

Tapton House

Friends of Tapton House has sent several requests to the town hall to have Tapton House opened up to the public as part of the celebrations for Railway 200, the 200th anniversary of the first passenger journey on the Stockton to Darlington Railway.

Despite our offering possible solutions to perceived problems, the request has been refused.

Before long, Tapton House as we know it will be altered beyond recognition to make flats. Local residents, railway buffs, those interested in local, national & worldwide history as well as Old Taptonians deserve the opportunity to have one last look around the building particularly in this anniversary year.

The council disrespected local residents' wishes 3 years ago when they 'sold' the house, they have continued to discount Tapton House as an important part of Chesterfield's heritage & a town hall employee is now refusing to agree to a perfectly reasonable request from council tax payers.

So many different groups of people would enjoy walking round the house George Stephenson lived & died in, as well as visiting his final resting place, Holy Trinity, celebrations at which are mentioned below. Soon, the Stephenson Room, the bedroom George died in, might well be reconfigured to the extent that it won't even exist as one room any more.

Chesterfield Borough Council still owns Tapton House, a spokesperson was recently quoted as saying, "we want to take care of our heritage", yet, as our elected public servants, councillors are refusing to acknowledge the important part Tapton House should be playing during the Railway 200 celebrations.

Please will you join us in trying to convince the council that Tapton House should be opened up to the public, before work starts on the building, as part of the 200th anniversary of passenger travel by rail?

Send emails to the council leader, Tricia Gilby (Tricia.Gilby@Chesterfield.gov.uk), Councillor Kate Sarvent, Chesterfield Borough Council's cabinet member for town centres and visitor economy. (Kate.Sarvent@chesterfield.gov.uk), your own councillors (first name.surname @chesterfield.gov.uk). or Robin Mears -details in the press statement. Or write letters to the Derbyshire Times, but please support us in this campaign, as it would be the last ever chance to walk around & appreciate the beauty of Tapton House.

If this has no effect, we will have to up the ante, but we would be very grateful if you could support our email campaign. Drop us a quick line too please if you can send an email, or send us a copy of your message (friendsoftaptonhouse@gmail.com) so that we can follow the amount of support we've got.

With very best wishes, Friends of Tapton House committee.

PS - 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the Tapton estate being given over for public use by Charles Paxton Markham whose family also contributed a great deal towards developments on the railways.