

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel held on Tuesday, 12th March, 2019 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors P Gidney (Chairman), Mrs J Collingham, C J Crofts, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, M Howland, T Smith, A Tyler, Mrs E Watson and D Whitby

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor P Hodson – Portfolio Holder for Performance and Economic Development

Councillor Mrs E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

OFFICERS:

Chris Bamfield – Executive Director

Martin Chisholm – Business Manager

BY INVITATION:

Howard Johnston – King's Lynn to Hunstanton Railway

Councillor Westrop – Chairman of the River Informal Working Group

RD86: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

RESOLVED: Councillor Whitby was appointed Vice Chairman for the remainder of the municipal year.

RD87: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beales, Blunt, Devereux and Long.

RD88: MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RD89: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Baron Chenery of Horsbrugh declared a non-pecuniary interest in item RD93 as he was the Norfolk County Council Rail Champion and a Member of the Rail Group.

RD90: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

RD91: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

Councillor Bird – RD93: King's Lynn to Hunstanton Railway.

RD92: CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

RD93: KING'S LYNN TO HUNSTANTON RAILWAY

Howard Johnson who was involved in the campaign for the King's Lynn to Hunstanton Railway gave a presentation to the Panel, as attached.

The Chairman thanked Howard Johnston for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

In response to a question from Councillor Manning, it was explained that the campaign group ideally wanted a through service from Hunstanton to London. He explained that tramways were an expensive option, however an electric railway was something that could be considered. The overriding factor would be capital cost.

Councillor Smith commented that the historic railway had achieved a 10% return on investment. He asked if the route of the railway had been planned. Howard Johnston explained that there had been some ideas but the route was still unconfirmed. He acknowledged that the route could not be exactly the same as historically because some areas had been developed.

Councillor Tyler commented that the campaign group needed to get their message out and lobby the County Council. He reminded the Panel that organisations were continuously lobbying for improvements to the rail service from King's Lynn to London and Ely North Junction, however progress was slow.

Councillor Bird addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He commented that he agreed with the content of the presentation. He also referred to the Norfolk Greenways Project. He commented that the Hunstanton Southern Seafront Masterplan was still awaited, but he felt that there needed to be a co-ordinated approach for the long term vision for Hunstanton which needed political buy in and joint working between the Borough and County Council. He suggested that there should be a working party formed to look at the future of Hunstanton.

In response to questions from the Chairman, Howard Johnston explained that there were lots of organisations involved in the campaign for better transport. He also explained that single track was cheaper to install, however in order to future proof any development, double track would be better.

The Chairman explained that he would consider the way forward at the next sifting meeting.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the information.

RD94: **REPORT OF THE RIVER INFORMAL WORKING GROUP**

The Chairman of the Informal Working Group, Councillor Westrop, presented the findings of the Informal Working Group, as attached.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Westrop for her presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Manning commented that he supported the recommendations put forward by the Panel and hoped that they would link in with the Nelson Quay redevelopment to improve the area as a whole. Councillor Westrop acknowledged that the work of the Informal Working Group was only a small part of improving the area and she felt that an overall strategy for the River was required.

Councillor Smith explained that the use of the Sea Cadets building would provide much needed facilities. He also asked if the facilities proposed for Saddlebow could be brought closer to the town centre. Councillor Westrop explained that potential extension to the Pontoons, and discussions with the Conservancy Board, could result in more flexible operation of the Pontoons, for example longer stays and different types of craft could be accommodated, therefore there was perhaps no need to bring the facilities at Saddlebow closer, and instead the existing cycle paths and walkways from Saddlebow to the town centre could be better utilised. It was explained that the benefit of Saddlebow was that it was not tidal, connected to inland waterways and there were small improvements which could be made to improve the facilities available.

Councillor Mrs Watson asked if the Informal Working Group had explored commercial activities such as a Chandlery. It was commented that this had not been explored by the Group as it was felt that generating activity along the River needed to come before any commercial activities.

In response to a question from Councillor Crofts it was explained that the result of the CCF bid was expected in April 2019.

Councillor Mrs Collingham commented that it was difficult to navigate the Wash, therefore people needed a reason to come to King's Lynn. She felt that more should be done to use the river as an amenity including leisure facilities and commented that the promotion of Saddlebow for inland vessels would be good to increase visitors.

RESOLVED: The Regeneration and Development Panel support the recommendations from the Informal Working Group, as set out below:

1. That the Council endorse the vision and objectives set out in the Sail the Wash initiative and that the Council continue to support and encourage further marine leisure activity of the river and the Wash.
2. Support longer term development of marine leisure activity at Boal Quay.
3. Endorse the recommendations set out in the 'Development of Marine Leisure Activity in the Wash' by P D Harvey Consulting, 2018.
4. Develop further the facilities at King's Lynn Visitor Pontoons. The Informal Working Group put forward options for this:
 - a. Support the Stage 2 application to the Coastal Community Fund to:
 - i. Extend the existing visitor pontoons to accommodate demand at peak times.
 - ii. Install swing moorings to start the provision of permanent mooring facilities in King's Lynn.
 - iii. Improve mooring and anchorage in the Wash.
 - iv. Develop further the marketing of Sail the Wash
 - v. Employment of Marine Officer to deal with marketing and meet and greet.
 - b. Discussions to be held with the owners of the Sea Cadets building regarding potential use of the facilities they had available for toilet and shower facilities (preferred option).
 - c. Provide a solution for waste disposal at Baker Lane.
5. That the Council acknowledge that the existing slipway is not fit for general marine purposed and give consideration to the installation of a new slipway, or relocation of the existing slipway to Boal Quay or an alternative appropriate location as part of the Nelson Quay redevelopment.
6. Support the Environment Agency to make improvements to the facilities available at Saddlebow including the installation of additional moorings and better utilisation of the existing pedestrian and cycle link between Saddlebow and King's Lynn including marketing and promotion.
7. The relevant Portfolio Holder engage in initial discussions with ABP regarding the potential provision of lift and store facilities in King's Lynn.
8. Officers engage with the Environment Agency to monitor the effect of the Denver visioning statement on the development of the river.

9. That if the CCF Bid is unsuccessful the Regeneration and Development Panel give consideration to reconvening the Informal Working Group to explore if there are any alternative options.

RD95: **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

RD96: **EXEMPT - GUILDHALL UPDATE**

The Executive Director presented an update on the Guildhall. He explained that a statement would be released to the press and public in the next month.

The Chairman thanked the Executive Director for the update. The Executive Director and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health, Councillor Mrs Nockolds responded to questions from the Panel.

RESOLVED: (i) The Panel noted their thanks to the officers and Portfolio Holder for the work carried out on the Guildhall.
(ii) The Panel noted the update.

RD97: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

Members of the Panel were reminded that an eform was available on the Intranet which could be completed and submitted if Members had items which they would like to be considered for addition to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

RD98: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel would be held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 at 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 8.12 pm