

SMwSN WARD FORUM

Chairman's Quarterly Report – February 2019

New Committee Members.

I am delighted to report that Ms Jenny Richards and The Revd Angela Rayner have agreed to join the ward forum committee. We shall be formally co-opting them at the EGM on Feb 27.

Jenny, who runs Prontaprint in St James St, will be adding a business element to our strength while Angela, who is curate at the Minster, brings a wide knowledge of our community and the ward.

Future of the Town Centre - Consultation

Views on the way people wish the town centre to be developed will be used by the borough council to apply for serious money to give us the town centre we want.

There are two drop-in events on Tuesday Feb 19 and Friday Feb 22 when representatives of Vision King's Lynn will be in the town centre from 12noon – 2pm, based in the former Shaake shop on Broad Street.

People will be able to drop in and complete a Vision King's Lynn survey and share their thoughts on what they would like to see in the town centre of the future.

In addition, Vision King's Lynn survey postcards have been distributed in some town centre shops and at the borough council offices, Providence Street Community Centre, and Hillington Square café.

Failing that people can still have their say online:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/2MHZZHC>

The consultation ends on Monday Feb 25 February, so please make your views known. The ward forum committee will be completing the survey on behalf of the ward and sending in views so would like to hear those of ward forum constituents. Send them to Sally, twosaintskl@gmail.com

Proposed Public Spaces Protection Orders. These are designed to tackle the increasing numbers of drivers who are using their vehicles for anti-social behaviour, in particular extremely loud engines. Public consultation has begun and ends on February 28. For details and maps and to comment go to west-norfolk.gov.uk/haveyoursay. (see also attached). Our ward councillor and ward forum vice-chairman Lesley Bambridge is pleased with this move and would like to have any views you might have. Cllr.Lesley.Bambridge@west-norfolk.gov.uk

Guildhall of St George. We wrote, as the forum requested we should, to Raymond Assirati, Cumno Properties, said to be the mysterious 'benefactor' who wished to take on the guildhall and turn it into an art gallery, explaining that our constituents wanted the building to remain as a theatre. Surprisingly we got a reply – not from him but from his agent. Bob Delafield.

He wrote: 'Since receiving your letter it is fair to say that we are disappointed to see the disinformation, and some would say 'fake news' played out in the media.

The objective of the Charity (he does not specify which charity) is to invest in

the historic town centre, maintain and protect heritage properties and to ensure public use and accessibility. In due course, when we are ready, we will be ensuring that there is full and correct understanding of what are(sic) intentions are.

For the present all we would say is that we are happy for all existing uses to remain for the foreseeable future.'

Since then the campaign group Lynn Arts Culture and Heritage has formed the Shakespeare's Guildhall Trust, (SGT) a charity, whose spokesman is actor and broadcaster Tim FitzHigham. 'Shakespeare' because an academic at UEA has studied original documents and is convinced S. must have come to Lynn and acted here. The trust's aim is keep the guildhall as a theatre, the surroundings as an arts centre, and to employ and promote the S. connection, aiming for both national and international interest. SGT has had meetings with the National Trust and learned that the parameters of the original agreement do not allow the building to be used for anything other than a theatre. SGT has applied to have the guildhall registered as an 'asset of community value' which has just been granted. As part of this procedure, the relevant parish council had to be notified, in the absence of a PC in Lynn SMwSNWF was so notified.

Ivor Rowlands, chairman of the SG trustees is speaking to the forum on Feb 27 when all the up-to-date information will be given and there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Restaurant Ship, Purfleet. Everything went quiet over the winter, but in a report in the EDP in January, the businessman behind the scheme, Roger Clarke-Payton said the project was 'still highly active' and he hoped to have the 150ft sailing vessel 'on station' by the spring. The borough council had agreed to drive pilings into the bed of the Purfleet to moor the vessel; the report said it was awaiting confirmation that the operator was in a position to both buy and operate the vessel.

Nelson's Quay. The borough council has now acquired the silo site (previously McCarthy and Stone). We await further developments.

Defibrillators. We had written to Vicky Etheridge, (Discover King's Lynn), with a view to mounting a drop-in information/awareness event to publicise the provision of defibrillators and to alert people to their location and use. This would be done jointly with the Business Improvement District and the ambulance service. She has replied that she is awaiting the defibrillators to be in service and training completed when it is hoped we can organise a joint event.

St James Street. The Townscape Heritage initiative is certainly achieving much improvement. The derelict Courts shop building has gone and in its place are new town houses. The committee felt that congratulations were due and has written to the owners. The former premises of the RAOB – originally a handsome bank – which are being developed into apartments shows great promise; we like the way the art deco offices on the corner of Tower Street have been painted and delighted to see the scaffolding poles around other buildings.

Big improvement too for the windows of the Eastern European Shop there; gone are

those huge – and rather daunting - pictures of sausages and the windows are now embellished with hand-painted flowers. Style and execution may not be to everyone's taste, but it's a beginning.