

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26 November 2015

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & INDUSTRIAL ASSETS

For the period October to November 2015

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Major Housing Scheme - we have been working with the Internal Drainage Board (IDB) to deliver surface water drainage infrastructure improvements for King's Lynn as part of the Major Housing Project and the delivery of the new road infrastructure from Edward Benefer Way into the Lynn Sport site. The proposal with the IDB is to divert water from the Gaywood River during high water flow events and channel this through the Bawsey Drain and the North Lynn Drain with the water eventually discharging into the River Great Ouse. This proposal will provide greater protection for King's Lynn from surface water flooding. I am pleased to report that we have successfully concluded negotiations and the legal agreements that will allow us to widen the North Lynn Drain on privately owned land to accommodate these additional flows. I will now be implementing the next stage of the project in securing a site near to the Lynn Sport site for a new Pumping Station that will be constructed and managed by the IDB. The site in question will be secured by means of Compulsory Purchase powers approved by Cabinet earlier this year.

St. Margaret's Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) - some 51 properties within the THI area have been subject to meetings and discussions. Some of these have resulted in owners working towards submission of grants and other owners have just started to show interest in the Initiative.

Critical projects

Wennis Hotel, Saturday Market Place - this important building has recently changed hands. Both the THI officer and Conservation Officer have spent considerable time with the new owners exploring uses and alterations along with grant aid. An application for planning permission, listed building consent and grant aid is expected shortly.

Greyfriars Chambers, St James Street and 9/11 St James Street - the owners and their professional advisors are currently preparing costs in order to submit their grant applications. Once these have been submitted any grant application can be considered.

Priority Projects - architects and surveyors are busy working on plans, schedules and costs on five Priority Projects, with planning consents issued for two properties already. Emphasis has been on the clustering of properties to ensure that the restored buildings will have as much impact as possible. Owners of a further 5 priority properties are also now actively considering grant aid for their buildings.

Reserve Projects – five applications have been received for reserve projects. More work is required on four of these applications, but one is complete and a decision due shortly. Liaison continues with several other owners, especially where they create a cluster of buildings in conjunction with others.

Complementary Activities - the project work of the College of West Anglia culminated in an exhibition held at the Fermoy Gallery and displayed the student's photographic, graphic and ceramic work along with historical analysis. Business Studies students undertook a market research survey, the results of which were provided both graphically and as a presentation.

Jointly with the "Stories of Lynn" project we have just completed an art and film project working with the Purfleet Trust. The exhibition of the work created will take place on 1st December.

On Heritage Open Days Weekend, the Saturday Market Place hosted the bustling and busy "Beer, Butchers and Barbers", an event designed to publicise the THI through celebrating the prevalent historic uses of the area.

With the Discovery Centre in North Lynn, we have been exploring how we can encourage young adults to train in historic building repair and construction.

Traders within the THI joined in the King John's Treasure Hunt. As part of the museum's exhibition "Trading Stories" we undertook a guided walk of the town centre looking at historic shops and shop fronts.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Hunstanton Heritage Gardens Stage 2 HLF bid - residents and businesses have been consulted on the bid. A total of 3 events, attended by circa 100 residents, have been held which will inform the design for the HLF Hunstanton Heritage Gardens Project. In addition, a questionnaire was circulated to local businesses and residents with 175 responses received to date.

The next 2 key events are:

Tuesday 17th November - to discuss potential activities and interpretation which the residents would like to see as a result of the project, this will be held at the Golden Lion Hotel.

Sunday 29th November – consultation on the design of the gardens which will take into consideration all of the comments received to date.
The stage 2 application will be submitted at the end of February 2016.

Coastal Community Team (Hunstanton Prosperity) - the Economic Plan for Hunstanton continues to be developed by Hunstanton Prosperity.
A business survey was sent out to 220 businesses with 56 responses received by the closing date, which give a response rate of 25%. The responses are now being analysed and will feed into the plan.
The final Economic Plan, which will include short, medium and long terms priorities and actions, will be published by 31st January 2016.

Future development - I have been looking at strategic land acquisitions around the Boal Quay area and adjacent to the Bus Route towards Wisbech Road in King's Lynn. Securing these sites will complement our existing landholdings in the area and facilitate future development proposals.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

2/11/15 – Planning Committee (ward matter).
3/11/15 – portfolio meeting with Chief Executive and others.
3/11/15 – Cabinet
5/11/15 – Hunstanton Coastal Community Team (apologies given).
9/11/15 – Cabinet sifting
9/11/15 – meeting with Gayton & Nar Valley Division County Councillor
9/11/15 – Gayton PC
11/11/15 – Leziate PC (apologies given).
25/11/15 – Regeneration & Development Panel
25/11/15 – Environment & Community Panel