

The end of Bramhall House?



As work on the brown field site which sits adjacent to the Fields gets a step closer to starting (more news on this as we get it), the first amendment to the outline planning permission originally granted to MAN has been submitted. As a result the following planning condition has been removed and is no longer required: 'No part of the development shall be occupied until a scheme for the restoration and re use of Bramhall House has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.'

MFFG wishes to express a sense of regret that this request has been submitted. However, MFFG committee members recognise that the house is not protected by any historic or conservation listing, does not contain any historic assets, and is in an extremely poor structural condition.

A report commissioned by MAN as part of the Planning Process describes that Bramhall House (pictured above) is '*not statutorily listed, not within a Conservation Area and does not contain any non-designated Heritage Assets*'.

You can access a full copy of this report and other documents relating to this planning application via the planning portal on the SMBC website <http://planning.stockport.gov.uk/PlanningData/AcolNetCGI.gov> and search for the application number DC/055493.

MFFG needs YOU!

As we enter this exciting new stage for the Fields, we are also very aware that as a Group we urgently need to build our capacity. As the saying goes 'many hands make light work' - and we would be very grateful of anyone who can spare us a couple of hours a month to help keep the momentum going with regards to our projects.

We really do need your support —we are pretty sure that what ever skills you have to offer, we can make very good use of them!

Is Bramhall House to be demolished?

It does seem that demolition could be on the cards, but the Council has stated that '**a prior approval application for the demolition of Bramhall House must be made to the Local Planning Authority**'. This application has recently been published on the Council's Planning Portal.

The criteria the Council has to work to means it would be very difficult to make a case for saving the house unless there was very considerable community support. To view or comment on this application, search for the application number DC/056110.

With the imminent release of a spatial plan for Mirlees Fields, MFFG is working very hard to try and maintain momentum with this plan and the numerous projects that will become part of it, as such, our mission statement remains our priority.

Our focus with regards to Bramhall House is to work with the new developers and the Council's Planning and Conservation Officers to form some sort of acknowledgment of the building and history of the site in situ. Options could include sympathetic landscaping, to recognise the fact the house had been there, with a notice board telling the story of its history. MFFG continues to build on our relationships with the local community, councillors and SMBC so that any future planning requests or initiatives which affect or are in close proximity to the fields will be highlighted to us.

Facts about Bramhall House

It was built in the 1830's for Charles Higginbotham, a wealthy landowner. Adjoining the house was a farm with its outbuildings, rented out to generations of farmers. The fields in front of the house were used for grazing cattle and growing animal feed. The most famous occupant of the house around 1911 was Charles Day, the founders and longstanding managing director of Mirlees, Bickerton & Day. Read more about the house here: <http://interactive.stockport.gov.uk/edrms/onlinemvm/getimage.asp?DocumentNumber=218097>



We urgently need some support in the following areas— can you help?

- Treasurer/accounts
- Communications
- Event Management
- Social media
- Fundraising ideas
- Website design/update

Woodsmoor History Project Update

Some 250 people attended the three Woodsmoor History Project Slideshows at the Davenport Lawn Tennis Club in Spring this year.

As well as proving to be a great community event, there was a hugely positive response to the project. Local residents provided lots of new information, photos and leads to follow up.

Here are some of our new 'finds', which we hope you will find interesting.



This is Tom Garner, photographed in the 1950's. He and his sister were the last of a long line of Garners who lived as tenant farmers at New House Farm.

When Tom died, Mirrlees sold the farmland and the New House Farm Estate was built.



Harry Moss, the last farmer at Pepper Street Farm, provided this image of a drawing of the farmhouse as it was in the 1960's.



At the top end of Mirrlees, by Barlow Lane South, there was the Jones Rose Nursery. This is a 1950's photo of the tower on the site where children would play.



The Davenport Cinema, a much remembered local landmark was built by a local resident's grandmother – it's a fascinating story. This drawing is from the opening programme dated June 1937.

We will be repeating the original slideshow again in October, and presenting a new show in November to include the material people have so kindly provided.

Everyone will be welcome to attend and we look forward to seeing you all and hearing your stories and experiences of life in Woodsmoor.

Sue Bailey

In other news

HAZEL GROVE CARNIVAL

MFFG were once again proud to be supporting Hazel Grove Carnival this year. The parade took place on Saturday 19th July and despite the monsoon like conditions we thought there was a great turn out! You may have spotted a few of our committee members walking the route wearing their 'MFFG' green high viz jackets.

MFFG are delighted to hear that funding has been secured for Stockport and Hazel Grove Carnivals next year—well done to everyone involved in this campaign.

Fingers crossed the weather will be a little kinder next year, and then we can open up our MFFG stall again in Torkington Park. We found it was a great way to meet and talk to people about the fields last year, and it was a missed opportunity this year!

SUMMER EVENTS ON THE FIELDS

After the success of last years events, MFFG committee members are busy planning what we hope will be two great events on the Fields this summer.

Sunday 30th August will see our first ever MFFG Dog Show! There will be fun classes to enter your dog in, an agility course to try out and refreshments.

Saturday 6th September will be our 'Fields of Fun' day—lots of different activities to try, for the whole family to enjoy. This afternoon event will also be your chance to register for our very popular Bat Walk, which will happen at dusk on 6th Sep!

Lots more information will be sent out closer to each event, so please look out for the emails/posters!

We hope to have a great turn out to support these events, we will also be showing you some more details from the spatial plan, lots of lovely maps of wonderful things we are working towards on the fields!

If you can spare some time to help plan or run the events please get in touch—there is a lot to do,! Likewise if you are a local business or volunteer group with some resources which you think could be helpful at either event — we really need all the help we can get!

