

*Inspired by the past, picture your future...*

# **LOOK! St Albans** **our community voice on design**

*"In the spirit of community-led neighbourhood planning our ethos is to be transparent, proactive, respectful, collaborative, open, diverse, explorative and community-rooted."*

<http://www.lookstalbens.org/> email [lookstalbens@gmail.com](mailto:lookstalbens@gmail.com) Twitter [@LookStAlbens](https://twitter.com/LookStAlbens)

4<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Dear Look! St Albans Supporter

## **A warm invitation to St Albans Museums Site Design Charrette 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014 including our 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM**

Look! St Albans 'Our Community Voice on Design' is delighted to have been asked by St Albans District Council, acting as trustees and owners of the Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road, to host an externally independently facilitated design charrette for the site. *(A design charrette is an intense period of design or planning activity, involving different participants working collaboratively towards finding a solution to a design opportunity.)*

The St Albans Museums Site Design Charrette will be the culmination of Look! St Albans first year as a fully constituted community-led body. Hosting such an event is the very reason why Look! was set up!

Fittingly Look! will hold its 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM at the final event of the charrette. See more below regarding the AGM.

**The aim of the three events is to produce a design for the Museum site of which the community at large will be proud. No special skills are needed, everyone is welcome to take part, especially in the two evening events, as every view counts.** The draft design codes already produced by the community will play a key role in these events. To see these please use this link  
[http://www.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/7/4/27749191/look\\_st\\_albens\\_final\\_design\\_workshop\\_report\\_jan\\_2013.pdf](http://www.weebly.com/uploads/2/7/7/4/27749191/look_st_albens_final_design_workshop_report_jan_2013.pdf)

There will be three *independent* external facilitators with a range of skills helping the community throughout the Charrette. For more information about the people who will be working with us please see here <http://www.lookstalbens.org/newsevents>

To help set the scene Kate Morris a highly respected local historian has kindly agreed to make a presentation both at the Friday evening event and repeated on the Saturday morning, on the history of the site and its environs. Councillor Annie Brewster will also make a presentation about the New Museum Project.

The charrette has come about due to the decision that has been made to sell the site with detailed planning consent to help fund the New Museum's Project in the Town Hall, 'Renaissance St Albans'. <http://www.stalbansmuseumsandgalleriestrust.org.uk/projects-2/>

**The first event will take place on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 7pm to 9pm at the Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road, St Albans – public open design session**  
**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 10am to 5pm at the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, St Peters Street, St Albans - St Albans Museums Site Design Charrette**  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 7pm to 9pm again at the Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road, St Albans – Report back presentation of the jointly-created designs. Followed by Look! St Albans AGM - 9pm finishing no later than 9.30pm**

**Unfortunately for the event on Saturday places are limited to about 30, as each facilitator can only work creatively with about 10 people. To ensure that every space counts we will be operating a waiting list. So please contact me [vanessa.a.gregory@btinternet.com](mailto:vanessa.a.gregory@btinternet.com) if you are interested in taking part in this event. For the Friday evening and Monday evening events please just turn up.**

The outcome from the first two events will be presented at the public gathering on the 27<sup>th</sup> October to gauge the level of support. Anticipating a successful outcome Look! St Albans will then publish these jointly-created designs as a recommendation to the landowner and trustees, St Albans District Council.

**I would greatly appreciate your help in encouraging other members of our community to actively and positively participate in these events. To that end I also attach a poster that I invite you to print and display where permissible and appropriate.**

**The AGM to be held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October 9pm at the Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road following the Charrette report back session.**

The agenda and a few minor constitutional changes proposed are attached (all documents have been posted on our website). <http://www.lookstalbans.org/> We need to ask you to agree to these changes, as we have found during the last year that the constitution that looked fine at the inaugural AGM has in a few places not proven very practical. The officers have taken into account comments made to them in this first year and these are reflected in the recommended changes.

If you would like to join us on the representatives' group (no special skills required just enthusiasm) please contact me or James Gregory at [james.w.gregory@btinternet.com](mailto:james.w.gregory@btinternet.com) before **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October** to allow us to present those wishing to stand at the AGM. We would be particularly grateful for anyone with fundraising experience.

All events are of course free to attend. As Look! St Albans is acting as host we will have to fund certain aspects ourselves. As we are community-led we totally rely on donations, sponsorship and voluntary help. If you feel you can make a donation please either use the PayPal facility on our website here <http://www.lookstalbans.org/what-can-you-do.html> or make a cheque payable to Look! St Albans and forward it to the Treasurer, Christopher Debenham at 37 De Tany Court, St Albans, Herts, AL1 1TU.

I look forward to cordially welcoming you to all these events and working with you for a successful Charrette and AGM.

So very many times have we been consulted at the last moment before a planning application has been submitted, and, like so many others I have felt this to be a complete waste of time, as nothing we could say at that stage would make any difference.

I have met with the council as trustee owners of the site, the team developing the detailed planning application and the lead independent facilitator. I am confident that this charrette process will take place at a sufficiently early stage to enable the community to make real and positive contribution towards finding a design for this site.

This time we have a genuine opportunity to not only have a say but genuinely help shape the future design of this site.

Kind regards

Vanessa Gregory

Chairman Look! St Albans

PS Please feel free to use Twitter during the events the Hashtag is #LookStAlbansMOSTA