

WARE TOWN COUNCIL

A meeting of the **TOURISM LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE** was held in the Council Chamber, The Priory, Ware on Monday 15 January 2018 at 7.30 pm when the following business was transacted.

PRESENT Cllr's P Ballam (in the Chair), J Kaye, S Reed, M Standley
ATTENDING Jill Rowlinson (Town Clerk); Rosalyn Montgomery (Events Officer)

280. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr C Reed.

281. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

282. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November had been circulated and were approved, adopted and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

283. TUDOR SQUARE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME**i) Enhancement Scheme - Progress since 20 November****1. Planning Consent**

Planning consent had been granted for the revised plan that does not need consent to work on the highway. The amendments were:-

- making the largest circle smaller
- retaining the bollards along West Street
- retaining the street lamp previously marked for removal
- making bed 1 slightly smaller
- taking out bed 2
- taking out 2 trees
- taking out 4 benches

There were two conditions to be discharged before work could start:-

- Archaeology –there had been some revisions and additions since producing the original Written Scheme of Investigation so the archaeologist needed to obtain new data from Hertfordshire County Council and make amendments to the scheme.
- Highways required a Construction Traffic Management Plan to be approved by the Local Planning Authority (East Herts Council) in accordance with the Highway Authority. Project Managers, Barker Associates had been asked to liaise with the contractor on this.

Barker Associates had been asked to obtain a revised price and possible start date from the contractor following revisions to the plan.

2. Lease - East Herts Council are waiting for a start date for works so that they can finish preparing the draft.

- 3. **Start Date** – to be agreed once the two planning conditions above are discharged.
- 4. **Businesses, residents and the market** – once the start date is known local businesses and residents surrounding Tudor Square will be advised of the works and what measures will be taken to minimise disruption from noise, dust etc. East Herts Council’s Market Manager will attend a meeting to discuss relocation of the market during construction.

The report was noted.

- ii) **Rising Bollard**
HCC Highways had advised as follows:-

“The software is obtained and the version we need is actually free of charge, but we need the phone line upgraded to ADSL to give a more reliable service. I will check with Ringway tomorrow to get progress on this matter. Once it is confirmed that all is ok with the phone lines, the bollard company will send an engineer to site to connect and test all equipment, install software on client machine and demonstrate how to operate the system. The client machine will need to be internet enabled and running Windows 7/10 or have VPN software installed. There may be some firewall issues as well so Ware Town Councils IT department may need to be available to assist with software installation and firewall. I will keep you informed of progress with regards to BT works.”

The report was noted.

284. TOURISM

Information from Visit Herts had been circulated and was noted.

285. EVENTS

- i) **Summer Concerts 2018**

The following dates have been provisionally booked:

July 8th Ware Brass

September 16th Ware Brass

East Herts Concert Band, Youth Orchestra & ensembles – date to be agreed.

- ii) **Cinema**

The current programme of films are:

Dunkirk 18th January

Hampstead 15th February

Murder on the Orient Express 22nd March (tbc)

Paddington 2 19th April (tbc)

It was noted that Guideposts work experience placements had been helping at the cinema and would be having their own cinema evening.

- iii) **Winter Talks**

Place House will host a talk by Robin Webb on February 22nd. Title and time to be confirmed.

Mr. Feargal Sharkey, Chairman of the Amwell Magna Fishery, will present a talk at Ware Priory in March – date to be confirmed.

iv) **Town Tours**

The Annual meeting of Tour Guides will take place in February, at which time dates for the scheduled walks during the summer months will be agreed.

v) **Ware Food Festival**

This will take place on Monday, 28th May 2018. Mailing to stall holders will go out in February.

286. **STREET FURNITURE**

At the last meeting it was agreed:-

- That Cllr S Reed would carry out a survey of bins in the High Street and monitor which ones needed more frequent emptying
- To contact East Herts Council to find out whether they would include the emptying of additional recycling bins in the waste contract.
- To include the sum of £1,000 in the budget for 2018/19 for recycleable litter bins.

The Town Clerk contacted East Herts Council about whether the bins could be emptied as part of their waste contract and received the following response:-

“Thank you for your email. It is my understanding that the ones we have currently at Amwell End sadly are more often than not contaminated. We unfortunately are not able to separate the waste streams and therefore the contents have to go to landfill. In theory the bins can be installed and they can be emptied (there may be a cost to this) however we cannot guarantee that the contents will actually get recycled. I know other districts have not had much luck with the on street recycling either but it could be that having them would make the public more conscious of the litter they throw away.”

Details of the cost for emptying the bins should the Town Council decide to proceed had been requested.

Cllr Reed reported that litter bins in town were emptied regularly but not all on the same day. The possibility of asking East Herts Council to install larger bins or additional bins in places where bins become full regularly was discussed.

It was reported that the bin in Warner Road was often full up and dog waste bags were left on the top.

It was **RECOMMENDED**:-

- to proceed with the installation of a recyclable litter bins near the Punch House subject to the budget for installation and emptying being approved by the Finance & Resources Committee
- to ask East Herts Council if they could provide additional bins in areas where the bin became full regularly.
- To ask East Herts Council whether a dog waste bin was required at Warner Road.

287. **WARE STATION NOTICEBOARD**

The noticeboard supplier has sent all required paperwork to Greater Anglia and is awaiting an agreed start date. The report was noted.

288. COMMUNITY FORUM

Herts Mind Network were unable to provide a speaker for the January meeting and so this was cancelled. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 12 April at 7.30pm. There will be a talk by the Wellbeing Service Manager of Herts Mind Network. The report was noted.

289. NATIONAL YOUR TOWN DAY

It was noted that the speaker would be attending the next meeting on 5 March.

290. HERTFORDSHIRE YEAR OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

i) Issue 1 of the HYOPA newsletter had been circulated and was noted.

ii) **Pop Up in the Parish**

A proposal from Apex in the Community to provide family inflatable activity schemes at a cost to the Council of £1,500 and suggested entrance fee of £10 per person had been circulated. It was

RECOMMENDED not to proceed with the proposal.

291. SCOTT'S GROTTO

Some time ago the Town Council received a presentation from East Herts Council on proposals to establish a Trust to own and manage Scott's Grotto. The following progress report had been received:

A Paper will be going to the East Herts Executive on 6 Feb to agree:-

- (1) setting up a trust composed of 2x East Herts Council reps, 2x Ware Society reps
- (2) start up funding of £23,000
- (3) transfer of the deeds of the grotto to the trust and
- (4) council support for another few months to recruit additional trust members, produce a business plan and get it all up and running to be independent.

The leadership team at east Herts agreed this a few months ago and Ben Wood, East Herts' Head of Communications, Strategy and Policy attended a Ware Society meeting in late November to explain the model. East Herts Council will be doing a lot of communication during February and March to raise awareness and interest locally.

Concern was expressed over whether this level of funding would be sufficient for the Ware Society to manage and maintain Scott's Grotto. The report was noted.

292. WARE MARKET

East Herts Council had commissioned the National Association of British Market Authorities to carry out a Market Health Check on Ware Market. The report had been circulated. The main findings were lack of business and traders and sustainability. The report made the following proposals for consideration:-

- Centralise the market in Tudor Square
- Gather hard evidence of footfall and carry out surveys to assess the need/ desire for a weekly market
- Instead of providing a market, offer the existing traders the opportunity of trading as individual street traders on additional days of the week through individual street trading licences.
- Provide more one-off events throughout the year.

- Consider making traders responsible for disposing of their own waste.

The report was noted. It was

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk contact East Herts Council to find out how any proposed transfer of Ware Market to Ware Town Council would work in view of the proposals contained within the NABMA report.

293. INSPIRING LIBRARIES

The consultation document from Hertfordshire County Council had been circulated.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to respond as follows:-

- Which of the following best describes your thoughts about the ambitions – Strongly agree
- Any further comments about the ambitions – Ware Library currently provides a good range of services. The library is a valuable part of the community. If there are suitable rooms available, maybe consideration should be given to hiring rooms to bring in income. Perhaps a café could be provided although this could be seen as competition to local businesses.
- Which of the following best describes your thoughts about our proposal to establish an alternative delivery model for the library service in Hertfordshire – strongly disagree.
- Reasons for this choice – Ware Town Council would be concerned that this could lead to Ware Library being downgraded from a Tier 2 to a Tier 3 library.

294. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 5 March 2018

295. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Chairman

