

ST EDMUNDSBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

HAVERHILL AREA WORKING PARTY

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday 17 April 2014 at 4.15 pm
in the Conference Room, Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way,
Haverhill**

PRESENT:	Councillors: Mrs K D Richardson (Chairman) Mrs Gower Marks	Mrs Rushbrook A Whittaker Redhead
BY INVITATION:	Councillor Pat Hanlon Councillor Alaric Pugh Councillor Sarah Stamp	Haverhill Town Council ONE Haverhill Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Arts and Culture
IN ATTENDANCE:	Councillor Roger André Councillor Brown Councillor Cox	Haverhill Town Council Ward Member for Haverhill East and Suffolk County Councillor Ward Member for Haverhill East

37. Substitutes

No substitutions were declared.

38. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors French, McManus and Mrs D Whittaker.

39. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

40. Declaration of Interests

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

41. Amendment to the Article 4 Direction in Haverhill

The Working Party considered Report E341 (previously circulated) which sought approval for an amendment to the Article 4 Direction in Haverhill.

An Article 4 Direction was made in 2003 to encourage owners of properties in the two Haverhill Conservation Areas to reinstate original features and details as the opportunities arose, thereby enhancing the character and appearance of the conservation areas over time. Due to a combination of factors, this had not been achieved. In 2013, public consultation was undertaken to cancel the Direction; however, on 29 August 2013, the Haverhill Area Working Party had expressed concerns about the

alterations and had recommended to Cabinet that the Direction should not be cancelled. The matter was deferred by Cabinet to allow officers to investigate other options and a proposal for partial cancellation of the Direction was presented to the Working Party in November 2013 and Members approved these for public consultation.

Of the residents who attended the drop-in sessions arranged as part of the consultation process, all were in support of the proposal to partially cancel the Article 4 Direction. In addition three written letters of support were received from residents together with two written objections, as attached as Appendix 3 to Report E341. Appendices 1 and 2 showed maps of the Conservation Areas and the properties covered by the existing Article 4 Direction.

Having taken the objections into account, the majority of Members supported the proposed amendment to the Article 4 Direction contained in Section 5.1 of the report, which would allow certain changes to be made to the external appearance of the properties within the Conservation Areas to take place without planning permission but would not permit changes to the roofs, chimneys, painting of the walls or the provision of solar and photovoltaic panels on the front elevations. This would protect the overall architectural form of the properties but allow alterations in line with those which were already prevalent within the Conservation Areas prior to the introduction of the Article 4 Direction.



RECOMMENDED:

That taking the results of the public consultation into account, the Article 4 Direction on the two Haverhill conservation areas, as shown in Appendices 1 and 2 to Report E341, be amended as set out in section 5 of the report.

(Councillor Mrs Stamp arrived during the consideration of this item.)

42. Commemorations of those who fell in World War I

The Working Party considered Report E342 (previously circulated) which sought the Working Party's views on a proposal to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I.

Councillor Mrs Stamp, Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Arts and Culture presented the report and firstly drew Members' attention to the events taking place in the Borough in 2014, including those in Haverhill, as set out in Section 4 of the report.

Members were then informed of a proposal initially put forward by Councillor Cox to commemorate World War I by installing a sundial and associated landscaping works in East Town Park, Haverhill. It was proposed that the former butterfly garden area of East Town Park be revamped and restocked with a range of flowering plants including a ribbon of red ornamental poppies. Within the ribbon of poppies a sundial would be installed. The sundial would be inscribed to commemorate World War I and include the CB9 logo, and mounted on a rustic stone column. On either side of the proposed sundial would be two stone tablets with poems reflecting the hardship levied against those fighting on the battlefields. Attached as

Appendices 1 and 2 were examples of the proposed sundial top, the expected general location of the garden and the planned planting plan.

The estimated cost of the projects totalled £4,000, a breakdown of which was provided in Section 9.1 of the report. Suffolk County Councillor Brown had agreed to contribute £1,500 from his locality budget and the Borough Council would contribute a sum from its existing Parks Revenue Budget. Subject to it meeting the agreed criteria, Borough Councillors would also be approached to contribute to the initiative from their own locality budgets.

The Working Party supported the project; however, Members were keen to ensure that appropriate organisations were advised of the proposal, and any other events that may be arranged in Haverhill to commemorate the start of WWI, such as:

- (a) Haverhill and Kedington's branches of the Royal British Legion;
- (b) Haverhill Ex-Servicemen's Club;
- (c) Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen Families Association (SSAFA);
- (d) Local youth Army, Air and Sea Cadets;
- (e) Haverhill and District Local History Group;
- (f) Haverhill schools; and
- (g) organisations associated with The Bevin Boys.

The Chairman asked that any further organisations/groups in addition to those listed above that may wish to be invited/involved in WWI events in Haverhill should be emailed directly to the Portfolio Holder for Heritage, Arts and Culture.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the currently known activities taking place both nationally and more locally in the Borough to commemorate World War I, be noted;
- (2) the initiative put forward by Councillor Cox to commemorate WW1 locally, in East Town Park, Haverhill, by installing a sundial and carrying out some associated landscape enhancements, as detailed in Section 4.2.4 of Report E342, be supported; and
- (3) the project be provided in accordance with the estimated costings and budgets detailed in Section 9 of Report E342.

43. Haverhill Town Centre Masterplanning: Update

The Working Party considered a verbal update in respect of the proposed new masterplanning process for Haverhill town centre. A briefing note indicating the proposed timeline, next steps and themes was attached as Paper E343 (previously circulated).

The Working Party was informed that ONE Haverhill Board members had formed working groups to support the development of the proposed masterplanning issues and options, which centred around four draft themes, as follows:

- (a) A Place to Live, Work and Play;
- (b) Ready for Growth;
- (c) Connectivity; and
- (d) An Attractive Environment.

A brief outline of each of the themes, facilitators and ONE Haverhill Board members on each working group were contained in Section 2 of the briefing note.

Councillor Pugh, one of the Borough Council's nominated representatives on ONE Haverhill would now receive a standing invitation to attend Working Party meetings to provide a councillor link between ONE Haverhill and Haverhill Councillors.

Each of the working groups would identify possible options and issues within the context of the draft themes. Their findings would be presented to the Haverhill Area Working Party prior to seeking Cabinet's approval of their recommendations on 24 June 2014. At this point, a view would be taken whether the issues and options were sufficiently developed to go out to consultation on them over summer 2014, or to use the summer for more extensive consultation to inform the draft issues and options.

Councillor Pugh stated that he was enthusiastic about the development of this project and was determined to support the working groups as much as possible, adding that the Borough Council's Joint Leadership Team was also fully behind developing this project.

In response to questions, the Working Party was informed that:

- (a) suggestions for other representatives of Haverhill to sit on the working groups, including Haverhill in Bloom, would be welcomed;
- (b) the role of ONE Haverhill was to generate the issues and options and this body was asked to facilitate this as it represented a variety of organisations in the town. The role of the Haverhill Area Working Party was to be part of the decision making process for the development of the Masterplan as its recommendations would be presented to the Borough Council's Cabinet and Council, where appropriate;
- (c) the Haverhill Town Centre Masterplan would ultimately become a planning policy document therefore the following process would be undertaken in accordance with usual practice for planning policy documents:
 - (i) a period of community engagement via consultation on the issues and options developed via ONE Haverhill and the Haverhill Area Working Party would be undertaken to gain initial feedback;
 - (ii) following this initial period of consultation and taking the responses received into account, the draft Masterplan would be developed;
 - (iii) consultation would then be undertaken on the draft Masterplan; and
 - (iv) amendments would then be made to the draft taking the second round of consultation responses into account, for the final

version to be submitted for approval via the Haverhill Area Working Party, Cabinet and full Council.

There were therefore several opportunities for the public and the representatives of the many organisations in the town to have their say.

(Councillors Pugh and A Whittaker arrived during the consideration of this item.)

44. Verbal Update

The Working Party received verbal updates on the following items:

(a) Public Art in the Town Centre of Haverhill (PATCH)

Councillor Mrs Rushbrook, Chairman of the PATCH Task and Finish Group, informed the Working Party of the current situation regarding the siting of the so-called 'Haverhill Head'.

The 'Haverhill Head' public art initiative was a collaboration between PATCH and Samuel Ward Academy, which had begun in July 2011, when the Cabinet had approved a budget of £8,000 with a contingency of £2,000 towards this project, which had been provided from the total £750,000 Growth Area Funding budget allocated for the entire Haverhill High Street Enhancement Scheme.

The sculpture had been completed and was principally made from metal rods shaped into a head, which incorporated display screens in the 'eyes' of the head in which films/advertisements could be played to showcase Haverhill. Members were informed that in order for the sculpture to be sited outside on public land, in an unsupervised environment, it must meet exacting technical requirements. The design of the head had developed over time, and as was the nature of such a project, PATCH had not wished to constrain the artistic community-led process. The result was that, while the sculpture could no longer be sited as was originally proposed on Market Square in Haverhill, it was now decided that it should be sited within the supervised grounds of Samuel Ward Academy. This suggestion had received the support of the Principal of Samuel Ward Academy.

Concern was expressed that the issues regarding the structural soundness of the head had not been considered earlier and Members were extremely disappointed that the sculpture could not be sited in its intended position. However, it commended the fantastic work of the students involved in the project; Neil Williams, Head of Art at Samuel Ward Academy; and Metcraft Engineering Ltd who had donated a large majority of materials and expertise to create the exceptional standard of work achieved. Members subsequently agreed that the decision to site the sculpture at Samuel Ward Academy would provide a substantial amount of access for the community due to the vast numbers of students, parents etc that visited the site for various Academy-led events.

(b) Empty Retail Units in Haverhill

The Working Party was informed that out of a possible 186 units, there were 12 vacancies in Haverhill town centre, which equated to a vacancy rate of 6.5%. Members were informed that a rate of between 5% and 10% was considered to be healthy.

(c) Development of the Haverhill Markets

Sharon Fairweather, Market Development Officer, introduced herself to Members and stated that although she had been employed by the Borough Council for several years, she was relatively new to this role. She outlined the events she was currently involved with for promoting and developing the Haverhill Market, such as:

- (a) Easter weekend 2014: Local Produce/Farmers' Market;
- (b) 17 May 2014: a Youth Market as part of the national 'Love your Local Market' week, which aimed to get young people involved with setting up market stalls and seeing them as a means of stepping into the business sector;
- (c) 12 July 2014: Motor Trade Show on Market Square; and
- (d) 'Trade for a Tenner' initiative, which aimed to attract new market traders, with a view to retaining their stalls following an initial four-week trial.

In addition, Members were informed that a monthly column would be provided in the Haverhill Weekly News which would profile a trader each month. Up-to-date images of the markets had also been produced and steps were being taken to promote the markets via appropriate websites, and also developing relationships with other business organisations in Haverhill, such as the Chamber of Commerce. A discussion was held on topics including:

- (a) the possibility of providing indoor markets in Haverhill;
- (b) the benefits of the 'Trade for a Tenner' initiative;
- (c) the possibility of using Jubilee Plaza for market-style events;
- (c) further details of the proposed Youth Market; and
- (d) the growing popularity of the Haverhill Friday and Saturday markets.

(Councillor Mrs Stamp left the meeting during the consideration of this item.)

(d) Strategic Sites in Haverhill

The Place Shaping Manager provided an update on the following sites in Haverhill:

- (a) North West Haverhill Strategic Site;
- (b) North East Haverhill Strategic Site;
- (c) the indication from the Planning Inspector examining the Haverhill Vision 2031 document that he had not supported the representation for allocating housing at the Bumpstead Road employment site.

A discussion was held regarding various matters identified by the Planning Inspector during the Examination of Haverhill Vision 2031.

45. Future Work Programme/Items for Discussion

The Working Party received and noted the following items that had been identified for future discussion:

- (a) remainder of Growth Area Funding allocation for Haverhill;
- (b) final report from Kent Business School on the 'Destination Haverhill' project;
- (c) use of Jubilee Plaza for outside events;
- (d) updates on Haverhill Research/Business Park;
- (e) the Experimental Traffic Order in Haverhill town centre;
- (f) the image of SCC cuts on Haverhill; and
- (g) review of the last two years' Haverhill Area Working Party recommendations/ decisions.

The Chairman asked Members to forward any other items they wished to place on the future Work Programme to Democratic Services or the Families and Communities Manager. Councillor Ms Byrne wished to add an item for 19 June 2014 which related to High Street funding.

46. Dates of Future Meetings

The date of Thursday 19 June 2014 at 4.15 pm was confirmed as an additional meeting date to enable potential recommendations relating to the Haverhill Masterplanning Process to be considered by Cabinet on 24 June 2014. A venue had not yet been determined for this meeting; however Members would be informed via email once this had been arranged.

The Working Party had already determined the following other future meeting dates in 2014:

- 11 September; and
- 11 December.

Both meetings were Thursdays starting at 4.15 pm at Castle Manor Academy.

The meeting concluded at 5.47 pm

**MRS K D RICHARDSON
CHAIRMAN**

