

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: 12 th January 2022	Location: Via MS Teams
Time: 3pm	Chair: Vicky Etheridge

Attendees	Apologies
Richard Morrish Cllr Miss Lesley Bambridge Jemma Curtis Andrew Stevenson Alistair Cox Charlie Roughton Vicky Etheridge Gergana Dragonova	Neil Gromett

Minutes	Actions
1. Apologies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As noted above 	
2. Minutes of Last meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No corrections Contract for fingerposts has been agreed. ACTION: To circulate final design 	PE
3. Southgates Master planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master planning will be consultant led by BDP. An inception meeting was held on the 5th January and the work is expected to take 3-4 months. BDP are the largest multidisciplinary team and have urban designers and planning members on the team. BDP are currently mapping out stakeholders. Urban Flow (sub consultants to BDP) will liaise with NCC and advise on active travel and the Highways aspect of the project. A company property consultancy will help to define potential uses and viability. If anyone has any previous involvement in prior visioning exercises and has any concerns, opinions or questions, BDP would be interested to hear them. The site falls within the King's Lynn HAZ project area and will revisit options have been previous explored under the Unlocking Brownfield Sites study. BDP will examine the site holistically. Viability will be difficult and external funding may be required to transform an important gateway into the town. The working group should 'feed' into the initial thoughts, but more engagement is likely later on in the project once options have been developed. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vicky explained the purpose of the working group and that the group were aspirational and wanted opportunities to have a long-lasting impact. • Residents of King's Lynn can see the great architecture but recognise that the current situation does not give a good impression, particularly for visitors. • Public Realm is a key opportunity for the Southgates, BDP also have landscape architects involved so the public realm could be balanced with the Highway and the area could be predominantly open space. • Cllr Bambridge explained that visuals were previously in the press and some were correct, and others were not, one impression appeared to show a 'fly-over', others with buildings removed and a pedestrian route created. • The area behind the castellated wall needs protecting, the mounds date from the 1500's and are part of the old town wall. • Engagement with key stakeholders is expected in the next 4 weeks with wider public engagement at a later stage in May. • A webpage on the Vision KL website will be created for regular updates and BDP will do a public presentation, invites will be sent to an online event. • Previous plans for the Southgates appeared to be Highway led, and public realm led plans would be welcomed. • Lots of heritage infrastructure in the area would require consideration but it would be good to bring a park back into public use. • The Civic Society produced their own Master Plan for the area and BDP would be interested to see it. • Jemma explained that the brief for BDP includes finding 'meanwhile' uses for the site. If anybody has any thoughts on area's which can be cleared in the meantime, please let BDP/Abigail Rawlings know. 	
<p>4. Public Realm Business Case update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The draft business case was circulated in December, it has been taken to the Town Deal Board and is due for final sign off on Friday 14th January. • A summary of the business case is being submitted to Government on the same day. • No concerns have been raised regarding the business plan and the Government will need to check the summary before releasing the funding in March 2022. They may 'call-in' the full business case, however this has been independently appraised. • The proposed fingerposts are being funded by the Welcome Back Fund which should be spent and defrayed by the 31st of March 22 and therefore the fingerposts should be installed by this date. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tender for the pop-up kiosks will be finalised and sent to relevant companies for a response. Received options will be shared with the group. • There may be an opportunity for some members of the group to be involved in the evaluation of the pop-up kiosk tender. ACTION: To check with procurement if this is possible. • The pop-ups will be time-critical for Purfleet Street, once the design is finalised, a planning application will have to be submitted, this can take 6-8 weeks to get permission. • The secure cycle hub is being discussed with NCC in a meeting on the 13th January and this is likely to be the first thing to be installed, then the pop-up kiosks with the decorations (archway, planters etc) coming in to complete the scheme. • If planning permission is granted in a timely manner, it is hoped that the Purfleet Street scheme will be complete in the Autumn. • The council are in dialogue with Network Rail regarding liability and maintenance of proposed street furniture outside the station, once this is confirmed, procurement of the furniture can commence. • ACTION: To share proposed timeline. • The group will be kept updated with options on the secure cycle hub. • The proposed iron archway which has been popular with current businesses on Purfleet Street was costed separately and could be looked at as a separate piece of work. • Andrew Schumann has been involved in other artwork projects in the Town, it could be discussed with him as he is local and easy to contact. • Veronica Sekules knows other artists/metal workers who may be interested in getting involved, but it is recognised that current businesses on Purfleet Street should also be involved in the design. • The theme of the metal work should have a continuing style which could also be used in other areas of town. • A brief will need to be assembled for the arch work and if any members of the group have any ideas, please forward them to VisionKL@West-Norfolk.gov.uk 	<p>JC</p> <p>LG</p>
<p>5. Public Art update and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 'Experience' presentation from the previous meeting was discussed. • The sum of money required for commissioning artwork is high but the presentation highlighted the need to 'get it right' and that the quality and consistency of the artwork is seen as a priority. • More funding will be required. • King's Lynn currently has a fair amount of public art, it is tasteful. Children and young people should be involved. • A group should be formed, but the correct mix of artists should be explored. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The artwork doesn't need to be largescale to be effective and some artists could cost less than others. The artists would have to create the artwork within guidelines. • There is potential to additional funding and NCC have agreed to assist with the application to the Arts Council, however the focus of the artwork needs to be determined to form a brief and inform the application. • Natural materials for artwork can cause issues, the wooden whales were vandalised and set alight and the drumsticks in the walks were infested and had to be removed. • Community consultation is a good idea, the proposed artist should make it a consultative process, but this would require careful management. • A plinth was discussed with the possibility of revolving artwork as this would give more artists an opportunity, but this would require a curator. • A diverse community involvement would assist with the application to the Arts Council. • An offer of assistance was received from Veronica Sekules for the application to the Arts Council. Action: invite Veronica to the meeting with Mary Muir on the ACE application 	<p>LG</p>
<p>6. Communications and Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A press release and web content are planned for the promotion of the project. Letters will be sent to subscribers and the Waterland Architect visuals will be used. If any group member has comments on the visuals, please submit them ASAP. The visuals are an interpretation of the proposals and this will be made clear in the release. • The Engaging People company could be appointed to ask for ideas on artwork themes and a workshop could be possible. • Purfleet Street businesses should be invited to any proposed workshop. • There is no deadline for the submission of an application to the Arts Council for additional funding for the artwork. 	
<p>7. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veronica Sekules explained 'Beuys Acorns' where the artist Joseph Beuys planted 7000 Oak trees in 1982. Ackroyd and Harvey collected acorns from these oak trees germinated and grew them and these saplings are being donated in groups of 7. King's Lynn will be receiving 7 of these saplings and a meeting is due to determine potential locations. • The trees would be a small part of a nationwide installation and they would be considered an 'artwork'. • It is hoped that they would be planted in a circle formation, but this would require 70m x 70m of open space. 	
<p>Meeting closed at 16:16</p>	