

St Georges Guildhall and Creative Hub Community and Stakeholder Group

Meeting Minutes

Date Wednesday 14 th April 2021	Location Via Microsoft Teams
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Attendees

Cllr Mrs Lesley Bambridge, Ward Member
Michael De Whalley, West Norfolk Disability Information Service
Michael Baldwin, Chair & Town Deal Board Vice Chair
Duncan Hall, Assistant Director Housing, Regeneration & Place, BCKLWN
Jemma Curtis, Regeneration Programmes Manager, BCKLWN
Mark Fuller, Principal Project Surveyor, BCKLWN
Louise Godfrey, Regeneration and Economic Development Project Support Officer, BCKLWN
Doreen Leventhall, King's Lynn Town Guides
Adrian Parker, Friends of St Nicholas Chapel
Ivor Rowlands, King's Lynn Community Cinema Club
Alastair Inskip, Creative Hub Stakeholder
Dr Julian Litten, St Margarets and St Nicholas Ward Forum
Hetty Thornton, Historic England
John K, Freelance provider of music education
Rachel Drury, Collusion
Amanda Arterton, West Norfolk Gilbert and Sullivan Society
Ema Holman, Creative Hub Stakeholder
Alison Croose, King's Lynn Festival
Sherie Naidoo, Creative Hub Stakeholder
Diana Brindle, Creative Hub Stakeholder
David Nash, King's Lynn Operatic and Dramatic Society
Harry Seaton, Fluential, Town Deal Board Youth Representative
Anne Roberts, West Norfolk Artists Association
Nick Balaam, Vice Chair King's Lynn Preservation Trust
Michael Hankinson, Creative Hub Stakeholder
Veronica Sekules, Groundwork Gallery
Andrew Jarvis, Creative Hub Stakeholder
David Eve, Historic England
Sharon Fox, King's Lynn Players

Minutes	Actions
<p>1. Apologies Wendy Fisher who was represented in the meeting by Sharon Fox. Rachael Williams (Stories of Lynn / Kick the Dust) Natalie Jode (Creative Arts East)</p>	
<p>2. Introduction (Michael Baldwin) 2.1 Introductions for the group was led by Michael Baldwin and opportunity was given for all participants in the group to introduce themselves and the organisation they were representing.</p>	

<p>3. Terms of Reference (Duncan Hall)</p> <p>3.1 Duncan Hall stated that he was pleased with the large attendance before explaining that the terms of reference for the group had been distributed by email prior to the meeting. Duncan provided background information stating that his involvement had begun late 2019 and that he had been involved in the King’s Lynn Town Deal Board and the bid to secure up to £25m from the Government for a Town Deal. He explained how the proposed project for the Guildhall theatre came to be linked with the Creative Hub proposals due to the ‘White Barn’ being found as an ideal location for the Creative Hub, sitting within the wider Guildhall complex and that examining the two projects together would help make the best use of resources and help achieve the ambition of having a complex that operates in a coordinated way with complementary uses.</p> <p>Duncan explained that the group was not a formal council meeting but the Terms of Reference set out a code of conduct to allow members to speak freely, to air their views and that mutual respect should be shown at all times. He also suggested that discussions shared informally or anything explicitly as confidential should not be discussed outside of the group.</p> <p>3.2 Hetty Thornton stated that the Terms of Reference contained an omission and believed that the level of designation for the Guildhall as a Grade 1 Listed Building should be contained therein and agreed to provide wording to be added.</p> <p>3.3 Ivor Rowland mentioned that while the idea of a creative hub was good, he was uncomfortable this early in the process to divide up the Guildhall complex into specific areas. Duncan explained that the ‘White Barn’ was considered to be redundant and that the case for the Creative Hub project was ‘strong’, however it was still at early stages of development.</p> <p>3.4 Sherie Naidoo sought clarification over Duncan’s request to not share information outside of the group. Duncan explained that at times, discussions could contain commercially sensitive information and whilst the group was not ‘secret’, members of the group needed to be aware that discussions could be taken out of context when shared outside of the group.</p> <p>3.5 Cllr Mrs Lesley Bambridge mentioned that the National Trust Lease for the complex made reference to not only the performing arts but also visual arts.</p>	<p>Hetty Thornton</p>
<p>4. Vision for King’s Lynn (Jemma Curtis)</p> <p>4.1 Jemma Curtis explained how the vision for King’s Lynn was developed and explained that the King’s Lynn Town Investment Plan is available for anybody to read at www.visionkingslynn.co.uk. She continued to say that the proposals for the Creative Hub and Guildhall theatre formed a large and important part of the plan in the proposals to receive funding from the Government from the Towns Fund. A timeline for the proposals was discussed and Jemma stressed the importance of the stakeholder groups involvement to help shape the development of detailed business cases for each of the Town Deal projects.</p>	

<p>5. St George’s Guildhall Restoration – (Mark Fuller)</p> <p>5.1 Mark Fuller recognised the Guildhalls importance as a Grade 1 Listed Building and discussed previous bodies of work which has been undertaken supported on St Georges Guildhall and stated that in 2019 Foster Wilson Architects were commissioned by the Borough Council and the Shakespeare Guildhall Trust to conduct an initial feasibility study and consultation, their primary focus was on what the space could be used for.</p> <p>5.2 Jemma discussed the stakeholder engagement undertaken during 2018 for the Creative Hub feasibility study led by the consortium Hudson Architects. The study completed in 2019 identified the ‘White Barn’ as the venue for the Creative Hub. It was determined that there was potential for a range of creative industries to ‘cluster’ and use this space to provide an opportunity to professionalise their skills, collaborate and grow into small businesses with other like-minded individuals.</p>	
<p>6. Next Steps</p> <p>6.1 Michael Baldwin put questions to the group, asking what members would like to see out of the project, what idea’s members may have and what future activities the members might find helpful. Michael mentioned that all participants have equally opportunity for input and that the Guildhall is a community building and that ideas have to be sustainable for the next 30-40 years.</p> <p>6.2 Duncan Hall mentioned issues around resourcing and asked if anybody might be able to volunteer their services, several members replied saying they had resources and were willing to assist.</p> <p>6.3 Questions were invited from the group and it was suggested that further questions and idea’s be directed to visionkl@west-norfolk.gov.uk</p> <p>6.4 Duncan Hall suggested that future meetings be held initially bi-monthly but may need to meet more frequently in order to progress the project.</p>	
<p>10. Date of Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be arranged 	