

Denton Community Forum

Question	Answer
In 2025 £16.8 million was given to improve Denton. £3 million was earmarked for improvement to the Festival Hall and Town Hall. - Please could the committee say more about this funding and plans to spend it: - Where does the funding come from? - What plans are in place? (broadly - you can speak about strategy here) - What is the timescale for implementation? - How will the proposed developments benefit: pensioners, families, businesses on the main streets around Crownpoint, unemployed people, young people 18-25 not in employment, training or education? - What specifically will be made of the Festival Hall, which has been closed and unused for some years? - What specifically are the plans for sustainable travel in and around Denton? Will these sustainable travel improvements link up with other boroughs within Tameside?	- The £16.8 million funding was awarded to Tameside MBC (TMBC) under round 3 of the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The funding is to deliver the projects set out in the funding bid TMBC made to UK Gov in July 2022 in round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund. - The funding has been awarded by UK Government via the Department for Transport. - The funding is to support the delivery of public realm improvements to Denton town centre that will help facilitate pedestrian movement around the town centre to encourage increased footfall and dwell time. Additional projects include refurbishment work to Denton Town Hall and a programme of enabling works to Denton Festival Hall to support the disposal of the building. - The Memorandum of Understanding for the LUF monies states that the deadline for spend is March 2028, however, an extension to March 2029 can be requested. - The improvements to the public realm will create safer spaces for pedestrians of all ages in relation to moving around the town centre, creating shorter crossing points where possible, and works to Victoria Park are already underway, including the installation of new equipment. Designs for these spaces are still to be developed in detail but there is an opportunity

	to create spaces for outside seating and consider interventions to slow traffic creating a safer space for all. Support for unemployed and young people not in employment, education or training isn't a specific element of this project, however, support can be provided through Tameside's social value Themes, Outcomes and Measures (TOMs), which includes, among others, "Jobs: Promote Local Skills and Employment". f. Currently the end use for Festival Hall is unknown. TMBC have been engaging with social housing organisations to generate interest in redeveloping the building for residential. To date that exercise has not generated serious interest and so the opportunity is now being marketed to the wider community. The building is being advertised as suitable for residential led or mixed-use schemes. g. The purpose of the project is to support pedestrian and cycle movement around Denton town centre. Improvements to the public realm and the proposed cycle loop around the town centre has been planned to support this. However, there isn't sufficient funding from the LUF grant to cover all projects within the Denton Town Centre Public Realm Strategy & Masterplan. Additional funding may be needed to deliver certain elements. Regarding sustainable travel improvements linking other boroughs within Tameside, there are plans to improve the public realm to support active travel between Hyde and Denton and TfGM are delivering improvements to the Bee Network across GM.
--	--

Residents asked about businesses operating without planning permission out of the old Masons Arms pub on Stockport Road.	The concerns raised relate to the Mason Arms Public House. The Council can confirm that there is a live pending planning application for the Mason Arms Pub, 335 Stockport Road, M34 6AZ, under ref: 24/01101/FUL, where a decision is due to be determined shortly.
Residents requested an update on the Mayor's Challenge Fund and where this money was being spent.	During discussion of this question, it was proposed that an item on the Mayor's Challenge Fund be added to the agenda for a future meeting of the Community Forum to provide an update.
Regarding works taking place near the public realm area in Victoria Park, residents were under the pretence that it was just going to be on the former site of the baths, however it looks like the work is encroaching on the actual park. Please could the Council provide some clarity on this?	The concerns raised relate to the development of the new apartment block on the site of the former Denton Swimming Baths, Victoria Street. It has not been agreed by the Local Planning Authority that any works associated with the development should encroach onto Victoria Park. Should any works from the development encroach onto Victoria Park, and evidence can be provided support this, then this will need to be reported to the Council's Estates Team for further investigation.
Work has been completed on the cenotaph, however the gate to the gardens was still locked on Remembrance Day. Please could an explanation be given as to why and for a request that they are open for the next Remembrance Day?	In the past, the Memorial Garden gates were closed due to some anti-social behaviour in the area however a wreath was placed in the Gardens on Remembrance Sunday from the parade. The Council will ensure that the gates are open for Remembrance Day in future. The War Memorial in Victoria Park is accessible from approximately 0700 until dusk each day, the Park is locked at night in order to prevent anti-social behaviour.
Residents requested an update on Denton Train Station.	During discussion of this question, it was proposed that an item on Denton Train Station

	be added to the agenda for a future meeting of the Community Forum to provide an update.
--	--