

Friends of the Manor – Meeting Held on Tuesday 07th March 2026

Disclaimer(s) – These notes are taken by myself who attended the meeting, they are NOT the official minutes of the meeting, I may hear or interpret incorrectly.

Since, the Manor Centre is on this evening's agenda, and that the planning application 'maybe' imminent, I wish to declare that I will not be taking part in any of the discussion or debate regarding the Manor Centre.

I will listen to the presentation any questions put by members.

I will as always keep an open and transparent mind on this update.



There were 25 in attendance, some for the first time, undoubtedly for the main event Manor Centre Update. Cllr Steve Count attending in his capacity of the Portfolio Holder – overseeing the Manor project upgrade.

Myself (RG) Cllr Eamonn Dorling (Treasurer), Cllr Haq Nawaz, and Cllr Peter Bibb.



(Cllr Nawaz 'thinking')

Chair Robin Sutton opened up the meeting with the hot topic of Changing Village and the concept and sometimes mis-interpretation of this area. This in turn opened up a 'lot of debate – comment' about the 'concerns' about the concept of the proposed Changing Village.

Cllr Nawaz (attended very rarely) as per his previous other meetings quoted 'his survey on Facebook© - Cllr Bibb, counter argued of other official public domain statistics as did Chair Robin Sutton.

The 'lively debate latest some 45 minutes.



Cllr Steve Count then briefly updated from his prospective and answered some questions, those he couldn't said he would get back.

One relevant observation from Robert Windle, was 'why' no 3D modelling of the Village Changing concept had been made, which may have given everyone a better understanding of the concept.

Next stage will be to obtain 'Planning Permission' Envisaged that FDC Cabinet will meet in July. Time scale below page.

Chair Robin Sutton then asked the attendee, on their preference of the concept of the proposed Changing Village. Many of the attendee's are members of various groups within Whittlesey.

For the Changing Room Concept 15 Those opposed to the concept 4 Abstained 0
(RG did not vote)

The 'Wildflower' area was discussed on the merits and problems with Thistles....

Golden Age Fare 10am – 1pm 19th June

BIG BASH Week 23rd June



Visualisation of the proposed building entrance, with glazed elevations to the Reception Café area and Soft Play.



Manor 'New' Play Area – 2015 I was there, Cllr Nawas and others were NOT.

8 Project Programme

The outline current programme is below, with an expected completion date of mid-December 2027.

8.1 Key milestones are:

- April / May Planning determination
- May Completion of RIBA Stage 4 and full design and cost certainty
- May A firm management fee uplift will have been agreed between FDC and Freedom Leisure
- June Cabinet Decision to proceed, or otherwise, with construction of the redevelopment project
- Early July Execute Freedom Leisure contract variation regarding any net costs of construction disruption to the business and the uplift in management fee payable to FDC annually following project completion.
- Early July Execute contract for construction works programme
- Late July Move existing gym into Sport Hall building
- August Closure of pool building
- August Start on site - construction commences
- September Closure of skatepark as it overlaps the construction site
- January 2027 Padel courts completed – daylight use only pending electrical connection
- January 2027 New skate park completed and opened – daylight use only pending electrical connection
- December 2027 Completion of main redevelopment work and opening of new facility
- January 2028 Demolition of former sports hall
- March 2028 Construction of new car park in sport hall location

