Drew, GMP
Patrick Hanfling, Neighbourhoods, Manchester City Council
Pete Wherry, Resident
Rachel Mutters, Resident
Rosemary Bull, Resident
Shelley Lansbury, City Centre Ward Councillor
Stephen Broadhead, Inland Waterways Association
Theresa Darran, Resident
Tom Brothwell, Resident
Tom Dixon, Resident
Vicky McCarrick, Resident
Victoria Bradford-Keegan, National Trust
Vince Lee, Resident
William Jeavons, Resident
Xi Wang, Resident

Apologies:

Alexandra Barker, Castlefield Gallery
Ken & Sandy Brown, Resident
Lee Burkitt, Revolution Property Management
Ian Christie, Resident (Secretary)
David Greenall, Resident

Beth Rose Hopper, Resident
 Roy Jackson, Resident
 Stephen Lake, Resident
 Diane Lewis, Resident
 Sheralee Lockhart, MSI
 Jeremy Shine, Resident

1	<p>Welcome and Introductions Carol Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.</p> <p>Carol gave a special welcome to Lucy Powell MP, and National Trust Representatives for joining us.</p> <p>These Minutes followed the Agenda Order.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the last meeting 24 April 2017 These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.</p>	
3	<p>Lucy Powell MP Lucy gave an introduction to the room, before taking questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This covered why she has come to visit, her focus on keeping in touch with communities, and wanting to hear questions and opinions from the room. • She outlined her role, where she encompasses local and individual 1-1 audiences, and then her national role in the House of Commons. • Briefly outlines career so far, to this point. • Explains links to local councillors, who were present, and explained upcoming boundary changes that would affect Manchester and Castlefield. Castlefield will become part of the “Deansgate” ward, leaving Manchester residents from the north of the city part of a new “Piccadilly” Ward. • Explains past involvements with the Forum with regards to planning consultation at 2 – 4 Chester Road. Also awareness of other City Centre development objections received, including MSI and ‘Neville Towers’. • Referred to recent safety concerns with Fire regulations in large residential blocks. Referring to the Grenfell Tower tragedy. Discussed concerns from residents and local council. • In conversation with boaters to look at moorings and canal areas of Manchester after concerns raised. Mentioned more specifically Ancoats. • Finished introduction to explain that her constituency covers approximately 90,000 people, is the 3rd biggest by population in the country, but also the country’s most deprived ward. <p>Carol opened floor to ask questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Broadhead asked about Manchester’s Underground Canals, stating the argument for re-opening the underground canal network, explaining costings for reopening, and potential sources for income to do this. Lucy agreed that in principle it is a good idea, and heritage for Manchester is very important. She expressed concerns with budget and development restrictions. • Rachel Shaw asked for Lucy’s opinion on the new ‘MoBike’ scheme adopted by Manchester, its sustainability and current progress. Lucy replied, by congratulating the scheme and giving it her backing, but 	JD

said it was a shame about recent thefts and vandalism, probably owing to the 'Indestructible' advertisements given by promoters. Working with Police, but mentioned GPS systems on bikes didn't appear to work, and therefore scheme may need a rethink.

- Louise Pullan raised concerns about contacting local planning departments, the lack of correspondence and responses to queries regarding planning meetings on local developments.

Lucy firstly mentioned how important it is to raise concerns over planning and having a voice in these issues. She passed to Joan Davies for further comment.

Joan mentioned that in Hulme, generally, if requested, she should have been informed of hearing, but didn't have specifics on meeting Louise mentioned. Joan pointed out that planners will not enter dialog about developments, and they are a neutral body. Joan offered help in resolving issues, and found date and agenda for said meeting.

- Tom Dixon asked for Lucy's thoughts on the 'Northern Powerhouse' idea pushed by the previous government.

Lucy said that although she did not agree with George Osbourne's original vision for the scheme, seeing it as a marketing ploy, she agrees that it has on the whole helped in 'selling' Manchester. The Manchester local economy is doing well, with more flights to/from Manchester Airport, more inward investment and construction. She hopes that now with devolution powers, and Andy Burnham as new Greater Manchester Mayor in place, that the city can gather even further pace.

- Rachel Muttters asked about Manchester's homeless population, an issue that is causing concerns for residents.

Lucy responded by saying that it is the single biggest problem facing the city, and she receives the most communication surrounding this. She has been working hard with Ian Hopkins, Manchester Police Chief, to combat this issue, and talked of the 'Spice epidemic' currently facing the city, although appreciated that homelessness is a complex issue. She said the later Police Update would shed more light from a community level, but made note to the Manchester Homeless Charter, actioned by Cllr Beth Knowles, that now has a 6 strong dedicated team in the city tackling this issue.

- William Jeavons asked for Lucy's view on Development in the city, and specifically how public space is managed with private landowners, and attitudes to open space and disabled access.

Lucy agreed with the fact that in recent years, 'quick development' has moved too fast, and not addressed these issues. She admitted there had been planning mistakes, and lessons learnt in the council. With past development, it is more of a challenge to enforce. But looking ahead to concept phase on new development, the council is trying to introduce more control. She noted specifically the Spinningfields Development, for that was very early and would have been done differently if done again. Mainly in introducing more green space in planning.

- Cat Goodall raised concerns with planning. And the ongoing developments around the city, which appeared to show planners having a lack of strength to say no to developers. She commented on the massive increase in 1 bed apartments, which went against the 'life' vision for Manchester as a place for families.

	<p>Lucy talked about the demands on developers, and, without wanting to make the discussion party political, pointed to the loosening of development restrictions. She said she would like the council to be stronger and take a tougher approach to planning. She believes in trying to make the city more family friendly, and specifically mentioned two new schools that would serve Castlefield; Dean Trust for primary, and a new secondary to be built in Hulme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vince Lee spoke specifically on lack of social rented accommodation. Lucy talked about the changes to the benefits system, that was now putting a massive strain on accommodation. She spoke of the need for more transitional housing and how she was looking to support this where possible • Rosemary Bull talked about Fire Safety following the Grenfell Tower tragedy. She said that she lived in a high rise block, and had no information regarding fire management. Lucy said the privately owned blocks in the city were more problematic with regard to fire safety than council ones. It is not always easy to get information from managing agents noting the massive difference in private vs social management. She said the Fire Service will be carrying out an inspection of every block in Manchester, but this will take 2 years to complete. Rosemary replied to say the concerns are great, and will there be changes in legislation? Lucy agreed that laws need to be looked at in the wake of Grenfell, making organisations and fire safety checking more transparent in both social and private sectors. If there were specific concerns about a particular block, to please email her directly. <p>Carol thanked Lucy and offered for her to stay for the remainder of the meeting if she wished.</p>	
4	<p>Castlefield Spirit of Place project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo Caldwell from the Nation Trust, opened this section by thanking the Forum for the invitation to speak, and wished to shed some light on the National Trust's involvement in Castlefield. She started by covering the Trust's charitable purpose, to safeguard places of national interest and historical purpose, to champion also urban environments, and places where the trust has no property itself. Although due to a recent change in the trust's approach, they were looking to work specifically with Manchester after the successful involvement in working up Spirit of Place at Heaton Park. The Trust recognised that Castlefield played a hugely important historical role in Manchester, but also the UK, and was facing issues, such as planning, that the Trust was maybe able to help with. She explained that the 'Spirit of Place' is a tool used quite widely already at the Trust, but never before used in an urban environment. It allows them to engage the community on what makes a place unique, distinctive and cherished and to work out how this can be preserved. • Ellie Lyons continued by talking about the process involved: Pre-preparation opinion gathering, including a 'statement of significance' from NT curators and local experts. An online survey posted on the Castlefield website that asked for feedback on Castlefield, and also the 	

	<p>research of existing social streams, such as TripAdvisor, Twitter and Instagram.</p> <p>Stakeholder workshops involving City Council Officers, Museum of Science & Industry, local business owners, local residents and Forum members were carried out to try and piece together Castlefield's 'Spirit of Place' (Document passed around – please see attached).</p> <p>An audit was carried out using NT guidelines, on different key areas, such as heritage and characteristics, and Castlefield was rated Red/Amber/Green to see where areas of improvement were needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victoria Bradford-Keegan continued, by saying that from the audit, they were able to highlight 4 challenges and 3 opportunities that need to be concentrated on to aid Castlefield move more towards its SoP vision in an action plan. (Please see separate attached document) <p>Victoria detailed the 7 areas from this document.</p> <p>The next steps are therefore to complete a full action plan with the Castlefield Forum, look at priorities, timescales and then work with the Forum to implement any proposals.</p> <p>Victoria then opened up the room for questions or feedback. There were no questions, but the group generally agreed that it was a good thing for Castlefield and gave its continued support.</p> <p>Rosemary Bull commented that to make much impact on future development, it may be too late as the majority has happened in Castlefield already.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steven Lindsay asked Victoria if she thought it would actually make a difference. Victoria responded, but saying she hoped it would, otherwise it wouldn't be undertaken, but this would be a soft influence generally, supporting heritage of the area. Tom Brothwell agreed with the proposed plan, and supported the 'telling of a story' of Castlefield. Rachel Mutters commented that she also backed the implementation, as it also raised awareness for the area and was good PR. Jon Stopp commented that working with areas to understand how or why an area works is often hard to quantify. He encouraged the Forum to carry on with their work, in his experience, it is a really powerful mechanism. <p>Jo Caldwell responded by talking about the SoP creating a community focused strapline or statement, not from a marketing person, and therefore taking feelings into account and create a more powerful voice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patrick Hanfling welcomed this approach and also commented that the MCC Neighbourhood Officer had been replaced, and advised that Tom Collins was the Officer to contact in future. Debbie Hubbard commented that publicising the outcome was key to the success of the project. <p>All agreed, and Carol said there were various streams being looked at, including a video project with the help of Calum McGowan and Auto Trader. This would be included in the upcoming Action Plan.</p>	
5	<p>Police update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Matt Hilton started the GMP update, by discussing the continuing issues with homelessness in the area, and some of the ways the issue is being tackled. <p>Cat Goodall was concerned why personal details of individuals were being raised in the Forum, and didn't believe it to be of Forum concern.</p>	

	<p>Stephen Lindsey suggested there was no simple answer, and that there was no judging involved.</p> <p>Rachel Mutters suggested it was a concern for local residents, and specifically requested information on the issue around the Quay Street/Opera House area.</p> <p>PC Matt Hilton continued that its main action was ‘Support and Engagement’ with a new team in the city engaging actively with homeless persons to understand issues they face, rather than going down the line of prosecution. He did point out that Castlefield, generally, has a lower homelessness community than other areas of the city.</p> <p>There is a fine line between support and engagement and prosecution in some instances, and it’s very difficult to find a balance with such a complex issue.</p> <p>Rachel Mutters said that it should not all be down to the GMP, and that she could not see any progress being made with the ‘Homelessness Charter’.</p> <p>A question was raised on who to contact with concerns.</p> <p>The names of PC Yates and PC Fisher were given as key contacts for anyone concerned with this issue from a policing position.</p> <p>There is also a group called ‘Street Support’ which has considerable support from Forum members Vince Lee and Cat Goodall which is an action group aimed at prevention and support for homelessness in Manchester.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Hilton concluded by commenting on incidents of thefts in the area being reduced, hopefully due to more neighbourhood policing. • There were no questions from the Forum for the GMP. 	
6	<p>Action Group Report Backs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol asked if there were any specific questions arising from the circulated Action Group Written Reports. • With reference to the ‘Review of Forum Organisation Structure’, Carol explained that they have been advised by the auditors to adopt a more formal structure and further advice from MACC was to become an Charitable Incorporated Association. Any action would need to be approved at a Special General Meeting and would follow a Charities Commission model constitution. <p>Debbie Hubbard asked if there would need to be additional member with this new structure.</p> <p>Carol replied by saying that there would need to be Trustees appointed, but would envisage current Committee members to become Trustees, but said that anyone would be welcome to put themselves forward. Carol said she would send out details of this in due course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regard the Gardening report back, Carol explained that we had entered ‘Its Your Neighbourhood’ part of ‘RHS in Bloom’ once again. Judging due to take place on 4th August. There is a gardening day taking place in Castlefield on the 3rd August where Olliers Solicitors and Auto Trader will be offering staff to help the Gardening Action Group. 	CM
7	<p>Ward Councillor Report Backs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Joan Davies started by touching again on the issues raised with regard to homelessness in the city. She suggested that recent work in the Piccadilly area may have increased the problem in the south of the city, but said this was an ongoing priority. • Noise issues – Joan said that generally, city centre residents were very tolerant to noise, but she had received some recent complaints. 	

	<p>This has been generally around the ‘Ladyboy’s of Bangkok’ performances close to residential areas. She suggested the ‘Sounds of the City’ performances had been more controlled and noise management had paid off.</p> <p>A question was received regarding construction noise – primarily at the 2-4 Chester Road development and working out of hours. Joan said there were guidelines for development noise and any complaints out of this time should be reported, no matter how small to build a record.</p> <p>Noise from Network Rail was also raised as a concern. Ongoing work into the night was disturbing residents. Joan stated that Network Rail guidelines were slightly different in hours of use, but Network Rail are required to give notice of works.</p> <p>‘Sounds of the City’ disturbances were raised, but focusing on the ‘set-up’ and ‘clear down’ of the site rather than the actual performance noise, due primarily to deliveries and operation equipment. Carol said that it had been agreed in the Events, Marketing and Media action group that Andy Parkinson would be circulating a survey soon for feedback on the ‘Sounds of the City’ events and wished for an constructive comments to be added.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boy Racers – This was still a problem, Joan stated, but because of the type of issue, very hard to combat without details of cars/plates and time logs. • New Art Centre ‘The Factory’ now has a plan for Coach Parking, Joan explained. This will not be sited near residential areas and will comply with a wider ‘Transport Strategy’ for the site. • Joan commented that the ‘Neville Development’ has gone back to planning with updates to design, as suggested residents should go to the planning website to take a look at proposals and comment. • Theresa Darran asked Joan about the Transport Strategy, siting concerns with congestion in the city centre. <p>Joan responded by saying different options were being looked into, some schemes that are piloted in other cities. The congestion charge that was voted out but public consensus was mentioned, and other options now need to be considered.</p> <p>Rachel Mutters suggested that the redesigning of traffic flow on Oxford Road had been successful in her eyes, and wished to see this replicated around the city, such as on Deansgate.</p>	
8	<p>2-4 Chester Road Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton said there was little to report back on the development with regard to updates. • The Salford University undertook an archaeological dig, prior to initial construction but there was nothing of note to stop the construction; although some items of interest found. • The university will do a presentation on their findings to the Forum in due course. 	
9	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary Bull asked if there was an update on ‘Plot G’. <p>Liam Crichlow said he would look into this and report back findings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Hanfling raised the consultation taking place around the ‘Factory Development’ on the 4th August, due to be attended by Cllr Davies, Carol Middleton, Ian Christie and Tom Dixon. • Vince Lee raised concerns over the condition of the cobbles around the Potato Wharf area that have been disturbed due to the ongoing work on 	LC JD

	the Ordsall Chord. Joan Davies suggested Vince contact her directly and she will look into this issue for him.	
10	Next Meeting The next meeting will be a Special General Meeting and will take place on 25 th September 2017. Location and time to be circulated in due course.	