

LOOK! ST ALBANS

Inspired by the past...Picture your future!

Dear Look! St Albans supporter

Look! St Albans is ready to take its next important step with you, at Dagnall Street Baptist Church on Tuesday 19th November at 7pm.

Please help the cause and forward this letter of invitation to all in your network who may be interested in joining us. I attach our poster please print off and place on it on an official notice board with permission or place in your front window.

We have spent considerable time since our March meeting carefully drawing up a constitution to enable us to become an important first port of call for developers wishing to invest in our city centre. We think our Memorandum of Understanding with the council signals a joint seriousness of intent to make this collaboration in planning really work.

Already we see the cranes and building works in our city centre for the new hotel therefore change is underway.

Our constitution has been written in the spirit of community-led neighbourhood planning and is therefore community-rooted. Membership is open district wide as our city centre is important to all of us. We have done all we can to include those who have a keen interest who live outside the area too.

As many have come to expect from us the evening will be far from a dry AGM, Tony Burton confirmed in February by Planning Magazine as one of 'The Power 100' as a highly influential consultant on neighbourhood planning matters will be joining us.

More information about Tony can be found at the end of this letter.

To ensure everyone who wants to be a part of Look! St Albans can, we have devised several ways to ensure you can do this.

We want to ensure we leave no one out!

- **For those living within the city and district**, just come along on the night and become a member of Look! St Albans to enable you to take an active role in the AGM. There is no membership fee, but of course any donations in time or money for our work will be warmly welcomed. This way we will be able to ensure you are kept up-to-date with all we are doing with, and on behalf of the community.
- **If you want to join the representatives group** (formally known as the steering group) which is open to all groups or individuals who will become a member of Look! St Albans on the 19th, please contact me as soon as possible. To be a member of the representatives group we ask that you are prepared to help arrange and take part in one charrette programme in any one year.
- **If you live outside the district, but have a keen interest in our city centre**; please contact me, again as soon as possible so I can include you on our list of interested parties. We will ensure you too are kept up to date with all our news

It is important to stress that when the time comes for us to work with developers and their architects all meetings and charrettes will be open to anyone who wants to take part.

Naturally people can respond to the planning process in the usual way.

*For those who want to try this fresh approach, to work for a broadly-supported consensus in designing buildings and surrounding open spaces we suggest **Look! St Albans** is for you!*

For this next phase it has been suggested we call ourselves 'Look! St Albans - Our Community Voice on Design'. However if you would like to suggest another name, want to ask a question, or want any more information about the different ways to support, what is essentially your voice on design, please let me know at vanessa.a.gregory@btinternet.com Also please visit <http://www.scribd.com/LookStAlbans> where you will find a copy of our design workshop report, draft constitution and Memorandum of Understanding.

Kind regards

Vanessa Gregory

Currently community project manager

Tony Burton works freelance on a wide variety of community and environmental projects. He founded Civic Voice - the national charity for civic societies - in 2010 and has previously worked as a Board Director for the Design Council, National Trust and Campaign to Protect Rural England. Tony has been Chair of Wildlife and Countryside Link and was a founder trustee of Heritage Link – the two main voluntary sector liaison bodies for the natural and historic environment – and was a member of Richard Rogers’ Urban Task Force. He is a Board member Big Lottery Fund, Chairman of Sustainable Homes, Trustee Friends of The Earth

Tony is a geographer, town planner and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He is a trustee of his local civic society in Mitcham, South London and secretary of Mole Valley Orienteering Club.

As reported in a recent Department of Communities and Local Government briefing note he has recently co facilitated a Neighbourhood Planning Research Network. The network will provide a forum to help share information in the neighbourhood planning field, building on some of the really interesting case study research already underway. There are plans for a website, and further information sharing opportunities.

Tony was awarded the CBE in the Jubilee Honours for services to planning, local government and community.”