

ALT VALLEY VOICE

Issue 1, July 2017

Community News from North East Liverpool

Future of site remains unclear

Croxteth residents are still calling for information on the development of the Stonebridge Cross site.

It has been earmarked for commercial warehousing redevelopment for several years, but residents' representatives say they have yet to be told the potentially huge environmental impact of more lorries and heavy goods traffic on an already congested area.

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WE NEED ANSWERS... Stakeholders' Group member Peter Lees at the Stonebridge Cross site

COMMUNITY HELPS SAVE SIXTH FORM

Sixth form provision will continue in North Liverpool after there was an agreement to save Fazakerley Sixth Form.

Concerns were raised in January of this year when proposals to close the school's sixth form provision were announced. This would have led to reduced opportunities for young people to study in their local area.

However, after a groundswell of concern from the community about the consequences for North Liverpool if the closure went ahead, an agreement was reached between Fazakerley High School, councillors, the director of Children's Services, Liverpool School Improvement Service, other secondary schools within the area and Alt Valley Community Trust.

This plan will retain the provision and create a unique delivery model which not

only ensures that post-16 provision is still available, but that it is actually improved and broadens the choice for students.

Assistant mayor and cabinet member for Schools & Education, Councillor Nick Small, said: "I'm pleased that Fazakerley's Sixth Form will not close. Many parents were rightly concerned about the impact this would have on progression routes for children and gaps in sixth form provision.

"This innovative collaborative model will give students more choice and will improve educational outcomes and opportunities for young people living in North Liverpool."

In this new model, young people will still be enrolled at Fazakerley sixth form but study courses at a range of educational establishments across the region depending on the courses that they choose to study.

Qualifications and vocational routes on offer at the Communiversity will include Construction, Childcare, Hair and Beauty, Health and Social Care, Hospitality & Catering, plus core subjects including Maths and English including Functional Skills, GCSE and A level.

Other A-Level subjects will be delivered at schools across North East Liverpool.

Principal of Alt Valley Communiversity Gill Mason stated: "Our delivery model at Alt Valley Communiversity has an individual focus on each learner with small group delivery and close employer involvement.

"We look forward with great anticipation when Fazakerley High @Alt Valley Communiversity 6th form delivery commences on Monday 4 September 2017."

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CONTROVERSIAL SITE... The land on Stonebridge Lane up for redevelopment

WHEN WILL WE KNOW THE PLAN FOR STONEBRIDGE?

Stonebridge Cross is yet another story of uncertainty and the community being kept in the dark with plans for development on the site and its impacts still unknown.

The site is designed to accommodate warehouses with planned development of the front of the site such as convenience stores and coffee shops.

However, despite repeated requests from the community, no impact assessment has been carried out on the traffic, pollution or environmental consequences of the proposals.

Local resident and member of the stakeholder group Peter Lees states: "I am extremely disappointed. We still are yet to find out what the impact will be.

"We have been pressing for a traffic impact statement and an environmental

impact statement which shows the cumulative impact of the proposals.

"At the last stakeholder meeting we were told they can't do this until they know what the options are on the site. I found that approach disappointing. It seems to be 'we don't really want to do it at the moment, here are some excuses'. To be honest I don't believe it."

The site was once rumoured to be earmarked for Amazon warehouses and more recently proposed for Everton FC's new football stadium with neither coming to fruition.

The joint developers responsible for the council owned land are Stoford and the Gallan Group.

The community is becoming frustrated by the uncertainty and lack

of details being provided and will not stand for proposals that will have a detrimental impact on the area.

Former councillor and Croxteth resident Martin Cummins said: "I don't think there's anywhere else in the city which faces the same environmental impact given the density of traffic that they're expecting on the site.

"We have been asking for the impact assessment for three or four years now, and we really need to get a grip of it as soon as possible."

Current local councillors must demand impact assessments for traffic, environment and pollution before any planning permission is approved so that local people understand the consequences and can help to shape the future of Stonebridge Cross.

Gems helping out with food and clothes for kids

As part of the Croxteth Consortium Tackling Poverty Project, Croxteth Gems will be distributing two items of school clothing for local families in need.

It will also be providing breakfast and lunch for 70 children from Monday to Friday during their summer play scheme as well as the promise of at least one trip for every young person with packed lunch, travel and

entrance paid for.

Jean Hannah said, "The summer holidays are a magical time for kids, but can be a nightmare for parents living with zero hour contracts, bedroom tax, benefit sanctions.

"They don't have free school meals, there are no school clothing vouchers anymore and kids expect their parents will take them out and do nice things.

"We want to let parents know that their kids can have a hot meal and that we help to provide some school clothing just to take the financial burden away."

The project has been supported financially by the local councillors, and the supermarket ALDI, which has been providing school uniforms on a weekly basis. Food poverty organisation FareShare, is providing food

that would otherwise be wasted for daily breakfasts and lunches, while the NHS Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group are funding trips and lunches. Liverpool Play Partnership, Can Cook and the West Derby Wastelands Charity are also supporting Gems to provide activities and free meals.

Croxteth Gems will be distributing items of school uniform at 3-6pm on 28 July.

ALLIANCE SAVED BY £200k GRANT

Norris Green Community Alliance has secured a further three years of funding, guaranteeing its role in the community and protecting the activities and support it provides.

The organisation's future had been unclear but has now been awarded £118,704 by Children in Need to run play schemes and after school clubs in Norris Green and Sparrowhall. Additionally, the Henry Smith charity has provided £81,000 towards the three year post of Community Development Officer in the area.

Denise Turner, the Community Development Officer for Norris Green said: "We were looking to develop some of the play and after school provision so it seemed ideal to put forward a joint package.

"I'm still a community development officer but part of that role is developing play and family opportunities in the area. The emphasis has changed slightly which I'm happy about. Now there are 10 hours of my job a week now where I can do play work."

Norris Green Community Alliance currently provides activities such as armchair exercises for older people, coffee mornings and luncheon clubs and organise community events. Additionally, it provides support to residents groups and community projects.

The organisation had recently come under financial pressure and needed support as it searched for funding but can now look forward.

Denise stated: "We had a three month bridge in our funding and our local councillors and Cobalt Housing Association helped us a lot. If we hadn't got that money we might not have been able to sustain the organisation.

"The funding is great news because it takes a bit of pressure off the other agencies that have supported us.

"Also, with our funding secured we won't need to apply for further funding which gives other groups and organisations a better chance at being successful and providing other activities and support. It's win-win!"

Our new paper is dedicated to covering your stories and being a voice for your areas

We are delighted to be launching our first edition of Alt Valley Voice!

Our newspaper aims to represent voices of grassroots community members, promoting and sharing news stories – good and bad – from the Alt Valley area of North East Liverpool.

We will be honest and transparent in our reporting and will be unapologetic in highlighting the issues and interests of communities we represent.

We need to know the stories that matter to you: from education and employment opportunities, to reporting anti-social behaviour.

However, while the local press seems to be obsessed with highlighting bad news, we want to celebrate the success stories of our area: from winners on the sports pitches and boxing rings to local people making exceptional contributions to their communities.

We will be publishing every two months and are searching for members of the community to contribute to our next edition.

If you would like to get involved writing or taking photos for Alt Valley Voice please contact callenkinney@altvalley.co.uk.

Likewise, please email if you have any comments, complaints or ideas for new stories.

Mickey and Minnie help out local autism charity



Hundreds of people showed up for a picnic in the park to increase awareness of autism. The event in Norris Green Park was organised by Autism in Motion, a group of three mums who provide activities for children on the autistic spectrum. There were information stalls, activities including fire engines, police, beat the goalie, bouncy castles, as well as performances from LEAP Dance & Gymnastics and Liverpool Signing Choir.

Families have a feast of fun

Families enjoyed the Big Saturday Fun Day in Croxteth Sports Centre and the Communiversity last month.

There were bouncy castles, face painting, a mini-football tournament, outdoor crafts, plus stalls promoting adult education courses and other local services.

Communiversity centre manager Tammy Burgess, said: "I want to thank everyone who came along and had such fun with us. We believe communities develop and grow when they promote the qualities and assets that they have and the Fun Day really emphasised that."



HALL OR NOTHING?... the future of Croxteth Hall is still uncertain despite major plans for a hotel submitted by Signature Living boss Lawrence Kenwright

WHAT IS GOING ON AT CROXTETH HALL?

The local community has been left in limbo by Liverpool City Council's silence over Croxteth Hall.

The search has been on since February to find a partner to run the Grade II listed stately home which has been in public ownership since 1972.

However, there has been virtual silence from the council and in the press over the proposals on offer, leaving the community to ask: "what is going on at Croxteth Hall?"

The building costs the council around £1 million per year to run which has been deemed unsustainable in this period of persistent cuts imposed from Westminster.

Bids were invited by the City Council for a partner to manage the hall and maintain public access but a decision has yet to be made despite Croxteth Councillor and mayoral lead for parks Peter Mitchell stating in February, that they were "very close

By CAILEN KINNEY

to securing a win-win situation."

One bid that has been recently presented to members of the community is that of hotel developer Signature Living in partnership with Alt Valley Community Trust (AVCT).

Signature owner Lawrence Kenwright presented his proposal at a community engagement meeting at the Communityiversity in Croxteth.

Signature Living hopes to reinvent Croxteth Hall as a hotel, developing the existing building.

Alt Valley Community Trust also aims to provide employment and training support for young people.

Kenwright said: "We take on old listed buildings, we don't mess with their DNA, and we give them a new reason to live again which doesn't pull on the public purse. If Croxteth Hall becomes a hotel, it remains

public. You can come in for free and have a walk round, stay for afternoon tea or use the spas and you can enjoy the gardens."

Moreover, he stated that Signature Living would reinvest one-third of profits made into the community. "We believe the hotel will bring in £1.5m a year, which means £500,000 will go back to the local community. Where that money goes will be decided by a charitable board."

While Kenwright will be pleased with the reception his proposals received at the meeting, there were concerns raised about the environmental impact from the increased traffic if the development went ahead. There were questions about whether it would make the hall less accessible to local people.

Nonetheless the community will welcome hearing some news about plans for the hall and will expect to hear more about the other proposals being considered in the near future.

RETURN OF THE MAC WITH £600K SKILLS FACELIFT



BOUNCING BACK... former offices in Dovecot MAC are being renovated as classrooms during the revamp, and will be in use from September

DOVECOT Multi Activity Centre is set to offer a range of skills and education courses to the local community thanks to a £600k revamp.

The centre which includes Dovecot Library, Lifestyles gym and Diddy Daycare nursery will get a huge facelift including the development of classrooms which will host adult education and skills classes.

The historic semi-circular building has been at the heart of Dovecot life since the estates were built in the 1930s.

In premises above the shopping precinct, there were 20 small offices which had been leased out by the city council to various organisations.

Now a National Lottery grant has paved the way for these smaller offices to be converted into six large classrooms and a room for tutors teaching on the range of courses to be offered at the MAC.

A large boardroom with a modern fitted

kitchen is the jewel in the renovation's crown. This room will be offered for hire to organisations who need a space to conduct meetings or training days.

It will be all change on ground floor of the MAC, with a substantial remodelling of the existing premises.

The library is to move to share space with computers and IT equipment while the popular cafe and social space will be extended and remodelled in the central space of the building.

Diddy Daycare nursery will also be improved in the revamp.

The developments mean that many of the courses that are offered at Communiiversity in Croxteth, will now also be available at Dovecot, including Teaching Assistance and Childcare.

Renovation work is expected to be completed by the middle of August though much of the centre's facilities are still open during this period.

Kickstart a career with new adult learning courses

September might be the right time to kickstart that new career you have always wanted or to develop skills you think you have always lacked.

That's because popular adult education courses run by Alt Valley Community Trust are returning in September.

They will run at Dovecot MAC, Communiiversity and Ellergreen Community Centre, which will each stay open late one night per week with multiple courses running and time for a chat over tea & coffee.

You can further your English or Maths skills, or have an introduction to Computing and IT, and there are also courses in Drama, Hairdressing, Driving Theory and a popular programme in Teaching Assistance.

Gill Mason, Principal of At Valley Communiiversity said, "What we have are flexible courses at flexible times, and at accessible venues across the area. "The courses are taught by industry experts giving their wealth of experience to students."

Lesley Baugh of Alt Valley Community Trust said the Teaching Assistance course has already helped people pursue a career in the profession.

She said: "We had a lady with a young child who really wanted to be a teaching assistant.

"We gave support with teaching and learning, and she went on to the course, as an introduction.

"Now she is doing a Level 2 qualification and helping out and volunteering in a local school."

See the education and training section of www.altvalley.co.uk for further details.

DRAMA GROUP COME TOGETHER TO MARK BEATLES MILESTONE



ON SONG... The drama group perform *Hey Jude*, written by Paula Currie, at council's celebration day at Aintree Racecourse. Tony and Annemarie Linder are pictured second right, and right

Communiversitv's Page to Stage drama group have vividly brought to life the story of one of Liverpool's most famous songs.

Led by Communiversitv's Love Acting creative director Paula Currie, the group took the Beatles classic 'Hey Jude' and used it to tell the story of an LGBTQ+ teenage girl on her journey to coming out.

The group performed the show to hundreds of people at Aintree Racecourse in June as part of the city council's celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' classic album Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band.

Written by Paula, the play saw Chloe Collins play Jude, a teenage girl dealing with the pressures of coming out and featured a number of Beatles songs.

The story emerged from Paula's research into contemporary Britain of the time, where she found that among the social changes that

were happening in 1967 when the album was released was the legalisation of homosexuality.

Paula said: "This is a positive coming out story and we decided to focus on a girl called Jude and the effects of coming out on her family and community

"We went to talk to people at YPAS (Young Person's Advisory Service) where they have a gay and transgender group. We talked to them and then sent them the script. The whole production all came together in two weeks."

Many of those involved had little or no experience of taking part in drama before joining the Communiversitv course.

Annemarie and Tony Linder gained rave reviews as Jude's mum and dad and have relished this new-found pursuit.

Tony said: "We are getting to an age where we want to do more stuff together. We are winding work down and the kids are

grown-up. Annemarie told me one day that she had signed us up for a drama course and we started the next day.

"I don't sing, I couldn't carry a tune in a bucket. When Paula heard us, she knew she needed help. It was hard work, but one of the most fun things we have done.

"We are an old married couple, and now thanks to Paula, we're typecast!"

Annemarie said: "We've had plenty of dramas in the house, but we'd never done any real drama before.

"The performance itself and the day were perfect. There were hundreds of people who came out to watch it. It's great for the self-confidence."

Paula said: "The drama group is intergenerational with young and not so young involved. It's about getting people together who might not normally do so and working together for a common purpose."

SUMMER WHAT'S ON GUIDE

● **TRIPLE C** is the charity that runs the community work of **St Christopher's Christ Church and The Church of the Good Shepherd** in Norris Green. All are welcome at the Christ Church Summer Party at the community centre, on Sedgemoor Road on Saturday 19th August between 12pm-2.30pm. We welcome old and new friends.

The summer play scheme for 5-11-year-olds will run between 10am-12pm at Leamington School weekday mornings from Monday 31st July to Friday 1st August. There will be loads of fun including sports, games, crafts, facepainting, singing, and dancing.

For more information contact Helen on 0151 474 1444 or to get involved as a volunteer, contact Emma on 07724 842522, email triplecemmahowarth@yahoo.co.uk, or visit our website at www.triplecliverpool.co.uk.

● **NORRIS GREEN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE** are local people running community activities. This summer holidays they will be running play schemes at a cost of £1 per child.

One will run at **AC Mitchell Church on Muirhead Avenue East, Norris Green.** (Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm from 31st July.)

Another will be at **Russell Community Rooms, 48 Sparrow Hall Road, Liverpool.** (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday 10-3pm, 24th-27th July; 7th-10th August; 14th-17th August.) (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10-3pm 31st July-4th August.)

The annual **Norris Green Community Carnival** will take place at **Scargreen Recreational Ground on Saturday 12th August 12pm-4.30pm.** There will be fun

with games, music, stalls and other exciting activities.

● **KINSHIP CARERS** provides support to those raising someone else's child, advocating on their behalf and providing peer support and activities. They also provide support to the child themselves. Their summer scheme runs from the 24th July-18th August with family days out to Walton Park, Warrington, Croxteth Park and New Brighton. They will also have outings to ice skating, crabbing at Crosby, strawberry picking, water sports, a climb up Moel Famau, Jungle park adventure and an activity course at Allerton Towers. For information call 0151 270 2108 or visit Ellergreen Community Centre, Ellergreen Road.

● **CROXTETH GEMS** host a playscheme for 5-12 year olds every day during the school holidays. The playscheme between 9.30am-2.30pm, provides free breakfast and free lunch for up to 70 children. In addition every young person will be guaranteed one trip away to either the Crocky trail, Welsh Mountain Zoo, the Ice Cream Farm or the Sandcastle Water Park with packed lunch, travel and entrance paid for. For more information phone 0151 547 2664.

● **PORCHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE** offers a wide range of activities and classes for older people. It is organising a trip to Bury Market on 26 August leaving at 10am and returning from at 4:30pm. The outing will cost £8.

From Thursday 27th July, for 10 weeks, there will be a Liverpool history class for £3 a session between 10.30am-12.30pm. Regular classes and activities like

craft class, drama group, pilates and yoga, card making class, computer class and much more continue over the summer. For more information call 0151 547 4455.

● **St Andrew's Network, My Clubmoor and Liverpool Mutual Homes (LMH)** are hosting their annual **Dog Show from 11am-3pm on Sunday 6th August at Walton Clubmoor Recreation Ground.**

Merseyside is still the worst place for dog attacks and to try and tackle this problem this dog show aims to improve awareness and to educate and encourage people to be a responsible dog owner.

The categories include most obedient dog, junior handler, best in show and more. There will be free health checks for dogs, live music, arts and crafts, climbing wall and free lunch. Dogs must be kept on a lead and children accompanied by an adult. For more information visit myclubmoor.co.uk.

● The **HEBDEN CHILDREN'S GROUP** is run by parents to provide activities and safe play for children of all ages within their community. Their summer play scheme runs at Church of the Good Shepherd every Wednesday from 26th July – 30th August from 1.30-3.30pm.

They welcome children and young people of any ages. Each Wednesday there will be fun activities such as arts and crafts, sports and cookery.

Additionally, a free lunch will be provided for everyone who attends. There will be a trip but this is yet to be confirmed.

Please check for updates on their Facebook page by searching **Hebden Childrens.**

SUMMER WHAT'S ON GUIDE

ALT VALLEY SPORT



ROAR TALENT... Croxteth Tigers provide a perfect environment for children to enjoy playing football

TIGERS ON THE BALL FOR YOUNG TALENTS

Croxteth Tigers are celebrating another successful year in their journey, providing football provision for young people in the local area.

In 2014, the local football team in Croxteth had folded with no teams or activities in the local area.

However, Clare Murray with the support of her husband Dave, decided to set up the Croxteth Tigers Junior Football Club and now have seven teams of different age groups and are making amazing progress.

Tigers coach Dominic Kenwright, who is also a scout for Liverpool Football Club, says, "The club has gone from strength to strength since 2014 thanks to the steps Dave and Clare Murray have taken.

"The obstacles they have overcome has been an achievement in itself.

"Creating club rules and policies and dealing with difficult parents or even children.

"The club is getting bigger every year and soon with its sponsors, Standard Chartered, and UEFA graded coaches, it will only progress even further offering stability and hobbies for not only local but outside children and parents as well."

Local sponsors fund kits and league fees meaning minimal costs for parents and more money for trips and awards.

With the support, qualifications and experience from Croxteth Tigers, Dominic also established DK Little Kickers academy which starts children as early as three-years-old on a pathway to football.

Tigers co-founder and coach Dave Murray states: "Our club purpose is

to provide a safe environment for our children to develop, grow and express themselves by providing the time to play football instead of walking around the streets.

"Our values are not only to develop local youth talent but to create a platform for our children to grow into respectable and hard working adults through grassroots football. The club exists for the children and their local communities."

Croxteth Tigers motto is "we never lose, we win or we learn" and there's much for others to learn from their great success.

If your child would be interested in joining Croxteth Tigers Youth Football Club you can email croxtethigers@yahoo.co.uk.

They will be kicking off the new season at the end of August.