

# KING'S LYNN TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM & REPURPOSING WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| <b>Date</b> 11 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 | <b>Location</b> Via MS Teams |
| <b>Time</b> 14:00                        | <b>Chair</b> Vicky Etheridge |

| Attendees  | Apologies  |
|--|--|
| Vicky Etheridge<br>Jemma Curtis<br>Louise Godfrey<br>Cllr Miss Lesley Bambridge<br>Cllr Graham Middleton<br>Neil Gromett<br>Andrew Stevenson<br>Charlie Roughton<br>Kathy Ennis<br>Richard Morrish | Alastair Cox – Centre Manager<br>Jake Smith<br>Cllr Francis Bone |

| Minutes  | Actions   |
|--|-----------|
| <p><b>1. Minutes of last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jemma explained to Cllr Bambridge that the Changing Places scheme had just been launched at it was being looked at for the Council to submit an application for funding.</li> <li>Rick Morrish to send comments regarding the minutes of the last meeting to Louise Godfrey</li> <li>Louise to share with the group fingerpost designs from Philip Eke</li> <li>Jemma explained that the brief and tendering for the Southgates Master planning was due to start next month with the project commencing next year but that a meanwhile use would need to be considered.</li> </ul>   | <p>LG</p> |
| <p><b>2. Update on Town Deal and next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application for £33 Million was submitted to the Government and the full £25 million was offered to King's Lynn in June.</li> <li>All projects submitted were approved.</li> <li>Now need to decide the final projects, these are going to the Town Deal Board to confirm on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021.</li> <li>It has been proposed that the Incubator Hub is not taken forward under the Town Deal.</li> <li>Public realm has been allocated £250,000 and the Town Repurposing project £1.75 Million. Once these projects have been confirmed, business cases for each will need to be submitted by</li> </ul> |           |

# KING'S LYNN TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM & REPURPOSING WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>30 June 2022. Business cases will need to include the, options, benefits and risks as well as how the project will be delivered, and the costs associated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Realm project will be fast tracked but the town repurposing project is more complex so will require further dialogue with properties owners before project options can be presented to the group.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>3. Town Centre repurposing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vicky Etheridge mentioned that there were some big units in the town in key positions but that there was a lot of external interest in these buildings and that it would not be a quick process to purchase or secure long-term leases for the potential properties for repurposing and therefore the Town centre repurposing was a longer-term so for the meantime the groups focus should be on preparing the public realm business case.</li> <li>Richard Morrish suggested that working with owners of buildings such as the former Post Office at Baxters Plain would be key to enhancing the public realm and that it wouldn't be good to dig up enhancements that had just been completed.</li> <li>Vicky agreed stating that these developments had huge implications on the public realm.</li> <li>Jemma stated that there were things which could be achieved to enhance the public realm such as benches and planters but that considerations needed to be given to what is else is happening to futureproof.</li> </ul> |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Public Realm options – short/medium/long term priorities</b></li> <li>Jemma proceeded with a presentation for the group explaining that a priority route had been identified from the Railway Station to the South Quay/Riverfront within the Public Realm Action Plan</li> <li>Cllr Bambridge voiced concern over planting trees directly in the ground and the damage caused to surround pavements.</li> <li>Jemma highlighted all of the locations for potential tree planting but also indicated that in some areas along the priority route, planters with trees would need to be considered.</li> <li>Vicky stated that there needed to be a complimentary palette of materials and colours for consistency.</li> <li>Jemma said that the group needed to be involved in what should be decided as a priority.</li> </ul>   |  |



# KING'S LYNN TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM & REPURPOSING WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Bambridge suggested that it might be possible to have local groups displaying for a month at a time and asked about the possibility of fountains on the Tuesday Market Place.</li> <li>• Charlie agreed that the Kings Cross fountains in London are very popular.</li> <li>• Richard agreed that an idea for a '4<sup>th</sup> Plinth' for the public to display their art was a good idea, however a survey he had read recently suggested that water features are 'out of order' 90% of the time.</li> <li>• Vicky responded to a query from Cllr Bambridge in the chat regarding painting empty properties to make them look nicer. Vicky mentioned hoardings as a possible way to show the future vision.</li> <li>• Cllr Bambridge said that she had seen hoardings in other towns which looked like shops, but these could feature the King's Lynn skyline and are easily relocated to another property if the empty shop was let.</li> <li>• Louise Godfrey shared the results of her walkabout the town with the group. Locations along the route were discussed.</li> <li>• Cllr Bambridge stated that the walls of St James Swimming pool were ideal for a display of public art, Neil agreed.</li> <li>• Cllr Bambridge mentioned an empty space at the entrance to the Bus Station saying that RNID were interested in developing the space as a garden, but the owners of this area were difficult to contact. She also stated that she would like to see a 'Green wall' at the bus station on Sainsbury's wall. She had asked Norfolk County Council. Jemma mentioned that Sainsbury were keen to do something with the wall previously and Vicky confirmed that the Open Spaces Team were welcoming of a 'green wall'. Cllr Bambridge confirmed that an ivy wall would assist with air pollution. Vicky to discuss with Sainsbury's Manager. Cllr Bambridge raised the idea of public art and a green wall on the side of St James Swimming Pool.</li> </ul> | <p>VE</p> <p>VE</p> |
| <p><b>4. Any other business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jemma said that if everyone was agreed with the area of focus, the group needs to make a start in working up the detail. What needs a brief? What needs to be commissioned? The group needs to start pooling idea's to see what can be applied along the route and where.</li> </ul>  |                     |

# KING'S LYNN TOWN CENTRE PUBLIC REALM & REPURPOSING WORKING GROUP

## Meeting Minutes

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vicky suggested that a walkabout for the group would be a good idea.</li><li>• Richard asked what was happening with the Gyrotory as this is key to the chosen route, Jemma replied that the detailed plan for the gyrotory was not at this stage yet and that would come next but would be opportunity to consider the public realm interventions as part of that scheme. Richard mentioned the 'pinch point' for cyclists next to the Church of St John the Evangelist and said that this needed to be considered.</li><li>• Vicky agreed the next meeting should be in early September and for the group to contact Louise Godfrey if they are happy to have their telephone numbers shared to create a 'WhatsApp' group for collating photos and idea's.</li></ul> |  |
|--|--|

|   |
|---|
| <b>Date of next meeting</b>                 |
| To be confirmed but likely early September. |

DRAFT