

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

Ballroom transformation

We continue to experience delays in order to be able to submit a full planning application to the Council for the final renovation work (Phase 3b Ballroom) which means that work is unlikely to commence before August 2019 which may have an impact on our Autumn committed events.

Building and estates

Repairs to the roof have now been completed including installation of a new fall prevention system.

Our planning submission to extend our opening hours in order to attract a wider range of events and activities and increase our income is still being considered by the Council. We were disappointed to note that a petition had been raised to object to planning permission.

We also hit a snag with commencing work to renovate the lift.

Finance / fundraising

FoSPH is now VAT registered and charging VAT on our services. We will however be able to claim back VAT on expenditure including capital works and refurbishment.

Governance

We participated in a online diagnostic tool to review potential areas for improvement around our governance, management and finance etc and completed a board skills audit exercise.

We also agreed to improve our approach to risk management and monitoring.

Volunteers

We've made some good progress with improvements to volunteer induction and training. A number of training activities will take place w/c 4 June as part of National Volunteer week including first aid training. A volunteer social event is taking place on 8 June

Events and activities

We are currently at capacity for wellbeing activities at the Hall.

Wellbeing Tuesdays to run from 23rd April- 21st May

Kids art classes 24th April-22nd May.

Women's Histories: 10th-12th May Weekend-long festival of cultural activity, featuring film screenings, workshops and a range of arts, celebrating the history of women and social change in south Manchester. Generously funded by Film Hub North and delivered in partnership with the North West Film Archive (NWFA), MACFEST, the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, and the Stretford Arts Collective (SAC32).