

FAR GOSFORD STREET NEWS

March 2010



FAR GOSFORD STREET BUILDINGS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE

Two of Far Gosford Street's much loved buildings have been restored to their former glory and given a new lease of life as part of the regeneration of Far Gosford Street.

The former Hand and Heart public house has been restored and is now home to students from Coventry University on the first floor with restaurant or retail use planned for the ground floor.

Numbers 121 to 124 have not only been extensively and lovingly restored - they have also been saved from collapse and the ground floor is now home to the Far Gosford Street Regeneration project team.

The work to save the two buildings was carried out by Harrabin Construction and Brian Harrabin, Director said...

"Far Gosford Street is a very special street and we are delighted to be involved in saving and restoring these fabulous buildings.

The restored green oak timber frame to the street frontage of 121 to 124 has been executed with a great deal of skill by the tradesman involved and has been further enhanced by the bronze windows. We believe it sets an extremely high standard for other projects in the street to follow and certainly the early feedback is that there is starting to be a positive buzz about the street."

If you are passing why not pop in and see the Far Gosford Regeneration team to catch up with the latest news on the regeneration project or to find out how you can get involved.



Above: The former Hand and Heart public house before (inset) and after the restoration works.

Below: The fully restored 121-124 Far Gosford Street.



Far Gosford Street Compulsory Purchase Order

The Far Gosford Street Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was published in December 2009 and was issued to all property and land owners, lessees and tenants within the boundary of the CPO, with a deadline for objections that was extended to 29th January 2010.

The next stage in the CPO process will be for the Council to review the objections and separate meetings will be arranged with each of the objectors. Any objection that can't be dealt with by negotiation will be dealt with at a Public Local Inquiry. The Council will be advised of a date for this by the Department of Communities and Local Government, but it is likely to be in the summer 2010.

The Far Gosford Street CPO is required to achieve the comprehensive regeneration of Far Gosford Street and deliver the regeneration strategy.



Businesses unite

Far Gosford Street businesses have come together and the newly formed Far Gosford Street business forum has now been constituted. This means that the group can bid for funding and take action over issues which are important to them.

Kevin Conway, Chair of the Business Forum said, "Constituting the business forum is a great step forward, we can now take real steps to tackle the issues we want action on. I would urge all businesses in Far Gosford Street to come along and find out how they can get involved in improving the street for the better."

Along with Kevin as Chair of the group, Pam Kaur from Vantage Chemist has been elected as secretary and Mr Bath from Heron Consultancy has been elected as treasurer.

The next meeting of the Far Gosford Street business forum will be taking place on 4 March 2010 at the Far Gosford Street regeneration office and all businesses are welcome.

'Ostara' – a night of celebration!

Coventry City Council, Imagineer Productions and pyrotechnics experts The World Famous are set to tell the tale of Far Gosford Street's history and take a look at its future in a unique live performance on Saturday 3 April 2010.

Community performers are working alongside professional artists from Imagineer Productions and The World Famous to create a beautiful spectacle. Drummers, dancers and actors will fill the street with dazzling costumes, masks, fire and special effects which will create a truly amazing live experience for one night only!

This very exciting performance will bring the street to life and will celebrate both the past and the future. So, if you would like to get involved in this amazing event, please contact Rebecca at Imagineer on 024 7615 8321.

To make events like this and the Christmas event easier to put on in the future, an application is being made for an entertainments licence for the area. This will mean that community events which include music, dance, theatre and film can be staged in the area.

For further information on the Far Gosford Street regeneration programme, please contact Amy Caldwell or Nicola Poole on 024 7683 2643 or call into the regeneration office at 121-124 Far Gosford Street.



38-40 Far Gosford Street is all set for restoration work to begin

Restoration scheme due to start

After many years of neglect, restoration work is set to start on numbers 38 to 40 - which includes the former Godiva reptile centre.

The original character of the buildings will be retained and when the work is complete there will be three new retail units and residential accommodation. The restoration work requires complex and traditional skills to be applied and when completed, the works will have safeguarded three of the city's historic properties.



Far Gosford Street is set to come to life.

Photo credit: John Byford

