

# Stretford community news

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## Women against cuts

WOMEN concerned about government cuts have held an event to help raise awareness.

The women hosted a Don't Turn Back Time Tea Party, at the community room at Victoria Park.

The women held the 1950s style event by donning pinnies, rubber gloves, frocks and head scarves to draw attention to the impact of the austerity measures, which they

believe are turning back the years of progress made on women's rights

The event was attended by MP for Stretford and Urmston, Kate Green, who is also shadow minister for women and equalities, along with residents, children and councillors.

The women fear that sweeping cuts are hitting females hardest because two thirds of public sector workers are women, and thousands of them face redundancy. Services such as

SureStart, upon which many women depend, are being reduced or closed. There are further concerns cuts to benefits, tax credits and childcare.

Beth Aze, tea party host, said: "Cuts are turning back time on women's equality, as services are reduced, the number of women out of work reaches record levels, and women here in Stretford, Manchester, and across the UK, find it harder to makes ends meet."



CUTS CAMPAIGN... The guests of the Don't Turn Back Time Tea Party

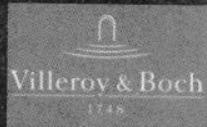
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■ A PROJECT is underway at Longford Park to repair or replace two shelters in time for next year's centenary celebrations.

Trafford council and the Friends of Longford Park, have been working together to develop plans for the two shelters, which are 80ft in length, and have suffered the ravages of time.

Money has now become available to carry out the repairs on the shelters, which are in the park's ornamental garden area.

Friends group spokesman John Fitzgerald said: "The shelters have been in a poor state of repair for many years and the council has found some funds to carry out works on them.

"The work should be finished in plenty of time for the centenary in May and will definitely help enhance the overall look of the park."

Executive councillor John Reilly said: "It has been a long-standing aspiration of the council and the friends group to refurbish or replace the shelters and we have every intention of getting this work completed in time for the park's centenary celebrations next year."

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