

# ST MARGARET'S WITH ST NICHOLAS WARD FORUM

Quarterly Meeting 7pm, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017

Marriott's Warehouse

## Minutes

1. The Chairman, Dr Julian Litten, opened the meeting, welcomed members and introduced the agenda before introducing the invited speaker, Dr Veronica Sekules.
2. **Lecture:** Dr Sekules gave a lecture on the aims and objectives and activities of Groundwork Gallery, describing it as a springboard for promoting the link between contemporary art and the environment, via exhibitions and sales of fine and applied art and related objects, emphasizing
  - its highly individual thematic character
  - local, national and international outreach,
  - the initiative in promoting awareness of local and county natural materials,
  - opportunities to promote education to foster appreciation of art and the environment,
  - working with local public and private bodies to improve the local urban through campaigns such as the Trees for the Town initiative.
  - Following a brief Q & A session, the Chairman thanked Dr Sekules for her lecture.
3. **Apologies:** Received from Jeanette Goodrich, David and Carol Savage, Wayne Hart, Michael and Barbara Carter-Rowlands, Bob and Linda Cooke, Michael Brindle and Diana Fox Brindle, Helen Russell-Johnson, Dennis Pearce, Carol and David Savage, Heather Bolt
4. **Declarations of interest.** None
5. **Announcements:** None
6. **Minutes of the last meeting:** Approved
7. **Matters arising.**

Noted: that the pavement lights outside the Town Hall deemed by many to be unduly bright are now to be dimmed with the use of removable covering.
8. **Chairman's report:** Received and noted.

### Matters arising

#### St James Medical Practice Relocation:

##### Noted:

- that two members have volunteered to attend a meeting between the Forum representatives and the SJMP.
- that the Secretary requested that another volunteer come forward.

- that concern was reiterated that suitable bus services be made available to and from the relocated practice.

#### Community Flood Plan.

##### Noted:

- that a flood map for areas at risk within the Ward is now available,
- that Dennis Pearce, as Flood Plan Coordinator, has divided the area in sections to identify local areas where a 'warden' might be required as the local contact to be made aware of those at risk and requiring assistance.
- that Sally Turff, as Secretary, will circulate specific areas and will seek volunteers as local contacts.

#### Guildhall of St George.

##### Noted.

- that following the failure of the HLF bid, a user group association has been formed namely Lynn Arts, Culture and Heritage (LArCH).
- that LArCH has ascertained that feedback on the bid failure included that
- *The bid provided insufficient evidence of a rethink and fresh approach, repeating previous patterns of use as a theatre and art gallery. Overall therefore sustainability was considered high risk and the case for investment in this scheme was unconvincing. The tight project timetable also increased risk.*
- that LArCH has approached the BCKLWN to request active involvement in the formulation of a 2<sup>nd</sup> revised bid.
- That Forum Chairman Dr Litten regretted that 5 local residents with relevant expertise were not consulted for advice.

#### Planning:

##### Noted:

- that it was mooted that the Forum itself be enabled to make comment on such matters, especially taking into account the usual 3 week period of consultation.
- Proposed and agreed: that, as deemed appropriate, the forum may comment upon planning applications that affect the Ward.
- Proposed and agreed: that Mr Robert Fraulo be seconded to the Forum Committee to consider relevant planning items.
- Action: That Cllr Bambridge seek clarification on the criteria for planning applications to be published in the Lynn News.

#### Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)

- Noted: That work on the former Courts Building in St James Street had now begun.

##### THI Phase II+

- Discussed and Agreed: That it would be beneficial for a future phase of the THI to be extended to areas including London Road, Railway Road and The Friars, with the scheme also being available to residents.

#### Traffic flow:

- Noted: that concern was expressed as to the density and inefficient flow of traffic through the town.

- Noted: that the responsibility for monitoring and regulating traffic flow, including the overview of the computerized system controlling traffic lights, was to be transferred to CCTV services.

Website:

- Noted: that suggestions for items and information for inclusion were invited, to be sent to the ward forum secretary.  
The chairman asked for a volunteer to oversee content for the website and to keep it updated. Wayne Hart would continue to carry out the inputting.

Premises numbering, retail signs and street names:

- Noted: that Forum Chairman Dr Litten regretted the continued lack of action on the part of the BCKLWN in addressing this item, and reported that he had written to the Chief Executive accordingly to bring the matter to his attention.

9 **MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION**

Trees within the Ward

- Noted: it was felt that the Ward suffered from a lack of trees in public spaces and thoroughfares.
- Agreed: that the Forum write to BCKWN to seek clarification of the current policy and strategy in relation to the maintenance and enhancement of the arboreal heritage and provision.

Licensing of premises for the sale of alcohol

- Noted: That the continued proliferation of premises where alcohol is sold is unwelcome and that it encourages street drinking and anti-social behaviour, often flouting by-laws of conduct in public places.  
A new application to sell alcohol from 6am has been made for a premises in London Road which is directly opposite a hostel for those with alcohol – and other social – problems. Cllr Bambridge is attempting to oppose the granting of this licence.
- Noted: That, under the current system, it was felt that licensing had become overly permissive.
- Action: Where members felt disturbed by current practice and behaviour, Cllr Bambridge urged members to alert the Police via telephoning 101, by alerting their PCSO, by writing to the Licensing Officer at the BCKLWN, and by writing to the local MP to advise reformed process of civic consideration and control.

10 **Finance report:**

- Noted: the Treasurer’s report as previously circulated

11 **Topics for discussion previously submitted: NONE**

12 **AOB. None**

The meeting closed at 20.50 pm

Date of next meeting: 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (AGM).