


ECHO The voice of the city

MY CITY

A city of great hope and pride

"SOME people think football is a matter of life and death ... I can assure them it is much more serious than that." The famous words from Bill Shankly that - here at Liverpool Homeless Football Club - we know to be completely true.

We see the difference football can make between someone living and not. Each year, we welcome hundreds of players through our gates and try to help them make positive changes in their lives, something we'll be talking about at Engage Liverpool's seminar on homelessness this Thursday.

Speaking about my home town, the sport I love and the people I call my team-mates is an honour.

But I have to speak as well about the massive deprivation I see every day around town, the stories of seemingly unbreakable cycles of poverty I hear from our members as they come down to The Pitz for a game, and the statistics that Liverpool has some of the highest numbers of multiple areas of deprivation in the UK.

But Liverpool has an unshakeable sense of community and hope. We take pride in being part of the solution.

We know the answers to these issues lie within ourselves, from our hiring decisions to where we spend our cash. That spirit is where the Back Kitchen in Liverpool ONE, Chavasse Park, came from.

The Back Kitchen trains people out of social exclusion and into work. By choosing to visit us, you can directly help change the lives of those who haven't had their first chance yet - though society thinks otherwise.

So, please do stop by, fill us with hope and passion, and yourselves with a good meal and a deserved helping of Scouse pride.

JOHN FINNEGAN
CEO, LIVERPOOL HOMELESS FC


PRIDE IN PICTURES


The last of light as the day draws to a close at the Hilton Hotel, Liverpool

Picture by COLIN LANE

Flyovers demolition sparks huge delays for commuters

105-MINUTE BUS JOURNEY THROUGH TUNNEL FOR PASSENGERS

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COMMUTERS heading into Liverpool city centre from Wirral faced massive delays yesterday morning, as work continued to pull down the Churchill Way flyovers in the city centre.

Drivers reported being stuck in the Birkenhead tunnel for more than an hour as the area around the flyovers were hit with further road closures.

A major central span of the flyover was brought down by engineers yesterday, while Dale Street is closed between Byrom Street

and Crosshall Street - with that closure set to last until later this month. Commuters reported major congestion inside the tunnel.

One said: "I was on the 472 bus service from Heswall to Liverpool and we reached the Queensway tunnel at 8.30am, but didn't get out till around 10.15am.

"It was absolutely gridlocked, hardly any movement of the cars all the way through the tunnel.

"Some people on the bus were getting a little agitated and it made me an hour and half late for work.

Another said: "I've just spent that long trying to get through the Birkenhead Tunnel that all the flickering brakelights & the reflections from them

have triggered a migraine. Had to throw up out the window."

Liverpool City Council Cabinet member for Highways, Cllr Sharon Connor, said last week the demolition was complex and the council had worked to keep it a minimum.

She said: "Disruption is unfortunately unavoidable but a lot of thought has gone into the methodology to ensure the inconvenience to city centre traffic and surrounding buildings is kept to a minimum.

"Public transport will be the best option this weekend, and we urge people to plan ahead when thinking about journeys to the city centre at these times."

ECHO

Your views

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ECHO

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