

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

## Meeting Minutes

<b>Date:</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	<b>Location:</b> Via MS Teams and KL Town Hall
<b>Time:</b> 12:30 – 2pm	<b>Chair:</b> Vicky Etheridge

Attendees	Apologies
<p>Vicky Etheridge – BID Manager and Chair PRWG</p> <p>Cllr James Moriarty – Portfolio Development and Regeneration and Deputy Leader</p> <p>Cllr Deborah Heneghan – St Margarets with St Nicholas Ward</p> <p>Jemma Curtis – Regeneration Programme Manager</p> <p>Rick Morrish – Civic Society</p> <p>Heather Northey – Interim Project Manager</p> <p>Alistair Cox – Vancouver Quarter Manager</p> <p>Annabel McCourt - Artist</p> <p>Adrian Riley - Artist</p> <p>Mehron Kirk – BDP Landscape Architect Director</p> <p>Andrew Stevenson – Hawkins Ryan Solicitors and TDB Member</p> <p>Cllr Francis Bone – St Margarets with St Nicholas Ward</p>	<p>Charlie Roughton – Maze media</p> <p>Annette McNaught – Business owner</p>

Minutes	Actions
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As noted above.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2. Baxters Plain Feasibility Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>J Curtis explained that earlier in the year there was agreement to look at the Baxters Plain area as it was identified as a key area on the Public Realm Action Plan.</li> <li>There are a lot of proposed changes in the area, with the gyratory and the Multiuser Community Hub (MUCH) on the site of the former Argos building, options to improve the public realm and introduce connections through the Rail to River project.</li> <li>There is no funding currently for the improvements but work on a study now will ensure that the developing scheme can respond to future funding opportunities.</li> <li>J Curtis introduced Mehron Kirk, the Landscape Architect from BDP who has been appointed by BCKLWN to complete the Feasibility Study.</li> </ul>	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mehron shared slides with the group (slides attached). He explained the impressions which show street 'clutter' removed, a new palette of paving, wider more open spaces, retention of the three established trees and additional planting with the option of some green walls and areas of seating found outdoor dining.</li> <li>• Proposals will be taken to Regeneration and Development Panel on the 25<sup>th</sup> July with a day of public engagement on the 26<sup>th</sup> July.</li> <li>• Cllr Bone welcomed the proposals and appreciated the additional greening, although he was concerned by the potential loss of parking spaces.</li> <li>• Cllr Moriarty was concerned that the timing of meetings of the Public Realm and Repurposing Working Group may have impacted the project, but J Curtis reassured that this was not the case. Project specific meetings have been held specifically for the Baxters Plain project and to develop the brief for the consultants. <b>ACTION:</b> To circulate presentation slides.</li> <li>• R Morrish felt the graphics were very useful in showing the proposals. The Civic Society would welcome removal of traffic from the area. He suggested that this should be the preparation of a 'shovel ready' scheme and that all constraints should be fully explored prior to publication.</li> <li>• J Curtis asked if members of the group had any thoughts on the materials palette? Mehron suggested that the space is distinct and whilst natural stone is costly, it is always beneficial to the area.</li> <li>• Cllr Bone wants to ensure that there are enough materials purchased to complete the project.</li> <li>• Cllr Moriarty would also like consideration of how material removed from the site would be disposed of. He would not like to see it all in landfill.</li> </ul>	<p>LG</p>
<p><b>3. Update on Rail to River Art Trail</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Curtis introduced Annabel McCourt and Adrian Riley who have been appointed following the Project Call in late 2022.</li> <li>• Annabel explained that their current focus is the proposed piece of artwork at the Rail Station. They will be working closely with Eastgate Primary school and St Michael's Church of England Academy as part of the engagement for the project.</li> <li>• The artwork was influenced by the historical tale of the split grey goose feather. Travellers would carry a split grey goose feather and if ever they were in need of assistance, their half feather would be shown and if the other also had half a feather, a secret password would be shared, and they were then honour bound to assist.</li> <li>• Annabel and Adrian are working with the two local primary schools to create a secret password which is unlocked via a code embedded into the artwork. This could be a yearly event for the schools and awaken the legend of the split grey goose feather.</li> <li>• The artwork is made up of two separate components which is perforated so you can see through the pieces to align them and create a whole feather. The</li> </ul>	

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perforations will also ensure that the work doesn't dominate the street scene or block the view of the rail station or St John's church.

- Materials for the artwork have been considered and COR-TEN steel which has been blackened with heat and wax has been decided upon. Edges will be rolled to ensure they are not sharp.
- A planning application will be submitted for the feather, as this piece has been costed. The artwork for the swimming pool is likely to also be an optical illusion with perforations revealing the whole picture. Annabel and Adrian should be able to share the piece in the next couple of weeks.
- Cllr Bone suggested that there was a lot of anti-social behaviour and wondered how vandal-proof the pieces are, he also asked whether it would be possible for the Street Rangers to monitor the route.
- Annabel assured Cllr Bone that the artwork would be fit for purpose, and they would even test whether parts of the anatomy could become stuck in the perforations! She continued that it is important to win over hearts and minds working with young generations as they will then start to take ownership of the piece.
- V Etheridge said that it was possible for the Street Rangers to tour but that they have no powers over the drinkers, and this would need referring to the police.
- H Northey said that she had met with the Station Manager, and they had discussed anti-social behaviour. The Station Manager will provide a log of when and where the behaviour occurs, and they will ring through to 101 to report it.
- Cllr Heneghan said that she has been involved with meeting the police and it is an issue that they are trying to resolve.
- Both Cllrs Heneghan and Cllr Moriarty enjoyed the story of the artwork and that it is interactive.
- J Curtis explained to the councillors the process of how Annabel and Adrian were engaged but said that no public announcement had been made. She is working with the Comms Team to publish a good story ahead of the planning application being submitted.
- Some of the consultation work will be filmed so that a short video can be released on how the artwork came together.
- R Morrish suggested that Adrian and Annabel could talk about the artwork to the whole council as it could become a new King's Lynn icon. He was concerned however about the proposed placement of the work and he didn't want the artwork to be diminished by other street furniture.
- Annabel is concerned about the placement of the tree and planter at the station and Adrian doesn't want to create an obstacle course.
- Cllr Moriarty suggested that the placement of the artwork needs to be finalised prior to a planning application submission.
- **ACTION:** HN/JC/AM/AR to review artwork location

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