**Climate Emergency Manchester**

**Report for Information**

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| **Report to:** | Necessary Extra Scrutiny and Capacity Building June 2020 |
| **Subject:** | A Community Climate Emergency Hub for Manchester |
| **Report of:** | Jackie Haynes |

**Summary**

Platt Hall (a branch of Manchester Art Gallery) is currently re-inventing itself through public consultation as a community-focused museum and creative making space. It is well placed – in a beautiful and well-used park at the junction of Rusholme, Fallowfield and Moss Side – to become an accessible and reliably open public building to be used as a dedicated resource in which to self-organise and incubate, discuss and action ideas in response to the climate emergency, according to the interests of local residents.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the committee:

1. Suggest and send in stories of ‘climate emergency activism and wishful thinking’ for the Storytelling Project, part of Love Parks Week, in Platt Fields from 10th July. This will help show the interests from residents in the Hall becoming a climate emergency hun.
2. Come up with a series of proposals for supporting the hub proposal as the consultations for Platt Hall resume, as lockdown lifts.

**Wards Affected:** Rusholme, Moss Side

**Contact Individuals:**

**Name**: Jackie Haynes

**Email:** Contact: houseofhaynes@gmail.com

**Background Documents:**

[TSAP (Terrace Square Artists Project) 2019 – present](https://jackiehaynesartwork.wordpress.com/2019/08/12/tsap-terrace-square-artist-project-2019/)

[www.platthall.org](http://www.platthall.org/).

1. **Introduction**

This report offer a brief overview of the background to the proposals for part of Platt Hall to become a community climate emergency hub/

1. **Background**

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This would hopefully become one of a growing number of facilities spread across Manchester, which could then start talking to each other to mobilise the joined-up thinking needed to make sure all voices, ideas and perspectives on the climate emergency are included.

The idea originated from community recognition of the need to have a regular and inclusive place to congregate to discuss climate emergency with urgency and the ability to act collectively.

**3.0 Progress to date**

Terrace Square Artists Project (TSAP) – a growing network of creative neighbours in the Fallowfield and Moss Side wards whose houses back onto an alley – took part in Platt Hall’s Open Door programme of local consultation and suggested the idea of a climate emergency hub.

The hub idea is currently gaining traction and was cited in MCC’s Communities and Equalities Scrutiny Committee report, which included Platt Hall: ‘A place for collective engagement with social issues, especially the climate emergency. A very strong theme throughout discussions, which included a suggestion from the Terrace Square Artists Project group of making Platt a hub for neighbourhood action in response to the climate emergency.’

The Manchester Climate Emergency Story-telling Project is a step towards the idea that Platt Hall could become a Manchester Climate Emergency hub, with content generated from the Moss Side ward climate emergency meetings and beyond. This project is one of five of the TSAP commission for Platt Hall.

**4.0 Next steps**

The new works for Platt Hall, including the Story-telling Project will be part of Love Parks Week in Platt Fields from July 10th 2020, which coincides with the anniversary of Manchester Climate Emergency Declaration. Stories from local residents are being collected which tell fantastically tall tales of climate emergency activism and wishful thinking. The stories will be told via a new version based on the Noah’s Ark set of toy animals from Platt Hall’s Mary Greg Collection (see Appendix 1).

Stories can be submitted in any form and in any language and will be worked into a filmed installation called NO! AH! (dismay followed by ideas) which will be available online.

The next major stage will be when lockdown restrictions are lifted and the consultation and

Platt Hall is currently closed to the public as work goes on to raise funds for its redevelopment. The climate emergency hub idea contributes towards making the case for Platt Hall’s bid for the next round of funding.

Please send in any fantastically tall tales of climate emergency activism and wishful thinking, by the end of June!

**Appendix 1**

Photo credit: Ben Blackall and Manchester Art Gallery