



Friends of Stretford Public Hall Board of Directors Update on Key Decisions February 2019

Ballroom transformation

Board were delighted to report that the work to the Underhall was almost complete including full decoration and flooring. Lighting to be installed shortly.

Board agreed that the final renovation work (Phase 3b Ballroom) would commence in June 2019. This would allow us to continue to open the hall for our events and activities whilst providing sufficient time to fully scope works and tender the contract. With the completion of Phase 3a, Board had gained valuable experience and learning and were now more confident and in a better position to complete Phase 3b.

Repairs to the roof would commence the following week. This would involve replacing the lead which was stolen last year with lead substitute materials so should avoid any future thefts. This was a substantial and unexpected cost which had not been budgeted for.

Finance / fundraising

Board received notification of match funding of £10k from Trafford Housing Trust which would release £97k funding from Viridor towards Phase 3b renovation. However, Board noted that due to contract variations on Phase 3a and unexpected costs around roof repairs, we anticipated a shortfall in funding. Board were confident that this could be raised from grant funding.

Board has also taken professional advice around options to register for VAT.

Events and activities

The Hall is now running its regular activities including Wellbeing Tuesdays and Creative Thursdays until April, with break for half-term. Due to the popularity of the life drawing classes we have reduced the number of concession tickets.

We have received feedback from users of Underhall and actions are being taken to resolve issues. We have revised our Bookings Policy and introduced new hire fees and are monitoring impact on our bookings and users.

Stretford Singers – last session on 13 February but will then be a break while Hannah goes on maternity leave for six weeks

Back to the Civic: Saturday 2nd February – Featuring Pablo, supported by Charlie Reader - proved successful with around 100 people attending

Community Cinema

- Family friendly edition on 3rd February: PG-My life as a courgette
- Adult cinema 23rd March – Arts based film

Half Term Activities

Family Dance class at 10am on 12th February

Poetry Workshop at 4.30pm-6pm with poet Cave Man.

Valentine's Day Craft workshop-Drop in from 10am-4pm

Other forthcoming events:

- World Wildlife Day: 3 March in collaboration with Stretford in Bloom.