

# Chester World Development Forum



## Minutes of the Zoom meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2020:

Hosted by Gill Miller, chaired by Terry Green

*See separate note of the talk given prior to the Forum's Business Agenda. "Twin peril of Disaster among Pandemics - Reflections from the Global South". This was given by Namrata Bhattacharya-Mis, Lecturer in Human Geography & International Development at the University of Chester, and based on her research interests*

### Business Meeting

- 1 **Welcome:** TG chaired the meeting  
**Present:** Terry Green, John Tacon, Gill Miller, Ann McCarthy, Vicki Jenner, Lindsay Cussons, Bernard Payne, Brian and Katy Rowe, Bernie Draper,  
**Apologies:** GG
  
  - 2 **Forum Chair Terry Green to report on key issues covered in the Committee's recent Zoom sessions:**
    - **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> August meeting:**
      - Committee commented that contact with Linda and Romy Tiongco hadn't been made for some time. JT offered to contact them directly by email and subsequently had a reply as follows from Linda - "I am currently stuck in the Philippines with Romy. I was due back to the UK in June but all Singapore Airline's flights to Manchester have been cancelled and not yet resumed. You can see some of what we've been doing on MuCAARD-UK Facebook page and on our website. No Covid in Damulog and very little in the Province so we are ok. Please pass on our best wishes to all". (Message received in mid August)
  
      - Discussion took place about suitability of the Unity Centre for Forum meetings from Sept onwards. BP had emailed Shantele at The Unity Centre and this is her reply:

"We completely understand that your members may be wary about returning to physical meetings, which is why I asked Anita to contact our regular hirers to see whether they would be considering using the facilities from September onwards or not so that we can budget accordingly. It really isn't for us to persuade you in any way to use the Centre. We have reopened, with strict measures in place including a one way system, hand sanitiser stations, reception screens, posters, floor stickers, minimal staff, shorter hours, increased cleaning etc etc. As a council building we have had to be really careful as we potentially pose an infection risk and have had to complete Covid-19 risk assessments at length. We decided that it was too risky for us to allow external users, but hope to do so in September with additional responsibilities on hirers. If we make that decision it is likely we will ask hirers to have completed their own Covid-19 risk assessment, which we will keep on file. We will likely have only 1 hirer in the building a day to minimise risk and we will require them to sign to say they will follow our guidance on hygiene, cleaning etc. No decision has been made about a price increase, but I think if we did it would be minimal. I hope that answers your queries and that you are keeping safe and well. Best regards Shantele"
- Clearly, the Forum would be required to prepare a risk assessment and would only be allowed 15 people to attend. Committee members agreed that we

would put off face-to-face meetings for the time being to be reviewed after Sept meeting.

- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August:**

- Brief feedback from Chester Friends of Palestine event: *Stop Arming Israel* Vigil, 22 August. TG attended. 8 people turned up, with good photo coverage in the local paper.
- Colin Watson: Tributes paid to Colin. JT suggestion for donation to DEC Coronavirus Appeal in memory of Colin Watson. A donation of £50 in memory of Colin was agreed upon.
- Discussed which issues to raise with Chris Matheson at the meeting on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> - The Foreign Office/International Development integration review, his thoughts on trade deals with the developing world in the new “Global Britain”, Zero carbon Britain - what steps are we taking or not taking to achieve this goal within the “Build back Better” Recovery Programme.
- Closure of Coop bank: JT informed us that the Co-op branch in Chester is to close. He can pay through the Post Office but needs special envelopes which JT will get asap.

**3 Finance update:**

- Balance as of 31.8.20: £313.56 in the account plus £21.04 held in cash = **£334.60**. £50 to go out for donation to DEC in memory of Colin Watson. Committee also agreed to pay the Unity Centre for hire of room in Sept and then review again as it looks like we won't hold meeting there until next year.

**4 Future CWDF events, Zoom based:**

- **Chris Matheson Q&A Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> October**, 6.15pm. Any thoughts from other members of the Forum for topics to be discussed?
- **CWDF Forum: Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, 7.30pm, speaker TBA

**5 CWDF Diary: Latest issue of 2 September was circulated. Any additions from members “around the screens”?**

BP: promoted the meeting re the future of Chester CND (See meeting below)

BD: wondered whether Chester CND resuming their vigil on supplying arms to Saudi Arabia

BR: CFoP to hold a silent vigil on 26<sup>th</sup> Sept

BP: “Journey to Sustainability” events: Discussions between Chester Sustainability Forum and Cathedral about whether possible to hold. Watch this space

KR: Fundraising event for Christian Aid - Trevor Dennis, chair of Chester Christian Aid Committee to read from his books on 16<sup>th</sup> Dec. More details to follow

BD: asked about Green Recovery – suggest that look up details on the website

**6 AOB/ closing remarks:**

**Forum 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov at 7.00pm via Zoom. Please note change of date**

TG to send thanks to Namrata on behalf of CWDF for her talk this evening.