

Castle Armoury

A motion had been received and set in the Summons in the names of:

The Labour Group, The Conservative Group, Radcliffe First and Councillors Tegolo and Y Wright.

This Council notes:

1. All activity at Castle Armoury has been suspended due to the building being unsafe
2. Castle Armoury as well as being an important part of the current identity history of Bury is home to W Company 5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, 207 Field Hospital Royal Army Medical Corp and The Lancashire Royal Regiment of Fusiliers volunteer Band.
3. It is also the base for our Army cadets, RAF cadets, a community Karate group, and the Armed Forces veterans breakfast club.
4. The building is owned by the Bury Castle Armoury Trust and is leased to NW RFCA through a formal agreement. Under the terms of the lease NW RFCA and in turn the Ministry of Defence assume full responsibility for repairs and maintenance.
5. The building is currently assessed as needing over £2m spending on it for urgent repairs and several million more to fully modernise it. The RFCA have not been able to obtain the funds needed.

Council further notes that:

There is an overwhelming desire to re-open Castle Armoury to all those that use it and a meeting was held last week for all the organisations that use it.

Council instructs:

That an open letter be written from the Council and concerned parties, urging the Ministry of Defence to provide the necessary funds to make it safe again and to modernise it.

That the council organise a meeting with the VCFA, the Armed Forces Champion, the Chair of Bury Castle Armoury Trust to look at what external funding may be available.

To inform all interested parties of progress on a regular basis and to convene another meeting to discuss further campaigning.