

Creative Hub & Guildhall Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes

Date 16th April 2021

Location Via MS Teams

Attendees

Michael Baldwin (KL Town Board and Chair)
Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds
Russell Clement
Emma Elflett
Mark Fuller
Tim FitzHigham
Duncan Hall
Robin Hanley
Mary Muir

Minutes

Actions

1. Agenda

- Introductions and welcome by Michael Baldwin.
- Roles and Responsibilities – relationship to Town Deal Board and external communications
- Terms of Reference - comments
- Ways to engage / meet/ frequency of meetings
- Composition of group
- General update on Place based funding and HLF (DH)
- Detailed business planning stage of Towns fund – identifying resources
- Initial thoughts on the benefits of a separate entity and unlocking private funding

2. Discussion

It was a very positive first meeting about this exciting project. This can be demonstrated by the meeting going longer than planned due to the enthusiastic discussion.

2.1 Things to note:

The role of the Advisory Board was adopted and its relationship to other committees, the Town Board and the Borough Council understood and agreed.

The Chairman reported the enthusiasm of the Chairman of the Town Board for the Guildhall project.

The Advisory Group was informed about the positive nature of the stakeholder group meeting and was really pleased to hear the feedback from that meeting.

The National Trust offered practical help and support in key areas (e.g. archaeology and fundraising). The advisory board felt this would be

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very helpful.

The terms of reference are to be adopted with one slight suggested amendment. This is being drafted for approval.

The meeting noted that some changes may need National Trust to achieve administration and support before they can be adopted on the parts of the site of which they have the freehold. The NT are supportive and this was noted more to ensure that any potential delay due to this can be mitigated as much as practicable. Good and early communication are key to this.

There was a good discussion on timeframe of any bids that will be made and the advisory board is mindful that it would like to be in a position to act swiftly to ensure any deadlines predicated by bids can be met. The Town Fund and HLF being two.

The vision for the site was discussed and the advisory board is clear that the Shakespearian link and birthplace of Armin as well the Guildhall having an unparalleled history of dramatic performance since 1445 presents a deeply exciting possibility for the site, town, county and country. It is felt that this has been missing from previous funding bids and marketing of the site.

There was a discussion surrounding the White Barn and White Barn Annex. The advisory board and felt the addition of this to the vision of the site presented many new and exciting possibilities and endorse adding it to the vision going forward.

There was discussion of the current site, previous problems and scope for the future.

There was a positive discussion of private funding possibilities and how to unlock those. The board is of the view that the CIO structure set out below would be able to benefit from both public and private finance.

Various case studies were discussed as possible models: Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds, Snape Maltings being two.

It was discussed that the primary function of any CIO or management company must be to attempt to build an endowment fund for the Guildhall to safeguard it and ensure it can flourish.

There was a discussion regarding altering the pavement at the front of the Guildhall to ensure better prominence from the street. The advisory board felt that, if practicable, this was a very good idea.

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<p>3. Recommendations from this meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unity is key to achieving the best outcome for the Guildhall site and Kings Lynn.• The advisory group was happy that its current composition allowed it to meet expectations.• The advisory board endorsed the suggestion of additional art staffing at the BC and thinks that if practicable this should be moved forward as fast as possible.• The advisory board felt that the founding of a CIO to manage the Guildhall site is a matter of priority. It suggested a mixture of trustees from the BC and experts would be a good model. The overall aim of this CIO would be to run all parts of the Guildhall complex from Road to River for the good of the people of Kings Lynn and the Nation. Founding a CIO is a process that takes time, the advisory board would hope to see this process started as soon as possible so this does not cause delay at a later stage. The advisory board is willing to do the work to progress this but will need authorisation to further this.• The advisory board suggested a specific area of the Vision Kings Lynn website could be opened to give users updated information on what is happening with the Guildhall Project. The advisory board feels that communicating clearly with the public on progress is important.• The advisory board endorsed the suggestion to use the White Barn site as a creative hub and felt this would enhance the suggestions made within the Foster Wilson plan and the overall vision for the Guildhall complex.• The advisory board endorsed the architectural vision within the Foster Wilson plan but accepts that this now needs to be added to.• Tim FitzHigham is to contact Peter Wilson MBE on behalf of the advisory board.	Tim Fitzhigham
<p>4. Next meeting</p> <p>The advisory board resolved to meet 14th May 2021, although with a flexible frequency as the project needs.</p>	