

## **St Margaret's with St Nicholas' Ward Forum**

### **Chairman's Report for the year 06 April 2015 to 05 April 2016**

King's Lynn does not have a town council as such, however it would not be far from the mark to say that the forum comes as close as one can get. Consequently, it has been an extremely busy year and one which has been both rewarding and successful. Our clerk, Sally Turff, has been assiduous in her rapport with the media and our coverage of news items in the local papers has been most encouraging. The three main areas of concern have been the development of the South Quay, parking issues within the ward and flood awareness. The forum's steering committee also addressed the matter of a revised constitution and a new website. Business during the year has included:

#### **Constitution**

Members of the steering committee worked on the new wording of the constitution which was ratified by the forum at its meeting on 10 February 2016. Membership of the forum now extends to those who both live and/or work within the ward.

#### **Empty and derelict buildings**

Members of the steering committee met Ostap Paparega (Borough Regeneration and Economic Manager) and Laura Hampshire (Project Officer of the Regeneration and Economic Development Team) in March 2016 to discuss the issue of empty and derelict buildings in the ward. A Derelict Land and Buildings Group has been set up by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) and a list had been compiled of these premises. A number of freeholders had been written to expressing the council's concern that the buildings remain in a derelict or empty state. It was agreed that Laura Hampshire would continue to liaise with the forum regarding successes in getting these buildings occupied.

#### **Flood Awareness**

Mindful of the apparent lack of information on pre-flood assistance available for residents in the ward, the forum secretary, two other members of the steering committee and Dr Elizabeth Harrison (Nelson Street Residents' Group) met Alan Daniels (Environment Agency) and Tamsyn Ellway (Environment Agency) on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016. It was agreed that Mr Daniels, Ms Ellway and Kevin Kent (BCKLWN Emergency Planning officer) would address the forum on 10 August and that there would be a Flood Awareness event in King's Lynn Minster on Saturday 17 September 2016 between 14.00 and 18.00.

#### **Forum Accounts**

We have been successful in securing the services of Mrs Susan Nairn of Narborough to examine the forum's accounts on an annual basis. As we have been rather neglectful in not having the accounts examined for the previous two years, (to April 2013/14 and to April 2014/15), she has now done so as well as examining them for this year.

#### **Noise Abatement**

Late night loud music from the Hanse House, St Margaret's Place and the Workers' Club, Church Street formed the subject of a meeting between the forum chairman, the chairman of

the Nelson Street Residents' Group, the resident of 1 Nelson Street and Cllr Brian Long (Leader, BCKLWN) in May 2016.

### **Parking issues within the Ward**

In September 2015 your chairman contacted Quentin Brogdale (Norfolk County Council) requesting that the footpath at the north-west end of Waterloo Street be designated a 'No Parking' zone. Mr Brogdale was able to say that the parking restrictions would be extended to include that part of Waterloo Street, which was done.

Correspondence with Tom McCabe (Norfolk County Council Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services) led to members of the steering committee meeting Phil Riley (Norfolk County Council) and sixteen others at King's Court on 23 June 2016 to discuss parking issues effecting the South Quay and Nelson Street. BCKLWN and NCC said these concerns would be incorporated in the forthcoming River Front Delivery Plan.

Concern was also expressed regarding the increase of cyclists using footpaths as cycle-ways, and cyclists who choose to ride against the traffic up Queen Street.

Norfolk County Council apologised for the narrow double-yellow lines in Queen Street, mistakenly applied following resurfacing. Unfortunately, there are no funds available for removing them, so they will have to wear off naturally.

### **Planning issues**

Following forum policy of commenting on planning applications, the matter of the Wennis public house was raised. This building is now the subject of a major grant from the Town Heritage Initiative for conversion into a public house, delicatessen and holiday lets.

### **Riverfront Delivery Plan**

Now that the borough council has acquired the former silo site (between Nelson Street and South Quay) a masterplan for its long-term development and that of the South Quay in general is to be undertaken. The forum met Alistair Beales (Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Industrial Assets) and Ostap Paparega (Borough Regeneration and Economic Manager) to express its interest in being included in the development team's consultation procedure. It was agreed that we would be kept informed of developments, though whether or not we would be able to have a representative on the development team has still to be decided. We have just learned that BCKLWN has appointed the London-based consultancy firm Urban Delivery to lead the study which will address the area around the Purfleet, Custom House and King's Staithe Square as well as the parking area on the South Quay and the visitor pontoons. The third area included in the study is the Nar Loop which leads up to Hardings Pits.

### **St James' Medical Practice**

At the beginning of April 2016 the forum secretary wrote to Dr Galloway at the St James' Medical Practice to express concern on the proposed re-location of the surgery from St James' Park to Kilham's Way in north Lynn. The proposal has since been abandoned, but the forum is still pressing the practice to look at space in Vancouver House, County Court Road, at Blackfriars House in Birch Tree Close and at Plaxtole House in Goodwin's Road and has also asked for patient involvement in the selection of a new location.

### **Saturday Market Place events**

The *Butchers, Barbers and Brewers* event, initiated by the forum and organised by Stephen King (Town Heritage Initiative Officer), held on Saturday Market Place during Heritage

Open Day 2015 was a great success. Further events will be held as the Town Heritage Initiative project develops.

### **Vancouver Quarter Signage**

We have expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of street-signs in the Vancouver Quarter. In September 2015 we wrote to Abigail Panks, Vancouver Quarter Manager, who agreed to contact us following her planned meeting with BCKLWN on that issue. No further contact ensued, though we have continued to ask Ms Panks if she could let us have her agreed report.

### **Website**

The original forum website, created some years ago by Andrew Belfield, had become defunct as well as somewhat outdated. In the spring of 2015 the steering group agreed to ask Mr Belfield if he could refresh it for us. As he was unable to do so Dr Michael Brindle offered to do the task, with the assistance of Wayne Hart. Following Dr Brindle's retirement from the steering group Mr Hart continued the task and delivered a preliminary version of the new website which went live in May of this year. Some further work is required.

Dr Julian W S Litten

Chairman

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31 July 2016