

# **Great Yarmouth Town Centre Masterplan - Members Working Group**

## **Minutes**

Monday, 08 October 2018 at 14:00

Present:

Councillor Plant (in the Chair), Councillor B Coleman, T Wainwright, B Walker and Williamson.

Councillor Hacon (attended as a substitute for Councillor Stenhouse).

Councillor Bird (attended as a substitute for Councillor K Grey).

David Glason (Development Director), Jane Beck (Head of Property and Asset Management), Claire Sullivan (Project Manager), Kim Balls (Strategic Planner), Toby Matthews (Strategic Planning), Julia Devonshire (Cultural Development Lead) and Karline Smith (Member Services) (Great Yarmouth Borough Council Officers).

David Wardale (Highways Project Engineer), Edward Bown (Senior Engineer), Henry Marshall-Nichols (Senior Graphic Design Consultant NPS Property Consultants Ltd), Jeremy Wiggan (Transport for Norwich) (Norfolk County Council Officers).

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Grey, Jeal and Stenhouse.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2018 were confirmed.

## **4 PROJECT UPDATE**

### **(i) Improving the Market Place**

The Head of Property and Asset Management reported that Hudson's as the lead designers had been asked to produce a design for the Market Place and that they had looked at the current market, the stalls and the canopy. Some of the traders own their stalls but the market place is not flexible and the stalls can not be moved around. In June 2018 a public engagement process had taken place with the traders and had looked at areas such as the location, asking traders what they would like and what the area can deliver. It was reported that the traders would rent and not own their stalls and concern was expressed by traders at the break in trading when they were being moved. The canopy would be clear perspex panels to let the light in. The full regeneration scheme would cost £4m and part of the scheme would cost £2m. The Canopy would be included in the part scheme for the east side.

The traders would move once into a temporary spot and then they would move permanently to their final space. It was reported that there were areas of the market place that it would be difficult to get services to which would remain as fruit and vegetable stalls that didn't require any services to them.

The Council were still awaiting a response to their Coastal Communities Fund bid and it was reported that if this was not successful then they would still be able to carry out the £1.2m reduced scheme.

A traders meeting would be held on 9 October 2018 at 7pm where they would be shown the designs which would then be presented at the next Policy and Resources Committee.

On 27 September 2018 the National Market Traders Federation attended one of the design meetings and they were very supportive of the work that Great Yarmouth Borough Council had carried out with the traders as this was above and beyond what many other authorities in the County had carried out.

A member asked for clarification on whether the traders would be receiving compensation for their capital investment and it was reported that they would receive one or two times their rate-able value. It was also reported that there was an unfairness to the current scheme as some larger stalls were paying the same rents as a smaller stall.

Concern was expressed at the difficulty of disabled people in wheelchairs

being pushed over the cobbles on the market place and could alternative surfaces be looked into and it was reported that there would not be enough funding to pay for a comprehensive re-provision of the public realm.

A member asked if the 2020 capsule could be dug up and saved and it was reported that this was around the centre stone.

## (ii) Creating a Sense of Arrival

The Working Group were shown photographs of the new railway station forecourt taking shape. David Wardale spoke about potential compulsory purchase activity and that this would then become part of the scheme but asked if Great Yarmouth Borough Council or Norfolk County Council would prepare and submit the Compulsory Purchase Order. The Chairman asked for clarification on who would own and maintain the site along with what services were under the site.

Trees would be installed in the next two weeks to the Fuller's Hill Roundabout which would require one lane of the roundabout to be closed.

Howard Street would be closed for four weeks from the 5th November for resurfacing.

North Quay outside the Aldi entrance would have work carried out to the carriageway to improve the cycle route.

The Development Director reported that the Council continued to progress the improvement of the roundabouts with the relevant responsible bodies. It was reported that the Fullers Hill roundabout was in the ownership of Norfolk County Council.

Action:- That Great Yarmouth Borough Council would continue to look at the ownership and maintenance of the roundabouts across the Borough and that they would also speak to GYBS to ask them which trees are in the contract to be planted into the Fuller's Hill roundabout.

### Market Gates:-

New Bus shelters had been installed. Amey Lighting had been paid to install new LED lighting and this had not been carried out. Clear channel had been asked to bring the electricity cables through to the bus shelters so that they could install lighting to the shelters and the bus arrivals time boards.

Action:- Norfolk County Council EDT be asked to look at the Amey Lighting issue as this had been ongoing for 18 months. Michael Stephenson to be asked for an update on the progress of re-connecting the electricity to the bus shelters by Clear Channel.

Julia Devonshire spoke of the vinyl art work for the pillars under market gates and how this would give either local schools or businesses a space to display

art work.

#### (iii) Shop Front Improvement Scheme

This is a £60,000 scheme to support shop front improvements and grants are capped at £3,000. There has been £70,000 worth of applications received with £52,000 in approved grants by the Sub Committee. There is currently £17,000 left in funding and the scheme would end in Spring 2019.

It was reported that the scheme had struggled with receiving applications from the King Street area and that they had even had leaflets produced in Portuguese and officers have visited the area but there had still been little interest.

#### (iv) REVO

The Development Director reported that he had attended the REVO event in Manchester ten days ago and had spoken to cinema operators, architects and town centre specialists who agreed to visit GY.

Hull, Rotherham and Chester Councils had attended to promote their Council's regeneration schemes.

## **5 WAYFINDING UPDATE**

A photo was shown of the first finger post which had been renovated and installed in King Street.

A visualisation of one of the new Megalith signs outside Maritime House was shown and it was reported that one of these was in the Town Hall Foyer for Members to view. A member asked if the Megaliths would show the walking distance to points and it was confirmed that this would. There would be ten Megalith's across the town.

The Working Group were asked if they would like the finger post on the quay to remain black as they would fit in with the colour of the railings and the canopies at the top of Market Row and bottom of Broad Row were currently red along and the working group were asked if they would like these to remain red as this colour scheme followed through Broad Row and Market Gates.

RESOLVED:

That the quay signs remain black and the Market Row / Broad Row iron canopies remain red.

## **6 WALKING AND CYCLING PROPOSALS**

It was reported that there were proposals for a Riverside Road pedestrian scheme and cycling route north of the market place up Fuller Hill towards the Minster and that these were both out to consultation.

## **7 SIGNAGE PROPOSALS**

The working group were tabled a map of the new car parking signs for consultation and were asked to provide comments to the Development Director or the Project Manager.

A Member asked if the King Street Car Park sign could be amended to state King Street and St Georges Car Park as this had previously been agreed. The Chairman asked for signs at the train station directing people to the Market Place.

The meeting ended at: 16:00