



Haverhill Area Working Party

Record of a Meeting held on 29 August 2013 at 4.15 pm in the Conference Room, Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill

Present (please tick if present)

Ager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McManus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ms Byrne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Redhead	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
French	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Richardson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mrs Gower	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs Rushbrook	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A Whittaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Substitutes

Clifton-Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farthing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mrs D Whittaker	<input type="checkbox"/>

By Invitation

Haverhill Town Councillor Pat Hanlon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Will Austin, Clerk to Haverhill Town Council	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Also in attendance

Town Councillor Roger André
 Suffolk County Councillor Tony Brown
 Borough Councillor Gordon Cox
 David Hart – ~~responsible for maintaining owner of~~ Haverhill UK website

Officers in attendance

Chris Beckley, West Suffolk Building Manager
 Sam Gregory, Economic Development and Growth Intern
 Chris Leveson, Principal Conservation Officer
 Cathy Manning, Community
 Kirsty Pitwood, Principal Growth Officer

1. Substitutes

No substitutions were declared.

2. Election of Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Mrs K D Richardson be elected as Chairman of the Haverhill Area Working Party.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Whittaker be appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Haverhill Area Working Party.

4. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Ager and Haverhill Town Councillor Hanlon.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. Declaration of interests

Members' declarations of interests are recorded under the item to which the declaration relates.

7. Cancellation of Article 4 Direction in Haverhill

The Working Party considered Report E82 (previously circulated) which sought approval for the cancellation of an Article 4 Direction in the two conservation areas of Haverhill (Queen Street and Hamlet Road).

An Article 4 Direction was made in the two Haverhill conservation areas on 3 June 2003. The Direction typically applied to the Victorian and Edwardian buildings which made up a large proportion of the conservation area and affected approximately 300 properties. Article 4 Directions were used to take away householders permitted development rights to make changes to the appearance of their properties. Their purpose was to prevent the loss of original features and details which survived and to secure the reinstatement of those which had been removed or replaced in the past. Existing surviving features were used to inform accurate reinstatement work with the aim of restoring an area over time.

When the Article 4 Direction was made in 2003, some of the streets had very few surviving original features. The aim was that the Direction would encourage owners to reinstate original features and details as the opportunities arose, thereby enhancing the character and appearance of the conservation area over time. Due to a combination of factors, however, this had not been achieved.

A proposal to cancel the Article 4 Direction in Haverhill was presented to the Working Party at its meeting on 15 November 2012 (Report D185 refers) and Members had recommended that public consultation be carried out regarding the proposed cancellation of the Direction. Section 4 of Report E82 provided reasons why the cancellation should be progressed.

Of the residents who attended the drop-in sessions arranged as part of the consultation process, the majority were in support of the proposal to cancel the Article 4 Direction. Two written objections were received – one from a resident and one from a Ward Member. Section 7 of Report E82 provided officer responses to the objections and these were considered by the Working Party.

A detailed discussion was held and following due consideration the majority of Members felt the Article 4 Direction should not be cancelled. Members had taken into account the reasons given for removing the Article 4 Direction, including that it required regular monitoring and the resources required for this had to be weighed against the effectiveness of the Direction. However, concern was expressed that its cancellation would result in inadequate protection for properties whose owners wished to make inappropriate changes in the Conservation Areas which would not require consent.

Consequently it was recommended to Cabinet that the Article 4 Direction should not be cancelled as originally proposed by the officers.

RECOMMENDED:

That following due consideration of the reasons for its removal and taking the results of the public consultation into account, as outlined in Sections 4 and 7 of Report E82, the Article 4 Direction in the two Haverhill Conservation Areas not be cancelled.

8. Public Art in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH)

The Working Party considered Report E83 (previously circulated) which provided an update on the commissioned piece of art for locating in the High Street as part of the Haverhill High Street Improvement Scheme.

On 20 July 2011 Cabinet approved the Haverhill Area Working Party's (HAWP) recommendation that the Public Art in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH) Group be permitted to continue as a Task and Finish Group to commission a piece of art in Haverhill Town Centre.

Following consultation with partners and HAWP, it was agreed that the PATCH group would commission the Samuel Ward Academy to design and create a Head Sculpture. The aim of this sculpture was to provide a focal point in Haverhill Town Centre, thereby hopefully attracting more visitors to the town. The design of the sculpture in its current state was attached as Appendix A to the report.

The Art Department at Samuel Ward Academy had been working with its students to create the Head Sculpture over the last two years, with support from a local engineering company and local volunteers. The school hoped to finish the sculpture shortly, after which time a plinth will be designed and produced ready for installation. An official launch can take place after this time.

Members were impressed with the aesthetics of the sculpture but some concern was expressed that the proposed location of Market Square was not the most appropriate given that pedestrian traffic would not automatically flow through the Square. In response, Councillor Mrs Rushbrook, Chairman of PATCH, reminded the Working Party that all Members of HAWP had previously been consulted regarding the proposed location with supporting reasons for the suggestion, and following an electronic vote the majority had voted in favour of the Market Square location.

Members recalled that the 'eyes' of the Head Sculpture would contain monitors which aimed to provide an opportunity for businesses, community/voluntary organisations, local authorities, schools etc to showcase their services for the benefit of members of the public. Appendix B contained the proposed Media Management Strategy which outlined how the media element of the project would be managed. The Working Party wished to ensure that the media content remained relevant and up to date, therefore it was agreed that the Strategy would be updated to indicate how often the material should be refreshed.

RESOLVED:

That the draft Media Management Strategy relating to the Head Sculpture PATCH project, as contained in Appendix B to Report E83, be updated to indicate how often the media material should be refreshed.

9. Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan

The Working Party considered a narrative item which updated Members on the development of a Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan.

As part of Haverhill Vision 2031, which had recently been published for final consultation, more detailed work was required on the vision for the development of the town centre and that this would be captured in a Masterplan.

Members noted that the formal adoption of a Masterplan could not take place until Haverhill Vision 2031 had completed the planning inspection process. However, many of the issues which generated rigorous debate in the town, such as the High Street and pedestrianisation, could not be resolved in isolation from the overall vision for the town centre. This made an early start on the community engagement and other preparatory work required to develop the Masterplan essential if the Council wished to minimise the gap

between the completion of the planning inspection on Haverhill Vision 2031 and the adoption of the Town Centre Masterplan.

The Working Party then noted the proposed actions for community engagement with key partners, particularly ONE Haverhill, as detailed in the narrative item.

Members of the Haverhill Area Working Party (HAWP) would be kept informed of the programme of engagement and would be invited to take part in a range of activities which would support and feed in to the Masterplanning process. HAWP would also be at the heart of the St Edmundsbury decision-making process with the Masterplan coming to the Working Party at its draft stage for comment and again after consultation, before working its way up for consideration by the Sustainable Development Working Party, Cabinet and its ultimate adoption by the Council.

Some concern was expressed regarding the development of the Masterplan which appeared to be taking place alongside the final stages of the Vision 2031 adoption process; and that whilst it was acknowledged that ONE Haverhill would play an important part in the development process, meetings of this Group were not held in public. Assurance was given that there would be wide engagement on the Masterplanning with all Haverhill Members being invited to engagement events.

The following issues were also raised under this item, which would be taken forward by the officers where appropriate:

- (a) a request be made to Suffolk County Council that a report be presented to HAWP following its transport event, recognising how it would feed into the Masterplanning process;
- (b) investigations be undertaken into the provision of a clock at Haverhill Bus Station which was originally meant to be installed as part of the refurbishment of the bus station, and whether Haverhill Town Council would now be able to allocate funding towards a clock;
- (c) investigations be undertaken into the previous request to move the Haverhill in Bloom planters from beneath the former Haverhill 'Welcome' signs and reposition them in front of the new signs. In addition, Members wished to obtain further information about the situation regarding the non-erection of 'Welcome' signs in certain places because of a perceived dispute over boundary lines;
- (d) cleansing of the High Street associated with fast food outlets was becoming hazardous and damage had been inflicted on street furniture; and
- (e) whether Haverhill Town Council's (HTC) response to the Haverhill Vision 2031 consultation could be tabled in order to gauge HAWP's support for the response. In response, the officers advised that the Town Council could circulate its response to all HAWP Members by email if it wished and that the opportunity for further debate on this matter would be at the meeting of the Sustainable Development Working Party on 18 September 2013. This meeting would be held in public and all Members of the Borough Council would be invited to attend.

RESOLVED:

That the issues outlined in items (a) to (d) above be taken forward by the officers and be reported back to a future meeting of the Working Party.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Working Party had already determined that its next meeting would be held on Thursday 21 November 2013 at 4.15 pm at Castle Manor Business and Enterprise College.

11. Conclusion of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 6.20 pm

This record has been completed by Kirsty Pitwood and Cathy Manning.

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