

## **Press release**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

### **Stratford Historic Buildings Trust – Public Consultation sessions for Old Toll House Restoration Project**

Stratford Historic Buildings Trust will be running three public consultation sessions on the Old Toll House restoration project next week.

The sessions will take place at Cox's Yard between 10am and 12noon on:  
Wednesday 10 February  
Thursday 11 February  
Saturday 13 February

The sessions will provide the Trust with an opportunity to update local residents and visitors on the scope and progress of the project, but just as importantly get people's feedback and ideas for how best to tell the story of the building and the once busy industrial area that surrounded it.

The Trust is also keen to engage people with the project through heritage trails, talks, 'behind the scenes' tours and volunteering opportunities.

The Old Toll House, located on Clopton Bridge in Stratford-upon-Avon, was built just over 200 years ago in 1814. With its crenelated roofline and gothic windows it is a familiar local landmark and an extremely important Grade I listed building. However, over the last 30 years it has fallen into serious disrepair and has been included on Historic England's Register of Buildings at Risk.

The restoration project will preserve the historic fabric of the building and provide it with a new use as office space at ground floor and mezzanine level. In addition, the project will include the creation of an exhibition about the history of the building in the basement area.

Roger Davis, SHBT trustee said 'We are delighted that the project has now got to the stage where we can shout about it a bit more to the people of Stratford. But we also want to hear the views and ideas of local people to ensure the maximum amount of public interest and community involvement. Whilst the restoration of the Toll House building is our main objective, the other important element of the project is to share with people the little known story of how the Bancroft/Bridgefoot area was once the industrial hub of the town.'

The project has attracted significant grants from Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as smaller awards from the Architectural Heritage Fund, The Pilgrim Trust and a number of other trusts and charities.

### **Further information**

For further information about Stratford Historic Buildings Trust please contact Roger Davis (trustee) on 01789 298339 or Chris Rice (project organiser) on 07808 887183.

## **Notes for Editors**

### Stratford Historic Buildings Trust

Stratford Historic Buildings Trust is a registered charity established in 2012.

The Trust's purpose is to: 'preserve for the people of Stratford upon Avon and the Historic County of Warwickshire and the Nation, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in and around Stratford upon Avon and the Historic County of Warwickshire in buildings of particular beauty, or historical, architectural or constructional interest.'