

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, 10th November, 2020 at 4.30 pm in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube

PRESENT: Councillors J Collingham (Chair), L Bambridge, F Bone, M de Whalley, A Dickinson (substitute for C Manning), B Jones, J Lowe, C Morley, T Parish, S Patel, V Spikings and D Whitby.

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor R Blunt – Portfolio Holder for Development
Councillor G Middleton – Portfolio Holder for Business Development
Councillor E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

Members Present Under Standing Order 34: Councillor J Rust

Officers:

Philip Bayfield, Corn Exchange Manager – Alive West Norfolk
Jemma Curtis, Regeneration Programmes Manager
Neil Gromett, Managing Director – Alive West Norfolk
Duncan Hall, Assistant Director
Karl Patterson, Housing Development Officer

By Invitation:

Graeme Massie – Graeme Massie Architects

RD151: **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair informed the Panel that the meeting was being broadcast live on You Tube.

[The recording of the meeting is available here.](#)

RD152: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Manning.

RD153: **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

RD154: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

RD155: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

RD156: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

Councillor Rust.

RD157: CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

RD158: HOUSING UPDATE

[Click here to view the recording of this item.](#)

The Housing Development Officer provided the Panel with an update on the Housing Needs Assessment and Affordable Housing delivery as attached.

The Chair thanked the Housing Development Officer for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

In response to a question from Councillor Bone, the Housing Development Officer explained shared ownership, discount market housing and how this could be protected and enforced.

In response to a question from Councillor Bambridge it was clarified that living in a shared house, or HMO, should not have an effect on Housing Benefits.

Councillor Rust addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and the Housing Development Officer responded to her questions explaining the rate of increase in housing stock, the formula used for the Housing Needs Assessment, some of which was determined by Government, and how the Assessment was tailored to take into consideration the demographics of the area. The Housing Development Officer also outlined the proposed changes to national Affordable Housing thresholds and explained that it is proposed by the government that designated rural areas would be exempt.

Councillor Morley made reference to Climate Change and felt that all Policies of the Council should have consideration to Climate Change going forward.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update.

RD159: CORN EXCHANGE CINEMA UPDATE

[Click here to view the recording of this item.](#)

The Panel received an update on the Alive Corn Exchange Cinema, as attached.

The Chair thanked the Corn Exchange Manager for his report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

In response to a question from Councillor Jones, the Corn Exchange Manager, explained that the showing of the football was carried out in line with Government Guidelines and a plan had been agreed with Environmental Health and the Police.

Councillor Rust addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34, and it was confirmed that the football was shown in the Theatre.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Parish asked if the Corn Exchange were using any single use plastics and encouraging recycling. It was explained that recyclable and reusable materials were used where possible and further ways to reduce the amount of single use plastics were being looked at.

Councillor Bone suggested getting local talent in the theatre. The Corn Exchange Manager explained that this was difficult as local groups could not rehearse in groups larger than six. He also explained that lots of different options would be looked at to try and make use of the theatre, including local bands.

In response to a question from the Chair, Councillor Collingham, it was confirmed that the theatre and cinema could be used at the same time, start times were just staggered. It was confirmed that soundproofing was in place.

The Chair commented that she had visited the cinema and was very impressed with the facilities and the staff.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

RD160: PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS - SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PANEL

[Click here to view the recording of this item.](#)

The Regeneration Programmes Manager explained the opportunities the Council had to spend grant funding on public realm improvements across the borough. Graeme Massie, who was producing a public realm action plan on behalf of the Council, was also in attendance.

The Panel suggested the following:

- Tidy up wasteland areas. Reference was made to a piece of land near the bus station.
- Outdoor seating on the Tuesday and Saturday Market Place.
- Canopies.
- Improvements and increasing the amount of public toilets.
- Benches on the coast walk between Heacham and Hunstanton.
- Upgrade of Baker Lane toilet facilities.
- Giant Chess Set on the Tuesday Market Place.
- Functional Art and Art displays.
- Covered Market and improvements to the existing Market
- Micro Parks
- Improvements to alleyways and tidy up eyesores.
- High Street paving repairs
- Walkable fountains.
- Attractive lighting.
- Stepped seating.
- More seating in the town centre.
- Changing Places toilet provision.
- More colour.
- Permanent Table Tennis.
- Information boards at car parks.
- Improvements to the appearance of London Road.
- Vertical gardens.
- Painting the old railway gates at Edward Benefer Way.

RESOLVED: The comments and suggestions from the Panel would be taken into consideration as appropriate.

RD161: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

RD162: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel would be held on Tuesday 21st January 2021.

RD163: **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 paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Scheduled 12A to the Act.

RD164: **EXEMPT - CITB UPDATE**

The Assistant Director provided the Panel with an update and responded to questions and comments from Members of the Panel and Councillor Rust under Standing Order 34.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm