

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

Meeting Minutes

Date 29 th September 2022	Location Via MS Teams
Time 09:30 – 11am	Chair Vicky Etheridge

Attendees	Apologies
Jemma Curtis Louise Godfrey Vicky Etheridge Cllr Lesley Bambridge Andrew Stevenson Neil Gromett Charlie Roughton Josh Wille Claire Melton	Richard Morrish Alistair Cox

Minutes	Actions
<p>1. Apologies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard Morrish and Alistair Cox sent apologies. Introductions were led by Vicky for those who have just joined. The purpose of the group is to improve the look and feel of the town centre. The focus of the improvements is on the route from the rail station to the river front. This includes artwork, pop-up shops and seating and planting. The group will also be consulted on other Town Deal projects including the Riverfront and Multi-user Community Hub as well as the Southgates Master planning. 	
<p>2. Minutes of the last meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of the last meeting agreed. 	
<p>3. Update on Delivery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None of the proposed areas for intervention are directly in our control, the interventions rely on agreement from third parties. Cost inflation issues and procurement failures have slowed the project, but work is ongoing. The rail station update – The wrong colour of street furniture was produced originally which led to a delay, then there were some issues getting a delivery date and method agreed. The street furniture is now due for delivery Wednesday 5th October. Agreement was reached on the design of the digital sign and an appropriate supplier has been found. To reduce street clutter, it is hoped that the Network Rail sign at the front of the station can be incorporated into the digital sign. The cost of sign and the electrical connection (just received) from the Rail Station is now over budget 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the artwork, a budget of £50,000 was allocated. An application was made to the Arts Council for an additional £99,000. This was submitted in July but unfortunately was unsuccessful.• The artwork project was not progressed while the decision of the application was awaited.• A meeting was held with Veronica at GroundWork Gallery to discuss options. It would be beneficial to have young people's input into the artwork and further discussions will be held with the Youth and Retraining Pledge team.• There may be the opportunity for a little bit of additional funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund, but this is a small amount and will need to be signed off at Cabinet.• The Purfleet Street update –• Purfleet Street is seen to be a key connection between the High Street and Riverfront.• Procurement has failed twice; we have more flexibility to purchase from different suppliers.• The pop-ups must be practical for the end users. There is space for 4 units. It's thought that 2 will be a food offering and 2 will be for general retail.• The pop-ups cannot detract from the view of the Custom House and will need to be finished sympathetically. Next step is to commission an exterior design for the units using the container model.• Water and electrical connections are being completed.• There is a critical order to the Purfleet Street works. We are working with NCC to remove the cycle racks currently, but the last piece will be the seating and planting with tables and chairs.• Once a design has been found for the container pop-ups, this will be shared with the group.• The archway for Purfleet Street will hang between Boots and the Cashino. We have been working with colleagues at Kick the Dust. Some members of the Working Group joined the presentation given by the young people in August.• Charlie and Rian at Maze, kindly agreed to take the concept and mock it up into a design, this will be taken to the ironmongers by Rachael Williams and Veronica to ascertain costs and buildability.• The arch is a really good design concept, and it was pleasing to see the young people's work.•	
<p>4. Discussion – Your ideas for theme for Public Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The additional funding from the Arts Council was unsuccessful; no specific reason given but felt that a theme was needed.• The group discussed the concept of the artwork being based around the town's association and history with the river, the opportunity to it presents to link to an environmental theme for the proposed artwork.	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were suggestions from the group that we should not be looking to our past but more the future. • It was proposed to have 3 pieces of artwork, this has now been reduced to 2 with the 3rd piece becoming part of the public realm project for the Multi-user Community Hub in the future. • A brief will need to be prepared and engagement with artists will be required. Action: To put together a brief • Young people are missing the inspiration that you can get from a city like London. They go to the city to be inspired. They want to feel a sense of ownership and their involvement in creating a space that they can identify with. • Experiences seem to be more important to young people to inspire them. A big screen could be considered for example so that they come to watch and stay to shop. 	<p>JC</p>
<p>5. Riverfront project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Riverfront is another Town Deal Project focused on developing the area to be more attractive and vibrant. • The business plan is being signed off, however there is still scope to influence what happens in the next design stage. • The project was re-scoped at a very fast pace. A workshop back in April helped shape the brief and Graeme Massie Architects were employed to draw up the plan. • The project needs to be delivered by 2026. • Information boards will be available at the Custom House at Heritage Open Day. Jemma shared the information boards with the group. • There have been various options and discussions on the use of the Custom House. • It could be an exhibition space with a light food & beverage offer, aim to keep space flexible for functions, events, private hire etc. • King Staithe Square would need to have an animated space for events, these could be weekly or daily and there should be permanent pop-ups and an area for small performances. • Millfleet will have a flexible space. There could be activities and outdoor screens in summer with alternative offerings for the winter months. • Proposals include an observation tower as the sunsets over the river are phenomenal. • Dates are being explored to hold another workshop and a high-level events programme needs to be tested. • A member of the group suggested that there needs to be significantly more activity on the quay to serve the Custom house as a light lunch offering as people are unlikely to use the Custom House for this purpose if there is nothing else to do on the site. The plans for the Custom House were predicated on an events programme running alongside, an indicative programme has been developed but will need to be tested & refined further. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to get as many members of the working group to the planned workshop as possible to influence the plans, including the activity plans.• Cabinet Members are very keen to see the floating pool and work will continue, ready for future funding when it becomes available.	
<p>6. Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southgates master plan is open for consultation from the 3rd of October, there is a presentation on Monday evening which is open to all. Three additional drop-in sessions have been arranged. Dates on the press release already shared with members of the group.• The Southgates is the gateway to the town and it's vital to visitors first perception of the town.• Norfolk County Council have submitted an application in August to the Levelling Up Fund which if successful, would pay for the highway works.• It is important to have a vision and plan so that when funding is announced there is something ready to go. The Southgates is an ambitious plan, but a plan is needed for this area.• Vicky thanked the group for all their time.	
<p>Date of next meeting – 16th November 2022 at 'The Place'</p>	

DRAFT