

Pre-meeting Reports
16 May 2017

12. Anna Mercer – Leiston Long Shop Museum Transformation project

Anna Mercer, currently seconded from her role of Curator of the Leiston Long Shop Museum as Transformation Programme Manager, gave a presentation on where the project to restore and upgrade the Long Shop and surrounding museum buildings was currently at. The transformation team were working hard to secure the second stage Heritage Lottery Fund and to raise the required partnership funding needed (a minimum of £700,000 is required).

A copy of the presentation is available from the Clerk. The Chairman thanked Anna for her talk and the meeting was invited to ask questions.

Cllr Howard was assured that the working conditions endured by the workforce would be illustrated in the new exhibitions. Anna could not however promise that local craftsmen would automatically be used on the project as there was a strict tendering process required by HLF.

Cllr Ginger noted that it was the intention to save, protect and mount the Old Comrade's Union Flag and hoped that this would be done. He was also pleased to hear that the museum would be working with the Leiston Works Railway still in the future.

Cllr Bailey requested that space be put aside for local memorabilia.

A member of the public asked about where the partnership funding was coming from. Anna gave some details of the strategy they were working on to raise the money and how that had a fund raising mentor helping.

During the above item, the time reached 7.30pm, it was proposed by Cllr Ginger and seconded by Cllr Harle and agreed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the public session to complete.

13. District Councillor

Cllr Cooper tabled a report for the meeting. Cllr Last hoped that the District and County would work together to ensure that the published race route would be improved before the Tour of Britain came through in September.

14. County Councillor

Cllr Russ Rainger introduced himself as the new Leiston and Aldeburgh County Councillor after being successfully elected in the recent election. He was currently being trained and inducted and looking forward to coming to future meetings.

15. Public Forum

A member of the public stood and gave her views on the state of the town as she was worried about the closed shops and the dwindling footfall in the High Street. She felt the situation was very serious and, although partly caused by the Co-op car park situation, there were, in her opinion, measures that landlords could take to smarten their premises up a little bit and perhaps try and attract quality leaseholders. She felt that the current charge of 50p for an hour in the High Street Car Park put people off coming to Leiston and that an effort should be made to provide free parking. Although the Co-op still

provided 4 hours free parking people were put off by having to enter their registration number. She asked that everyone think of possible solutions to combat this decline.

A resident of Red House Lane alerted the Council to the traffic problems in that road and the worries of all the residents regarding the extra traffic the Hopkins development would generate. There were more concerns about the amount of construction traffic the site would generate, especially if Hopkins went for an increased rate of building than they were currently doing. He pointed out the inevitable that Hopkins would be looking at the "reserve site" in a couple of years which would continue the problem. He asked that the Council request a Construction Management Plan so that the builders etc. did not exacerbate and clash with the school traffic.

**At a meeting of the LEISTON-cum-SIZEWELL TOWN COUNCIL
held in the COMMUNITY CENTRE, King Georges Avenue, Leiston, on
TUESDAY 16 MAY 2017 at 8.08 pm**

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs L Hill (in the Chair)
Councillor D Bailey
Councillor Mrs S Betson
Councillor D Boast
Councillor T Cooper
Councillor Mrs S Geater
Councillor C Ginger
Councillor P Harle
Councillor T E Hodgson
Councillor W M Howard
Councillor J N Last
Councillor Mrs S Levermore
Councillor D Morsley
Councillor C Nichols

16. Minutes

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Bailey and agreed that the minutes for the meeting of 2 May 2017 be signed as a true record.

17. Apologies

None.

18. Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported thus; On 27th April I attended a Social Prescribing Community Conference held at Leiston Children's Centre. Social prescribing is described as a prescription for non-medical support often found in the community. The conference was attended by representatives from a number of voluntary and community sector organisations to hear presentations from Richard Best, the Active Communities Manager for Suffolk Coastal & Waveney Councils, Louise Hardwick the Head of Operations NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Dr.Qureshi from the Leiston

Surgery. I was not able to stay for the group work session but I am pleased that as a result of this conference a Steering Group has been formed to set out a plan to implement a Social Prescribing Service in Leiston.

On 2nd May I attended along with other councillors a Trustee Consultation meeting on the Long Shop Museum's Transformation Project. The focus of the meeting was to help establish priorities for an Activity Plan in order to engage more people in learning and getting involved with their heritage.

Yesterday I attended a panel meeting of the Leiston & Sizewell Community Benefit Fund. A number of grants were agreed for local organisations which would benefit various groups of people in our community.

The Town Council newsletter will be delivered to households later this week.

19. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ginger in cheque number 313271 and BACS payment to S. Ginger, Cllr Bailey in cheque number 313275, Cllr Morsley in item 15d, Cllr Betson in cheque number 313274, Cllr Last in item 15d and 15j, Cllr Harle in item 9, Cllr Boast in cheque number 313273 and Cllr Geater in item 15c. Cllr Cooper in all planning matters and Cllr Hill regarding Leiston Film Theatre.

20. Vacancy for Town Councillor

The Clerk informed members that, after Mike Taylor's resignation, 10 residents had written to SCDC to request an election. There will therefore be a by election on 20 July 2017 for the vacancy with nominations being sought between 16 and 23 June.

21. New gates for King George Avenue sports area and orchard

The Clerk introduced the quote from Alexander Fencing for the required gating agreed by the Open Spaces Committee in February. There was only one quote as members were very happy with the value and workmanship provided on the recent new fencing (erected by Alexander Fencing) and also noted the Clerk's investigation into online prices. The submitted quotation was very favourable and provided a better fit with our requirements than those that could be viewed online. It was proposed by Cllr Howard seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed that Alexander Fencing be asked to complete the works as stated for £3,750.

22. Library Report

Councillors noted the report from the meeting.

23. Ground Maintenance meeting of 26 April

Members noted the minutes from this meeting.

24. Town Pastors

Councillors discussed the report given by the Town Pastors at the Town meeting which included a request for help with funding again this year. Members were very pleased to be able to continue their support and, on a proposition from Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Morsley it was agreed to donate £1,000.

25. Haylings Pond

The Clerk reported on works the Bailiffs were currently carrying out around Haylings Pond which included the installation of another fishing platform and renewal of a wooden staircase. Timber had been donated from Sizewell B Power Station and a lot of the work was being carried out by the Bailiffs themselves. There were some issues however that needed professional help. One of the banks was being undermined and it was felt that this was where the leak was. The water bill is currently larger than expected and it was felt that this bank needed shoring up to save water. NJB had provided a quote of £4,300 for this piling operation and on a proposition from Cllr Boast, seconded by Cllr Ginger, it was agreed to allocate £5,000 from the reserve to be made available to the Bailiffs, particularly for this element of the improvements, and to help towards the other items being undertaken.

26. Middle School Multi Use Games Area

Members discussed the issue raised by Mr Liam Murphy at the Town meeting where he explained that his basketball club would really like to use the MUGA for practice. The Clerk explained that he had approached the County Council on this and, due to the insurance situation and the current uncertainty of the sites future, they would not be entering into any piecemeal agreements, even with LTC backing, whilst the sites immediate future is under discussion. Members asked the Clerk to write in any case and make the request more formally. In the meantime Cllr Cooper reported that he had sorted out an anomaly with the pricing of the court at the Leisure Centre and Mr Murphy was now being charged the correct (lower) rate.

27. Suffolk Day

After some discussion on how to join in and celebrate the new "Suffolk Day" it was agreed that the Chairman would organise a litter pick to help tidy the town and Cllr Nichols would ask the Business Association to consider erecting the flags (and possibly even buying some "Suffolk Flags" to be put in the mix).

28. Parking issues in Leiston

Cllr Harle raised the issue of delivery vehicles dangerously parking on pavements. He was not alone in thinking that vehicles of all descriptions routinely parking on pavements was becoming an epidemic and lazy residents and visitors were endangering pedestrians with this unnecessary habit. Cllr Harle wondered whether delivery vehicles could be restricted to early mornings perhaps but could not see how this would be achieved or what other measures could be taken to combat this. Members were equally frustrated at what could be done to stop cars routinely parking on the pavements in town so came back to the only real option – enforcement – Cllr Morsley felt the Town should employ a traffic warden but other members, realising there was no powers (or money) to achieve this, settled for writing a strong letter to the Chief Constable asking him to divert his resources to Leiston to routinely patrol and clamp down on this. This was proposed by Cllr Bailey, seconded by Cllr Ginger and agreed.

29. Finance and Personnel

a) Accounts for Payment

It was proposed by Cllr Last, seconded by Cllr Cooper and agreed that accounts presented in the sum of £29,436.26p along with £50,366.51p paid since the last meeting, be approved for payment.

b) Annual Accounts

The Clerk distributed the year end accounts for members to examine ready for acceptance on 6 June. Cllr Bailey noted that the Film Theatre had made a profit of £19,000 which was due to the hard work and dedication of the Theatre staff who he wished to be congratulated.

The meeting took a break from 8.50pm to 9.00pm

30. Planning Matters

DC/17/1664/OUT – Single storey two-bedroom dwelling in side garden. Application DC/12/1190 and DC/12/2165 provide precedent 8 Andrew Close Leiston. Members felt that this small dwelling was incongruous in the setting proposed, an overdevelopment, did not fit in with the street scene and was forward of the building line too.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

DC/17/1559/AGO – Prior notification application (agricultural) – Extension to the east of existing barn for straw storage, West End Nurseries, 24 Westward Ho, Leiston. Recommend approval with same restrictions and conditions on movement of straw as for the current building.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1605/FUL – Full planning application for residential development of 65 dwellings (including 21 affordable units) with associated vehicular access, landscaping, open space, car parking and pedestrian links, Land to the south of Red House Lane, Leiston.

Members noted that the plan itself conformed very well with the Leiston Neighbourhood Plan and, in that context, was acceptable. The layout looked well thought out. There were small concerns about the frontage onto Red House Lane however as some members were keen to try and retain the hedgerow in its current state. There were very extensive environmental and habitat assessments and ameliorations across the rest of the site however and, in the plan the hedge was being reinstated further back to allow the road to be widened. Members acknowledged the concerns of residents in Poppy Way but were comfortable with there being a minor access route into the new site through the existing estate. It was pointed out that the provision to metal the footpath behind Quakers Way through to the Primary School had yet to appear in the S106 Heads of Terms but otherwise the application was complete. The major issues that members had however were with Highways who had not acknowledged the need to make any improvements whatsoever to Red House Lane to accommodate this development. There was a need to widen the road for the section west of the development site and a clear case to revisit the junction onto Aldeburgh Road which, even after previous enhancements, was still not acceptable due to its visibility, width and incline. There was also a clear need to insist on a Construction Management Plan to

ensure the development activity did not conflict in anyway with the school traffic.

(Cllr Last, Geater and Morsely abstained. Cllr Harle against due to highways concerns, hedging issues and possible lack of affordable homes. Cllr Howard against due to his concerns over the Sizewell Emergency Plan {against any new development}.)

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1592/FUL – Proposed extension to rear of dwelling, 9 King Edward Road, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1616/ARM – Approval of reserved matters of planning consent APP/J3530/W/15/3026060 – Redevelopment of the site for 8 dwellings – Application for approval of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the development, Abbey View Lodges, Orchard House, 105 Abbey Road, Leiston. Reluctantly members agreed to recommend approval in view of the appeal decision. Cllr Howard against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1617/FUL – Redevelopment of the site for 8 dwellings, Abbey View Lodges, Orchard House, 105 Abbey Road, Leiston. Members noted that this application moved just one property from the application just approved which made no material difference to the overall concept of this site so, again, agreed to recommend approval. Cllr Howard, Ginger and Cllr Harle against.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

DC/17/1618/FUL – Redevelopment of the site for 6 dwellings, Abbey View Lodges, Orchard House, 105 Abbey Road, Leiston. This was a clear overdevelopment of a site which has only just gained, from appeal, permission to develop 8 dwellings. The six further dwellings proposed did not have enough car parking spaces (see Leiston Neighbourhood Plan section 9.13), overlooked the neighbouring dwelling, were incongruous with the street scene and detracted from the efforts made in gaining visual acceptance of the 8 allowed dwellings when viewed from the Abbey or from the Theberton Road entering the town. If they were to be considered one plot would have to be sacrificed to ensure there were sufficient parking spaces. This site has no bus service (one a day), is almost a mile from a bus stop in town (which does not have a service after 5pm) so, clearly, to be sustainable, two occupants in a two bedroom house will each need a car to get to work. This is the minimum and, with no on street parking available on a very tight entrance road parking spaces have to be provided as there is absolutely no other option available to future occupants. This is a red line (as they say). With all the above members strongly recommended refusal.

RECOMMEND REFUSAL

SCC/0070/17 – Extension and remodelling of Fire Station to provide additional accommodation and upgrade the existing accommodation and facilities for fire and police service, Leiston Fire Station, King Georges Avenue, Leiston.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL

31. County Matters

Members raised some highway matters that could be reported online or addressed at the forthcoming Highways meeting.

32. District Matters

Cllr Cooper was asked to look at the chance of adding some short period free parking to the District car parks in Leiston.

33. Correspondence

Request for funding from Mr Gary Robinson

Members noted the request from a former Leiston Scout, now a “Fresh Explorer”, for possible funding to help toward his expedition costs to take part in the Suffolk Umphakathi Expedition later in the year. Members supported Mr Robinson’s ambition and, on a proposition from Cllr Howard, seconded by Cllr Levermore it was agreed to donate £50 toward his expedition costs.

34. Questions to the Chairman

Cllr Ginger requested that the Council write and thank Flagship Housing for the excellent work they have done resurfacing Kiln Lane.

Cllr Bailey wanted to just acknowledge that, whatever people may think of the new co-op parking scheme, it did not warrant the abuse that some of the staff have endured since its inception. He felt that they deserved recognition for the help they have given to customers and the resilience they have shown throughout as this was completely out of their control.

It was proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Levermore and agreed that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the Meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

35. Personnel

Members discussed an item of business regarding personnel.

The meeting finished at 10.00pm.

Chair -----

Dated -----