

Friends of Stretford Public Hall Board of Directors

Update on Key Decisions July 2019

Ballroom transformation

We have now drafted an Invitation to Tender (ITT) to invite architects to bid as lead designer for the next stage of the renovation work (Phase 3b Ballroom). Work was unable to commence over the summer months and will now commence in spring 2020 allowing us to run autumn and Christmas events. The work will be carried out in phases as there are insufficient funds to undertake all the planned refurbishments in one go. We are currently applying for funding to meet the shortfall including from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF).

Building and estates

Renovations to the lift are due to start in the next couple of weeks.

The downstairs community room is currently being decorated and should shortly be available for hires.

Chorlton Blinds have been contracted to make the Ballroom curtains, which will help to minimise effects of noise and light from our events to local residents. We have taken on board feedback from our residents and have resubmitted our application for permission to extend our licensing hours and expect a decision by August.

In order to better manage our car park, we will be issuing new parking permits for regular car park users to display on their windscreens. As a gesture of goodwill we have offered parking permits to residents of Dorset St.

Stretford Public Hall is one of three 'hero spaces' which features in a new campaign by Locality and the Co-Op Fund. The campaign 'Endangered spaces' aims to support community spaces. Thanks to Lisa and Annoushka for appearing in the film! See <https://www.coop.co.uk/communities/endangered-spaces>

Finance / fundraising

We are now passing on VAT costs to tenants. We agreed to move our bank account from The Co-operative Bank to Santander to benefit from free banking and better functionality.

We are currently recruiting for a new p/t time post as part of our new funded project, **Culture Champions**. The post is a three-day per week position, based at the Hall but working across Trafford (and with some time at Limelight). Deadline for applications is Sunday 14th July.

Pocket Parks. We have a revised plan for the park which has now been circulated on social media for comments and feedback. We are now finalising the delivery programme, and will then be in a position to start contracting some of the landscaping work.

The local Community Payback Team will be working with us on the project, helping with some of the landscaping and preparatory work, as well as painting. The Team have already done some volunteering at the Hall, helping to cut back all of the shrubs in the Hall's car park.

Governance

Volunteers suggested ideas for the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 20 October to make this a more open community event with food and entertainment and attract more members and ensure quorum.

We also reported on the results of a recent Board skills audit and we identified gaps around communications, HR, change management. We are seeking nominations for new Board members including a new Treasurer.

Volunteers

We ran a successful week of activities to support our volunteers during Volunteers Week in June. 29 volunteers received a total of over 60 hours training, in Emergency First Aid, Fire Warden training, and Food Hygiene training. Volunteers also enjoyed a special Games Night and Social with food from Samir's restaurant, and we have ordered new volunteer t-shirts.

Events and activities

Wellbeing Tuesdays - Classes to take a break during August and recommence on 3 September.

Creative Thursdays

Textiles by hand running from 20 June- 25 July

Life Drawing session on sale for 18 July

Clay Tile workshop for kids planned on the 17 and 24 July instead of the usual kids club

Stretford Singers back last session on 17 July

Community Cinema: Ferris Bueller's Day off on 20 July

We continue to hire out rooms to various organisations and look forward to having the 'Library Room back in use.