

Minutes of meeting held at
7pm Monday 25 September 2017
Merchant Room, Dukes 92, Castlefield

In attendance:

Beth Rose Hopper, Resident
Carol Middleton, Resident (Chair)
Claire Venables, Resident
Debbie Hubbard, Resident
Emma Lindblom, Manchester School of Architecture
Hilary Sayers, MCC
Itziar Vinagre, Resident
Jacqui Lindley, MOSI
Joan Davies, City Centre Ward Councillor
Keith Bousfield, Resident
Mark Hubbard, Resident
Matthew Sutton, Resident
Patrick Hanfling, MCC
PC Matt Hilton
PCSO Zoe ?
Rachel Mutters, Resident
Serpil Lindsay, Resident
Stephen Broadhead, Inland Waterways Association
Steven Lindsay, Resident
Vicky McCarrick, Resident

Apologies:

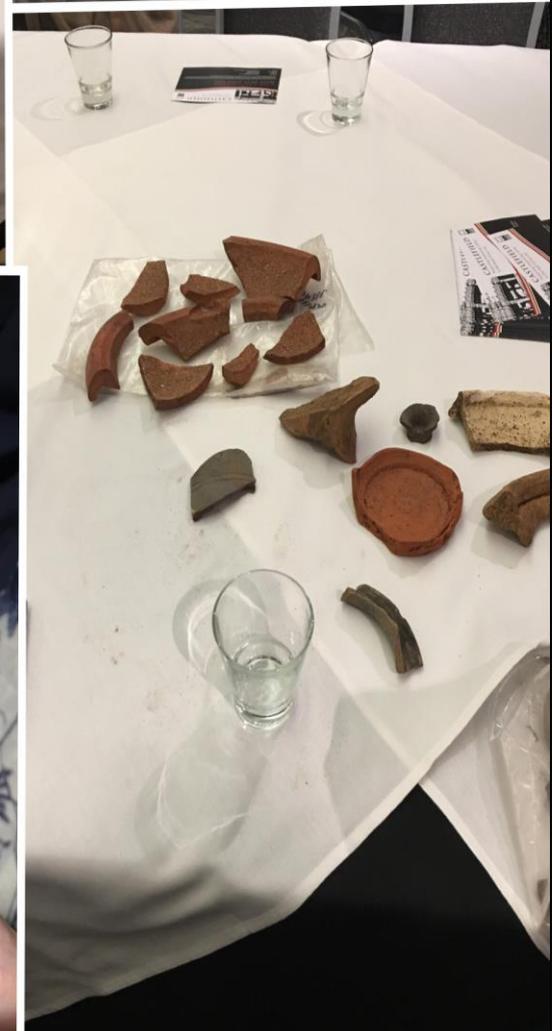
Ian Christie, Resident (Secretary)
Calum McGowan, Resident (Vice Chair)
Sarah Ramsbottom, Castlefield Estates
Catherine Hay, Saul Hay Gallery
James Bowers, Resident
Jeremy Shine, Resident
Alexandra Barker, Resident
William Jeavons, Resident
Tom Dixon, Resident
Harry Slater, Barca

1	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carol Middleton welcomed everyone to the meeting and everyone introduced themselves.• Carol explained that the planned SGM (re: charitable status) should be deferred to a later point as not enough people were present to form quorate. As representatives from GMP (PC Mark and PCSO Amy) were already in attendance we will proceed immediately to their crime update so they did not have to stay longer than necessary.	
2	Minutes of the last meeting 24 July 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• These were agreed as an accurate record. There were no matters arising.	

<p>3</p>	<p>GMP Crime update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PC Hilton stated that there had been some recent burglaries in the City Gate building. Items had been stolen from balconies as well as vehicle theft. He explained that the police were of the opinion that these crimes were carried out by the same individual. This person was arrested during the second week of September and was now being held on remand. • Individuals who have recently been rough sleeping/camping in the Roman Gardens have now been rehoused. • Rachel Mutters articulated her concerns about a rough sleeper who she regularly sees outside the Direct Line building on Quay Street. PC Hilton explained that this gentleman is known to the police and other agencies but does not wish to engage with them for support. • Claire Venables voiced concerns regarding the canal path towards Old Trafford (between Ellesmere Street and Pomona Island) and explained that the general environment was in need of tidying up due to rubbish and drug paraphernalia. PC Hilton explained that he does not cover this area but will liaise with the policing team that do. • On Sunday 1st October, there will be two demonstrations taking place in the city centre (to coincide with the Conservative Party Conference). The demonstration being organised by The People’s Assembly will begin in the arena and Kenworthy areas and set off from Liverpool Road. The police will be in attendance throughout.
<p>4</p>	<p>Emma Lindblom – Manchester School of Architecture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emma introduced herself and explained that she is a final year architecture student. Her class (20 students) have been asked to carry out a project that explores the use and potential use of public land in Castlefield. Emma explained that she is interested in urban politics and was keen to learn about the history of Castlefield as well as vision and ideas going forward. She is interested in hearing the thoughts and opinions of residents and asked anyone who is interested to get in touch with her. • Patrick Hanfling from MCC offered to get in touch with Emma as he felt there was a lot of relevant information he could provide her with.
<p>5</p>	<p>Action Group Updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton asked if there were any questions regarding the various action group updates that had been made available to Forum members ahead of the meeting. There were no questions. • Carol Middleton then asked Beth Hopper to briefly provide a gardening update. • Beth Hopper told the group that the apple trees provided by MCC, which have been planted next to the Visitor’s Centre have produced their first fruit. Beth had brought the first apple with her to show the group. • Beth then explained that the Forum had entered the RHS North West In Bloom It’s Your Neighbourhood competition. Groups of volunteers from Olliers Solicitors and Auto Trader along with Forum members spent time getting the garden areas ready for judging. Beth thanked all who helped along with Barca and Duke’s 92 who provided refreshments. • Lastly Beth informed the Forum that 2 of the 3 new bay laurel trees in The Granary have disappeared. Beth and Carol will follow this up.

<p>6</p>	<p>Castlefield Spirit of Place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton discussed the ongoing project with the National Trust’s Spirit of Place initiative. Carol explained that although the NT have never worked on an SoP project in an urban setting, they were of the opinion that it would be a useful tool in terms of supporting/opposing development, applying for funding and future initiatives. • Patrick Hanfling offered to support any actions (in terms of using the SoP statement) in the future.
<p>7</p>	<p>Environmental Issues</p> <p>Play Area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Itziar Vinagre opened by explaining that she felt there was a need for a children’s play area within Castlefield. Castlefield is an urban neighbourhood and a play area would benefit residents and businesses alike. Itziar wanted to canvas opinion to see if other Forum members shared her thoughts and whether anyone would like to work with her on this. • Rachel Mutters asked whether this would be something the NT may have an opinion on. • Jacqui Lindley stated that she felt that this may be something that the museum could get involved with, given their proximity to local redevelopment areas. Jacqui also queried the possibility that there may be Section 106 funding available for the project, however did caution that expectations should be realistic. • Matthew Sutton asked if a play area has been or could be a ‘condition of planning approval’. • Patrick Hanfling offered to look into this from MCC’s perspective. • Hilary Sawyers commented that Section 106 payments tend to be ring-fenced. • Joan Davies stated that there had been a previous application for a play area (around 10 years ago) but that it not been supported by local residents. Joan cited potential noise issues and antisocial behaviour as the main reasons behind this lack of interest. • Patrick Hanfling and Jacqui Lindley both agreed to share contact info with Itziar. <p>Environmental Walk Around.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton went on a walk around Castlefield with Tom Collins who is a new member of staff at MCC Neighbourhoods (he works with Patrick). Staff from the Castlefield Gallery also attended. Areas of concern were highlighted. • Patrick Hanfling commented that all residents are now able to create a MCC account which they can use to submit concerns or complaints regarding the environment. <p>Laing O’Rourke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton and Joan Davies accompanied a staff member from Laing O Rourke

	<p>around Castlefield. Laing O 'Rourke will be heading the development of The Factory (to the rear of MOSI/Water Street). Carol is hopeful that there will be opportunities for the Forum to work with Laing O'Rourke in terms of their CSR initiatives. As well as help with community and environmental issues, Carol suggested that they may be able to help with the Forum's website.</p> <p>Yellow Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton explained that Ian Christie has been in communication with the MCC regarding the recent painting of yellow lines in Castlefield. As Ian was not present at the meeting, Carol briefly outlined Ian's most recent communication with MCC. Ian plans to respond and will provide an update to Forum members when he has done so. 	
<p>8</p>	<p>Ian Miller - University of Salford</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Miller at the University Of Salford spoke to the Forum about the archaeological dig he and his team carried out at the 2 to 4 Chester Road site (ahead of redevelopment by Renaker). Ian started by telling group that there was originally a Georgian house located in this area. The house was built in 1793 and was used as a place of residence for the superintendent of the canal basin. The building had a street level front door on Chester Road. The archaeologists discovered that the house was built over three levels. The bottom level, when excavated, was found to have a stone wall underneath a cobbled path (this cobbled area is thought to be part of the original Roman Road). This would date the wall pre-1790. Ian suspects that this wall was immediately adjacent to the riverbank and separating the main Roman settlement from its quarrying site. The team also discovered two vaulted under crofts which were to the side of the wall. Their purpose is unknown however Ian suspects that these were used as strong rooms. Ian is of the opinion that this wall ran alongside the original path of the river Medlock. The team found many Roman artefacts including crockery. Ian brought along lots of these artefacts to show the Forum – some of which are thought to be around 2000 years old. (Picture below). 	



9	<p>Ward Councillor Update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joan Davies told the Forum that a planning application is going to be made to redevelop the Commercial Hotel on Liverpool Road into a boutique hotel. • Joan went on to say that MCC, GMP and 3rd sector agencies have been working together to tackle the rising issue of homelessness in the city centre. <i>(Joan did not arrive at the meeting until after GMP had given their own update and left).</i> Joan explained that efforts to engage with rough sleepers around Castlefield had been successful. Joan also told the Forum that 1000 new places for single people have been created. Joan thanked the Forum members for their continued balanced approach towards these issues. • Joan informed the Forum that the two demonstrations taking place on Sunday 1st October were, in the case of The People’s Assembly, to protest against austerity and the second larger demonstration on Oxford Road was to protest against leaving the EU (anti brexit). • Joan explained that she was conscious of the potential for noise or environmental issues arising as a result of the demonstration and invited any resident with concerns to contact her directly if this should occur (Joan has been given contact details for the Silver Command in charge on the day).
10	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no other issues raised.
11	<p>Close of meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol Middleton told the Forum that we will let everyone know via our mailing list and social media, when the next meeting will take place.