

St Margaret's with St Nicholas Ward Forum Chairman's update and report on activity since November 2017

The atrocious weather – 'Beast from the East' - in February saw the cancellation of the Forum Meeting timed for 28th February, consequently I am reissuing the up-date document prepared for that meeting together with updates on our activity since then.

Website

Forum constituent Jeremy Rodwell has offered to take on the task of webmaster pro bono, which will relieve Wayne Hart of a hefty chore. Since the agm Wayne has been carrying out the task for no payment, for which we are most grateful, especially as his self-employed business as a letter-cutter is considerable and he has not been well.

Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) provision.

Jeremy Rodwell instigated the forum's interest in this important subject and he and Brian Falconbridge have been exploring how the forum might initiate provision. To date there has been heartening news: representatives of Rotary and BID (Business Improvement District) are in discussion on a joint plan to install CPADs in strategic locations in the town. This positive news comes with the equally positive response Jeremy and Brian had from Andrew Barlow, Community Collaboration Manager Norfolk & North Cambridgeshire, East of England Ambulance Service NHS. The forum is hoping/planning to organise a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) Awareness Day (along the lines of the flood awareness event last year) led by Andrew to include guidance on the capabilities and application of CPAD units. The idea of a CPR Awareness Day in the ward during 2018 is still the forum's intention. Brian will be providing an update for the meeting.

Excessive Noise

Following sustained correspondence with the borough, the forum was offered a meeting with Dave Clack, the borough's Safety & Welfare Adviser. Sally met him with Michael Brindle (the forum constituent who originally brought up the subject) and the meeting was most positive. Explaining the difficulty of dealing with noise, which is both transitory and subjective, DC offered to monitor events for the coming year with a view to assessing the degree of disturbance and what, if any, action should be taken. He has suggested residents keeping a diary over the year, NB some events are council-run, others private and so the ability to take action to control noise differs.

We emphasised that we were as much concerned of the effect on the participants' hearing as on that of forum constituents. Several constituents living in the vicinity of Tuesday Market have endorsed complaints of disturbance from events there. These have been compiled into a further report for DC.

We have since heard back from Dave Clack who has provided the relevant forms to complete to log any instances of excessive noise. These have been emailed to you with the borough's database of events, (so you know what you're in for) and your response will be used to help determine the extent of the problem.. Please do report noise. If you didn't receive a form ask Sally to send you one.

KL traffic route survey

This is being undertaken by both NCC and BCKLWN in partnership who are carrying out transport study work leading to the development of a Transport Strategy for King's Lynn. The project is to understand current and future issues and develop a preferred strategy, including modelling of the options available, to arrive at a series of implementable scheme proposals. It will focus for activities in and around the town particularly with regard to ongoing initiatives by BCKLWN to improve the town. The areas being examined are King's Lynn Riverfront Regeneration (Nelson Quay), Heritage Action Zone, Declared Air Quality Management Areas and Local Plan review.

Earlier in the year a workshop was held with wider stakeholder organisations to seek views and opinions on issues, opportunities and potential interventions,. The forum had formally asked to be logged as a 'consultee'. but this was not to be. We were firmly told that the meeting was intended for residents, who should send their views and ideas via their ward councillors. The brief for this workshop sent to councillors was forwarded to ward forum constituents who sent responses to Councillor Bambridge. There was a second workshop with wider stakeholder organisations – to which the forum was not party – designed to gain views and opinions on the draft preferred strategy. Stakeholder engagement will take place in November 2018. We note also that the misnomer 'Nelson's Quay' is retained, though we have been given some clarification on that.

Since then the consultants working on the strategy have agreed to take the forum's views direct and we are in the process of compiling them

On a first assessment of the brief several aspects of concern arise, not least the new traffic configuration which came into effect on London Road, providing two lanes out of town towards South Gates and one lane in. Unfortunately this meant the (temporary) removal of the traffic lights at the east end of Valingers Road and the removal of any possibility of weddings and funerals parking outside Our Lady's, London Road. Fr Rollings has since met on site with BCKLWN and NCC Highways to show them the dilemma. Apparently, one official admitted being unaware of a church on London Road (ignoring, of course, the Methodist Church further along). Be that as it may the new configuration has done little, if anything, to remove the bottle-neck for outgoing traffic at South Gates, where vehicles have to converge into a single lane to skirt the South Gate itself. The possibility of opening Hardings Way to general traffic has still not gone away. Various other recommendations have been made, such as Park & Ride facilities on the Hardwick Industrial Estate and an entirely new configuration of the King's Lynn bypass, but it may be some time before finance is available for either of these options.

There is also a rather ominous suggestion to remove the barrier gate in All Saints Street, for which Friars residents campaigned so long to prevent what was then a rat run.

Nelson's Quay.

The name came up at a meeting where Cllr Nockold (deputy leader) was present. She said that a name for the riverside development had to be thought up at very short notice so that the project could be included in an international marketing campaign by the government. It is therefore merely a 'name in progress' and not set in stone. We shall see. Forum constituents have suggested: Cresswell Quay, Carmelite Quay, Regis Quay, Hansa Quay, Merchants Quay, King John's Quay. Cllr Beales (cabinet member for corporate projects and assets) has ruled out Vancouver Quay on the grounds that it would confuse the project with the shopping centre. He has further stated: "Many people cannot understand why the shopping centre is named after a Canadian island anyway."

You will be aware that the forum wrote in opposition, which has proved to be of no avail. Forum constituents who wrote to Cllr Beales individually have received neither acknowledgment nor response.

To date there has been little movement on the proposed development but no doubt once BCKLWN's attention is diverted from the London Road traffic confusion they may have time to revisit the scheme.

Future GP Services. Sally attended the Norfolk Healthwatch meeting in November. Topics were wide-ranging but a determined element of attendees ensured that the SJMP move was thoroughly aired and no-one was left in any doubt as to the strength of feeling. ST signed up the forum to the Healthwatch newsletter, which *might* make us better informed. The report of the meeting is on the website:

<https://www.healthwatchnorfolk.co.uk/ingoodhealth/stp-event-summary/>

NB Norfolk's former coroner William Armstrong heads this organisation and the reason why the meeting was held in Lynn is his determination to involve areas in the county outside of Norwich.

Tree strategy

Still awaits publication. Rick Morrish (KLCS) has made recommendations.

KL 'B' CCGT Power Station Project.

On 17 January, EP UK Investments (EPUKI) published a document entitled *King's Lynn 'B' CCGT Power Station Project* outlining why they wish to alter the 2009 consent under a Section 36C Variation for a CCGT power station to allow for modern, high efficiency CCGT units to be installed on the site and also to have the potential to install other technologies to improve flexibility. This will be either for 2 x CCGT units with a total power output of 1,700MW *or* for 1 x CCGT (1,000MW) + 1 x OCGT (299MW) + battery storage (400MW). The amount of land required to meet current standards is more than it was in 2009. Along with the proposed increase in electrical output, this means roughly an additional 4 hectares (10 acres) of land must be reserved for carbon capture readiness.

To make the plant work, EPUKI would need to provide a new gas pipeline to the new CCGT units from the existing gas connection, build a new electricity substation on site to transmit the power into the national transmission system, and add a number of small amenity and utility buildings (e.g. water treatment) as well as maintenance workshops, stores buildings, offices, etc. In addition, they would like permission for a Peaking Plant (so as to respond quickly to short-term demand on the National Grid), Battery Storage (to stabilise the the national transmission system) and Black Start (to allow the power station to start up independent of the National Grid).

The new building will be behind King's Lynn Power Station, now known as King's Lynn Power Station A, and will occupy about the same amount of land as King's Lynn Power Station A. Variation application must be made to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy who will determine if the application is "suitable for publication". If it is then EPUKI must publicise the decision, following which the local planning authority has two months to comment and other consultees one month. Submission of the application will be made in February 2018 and the decision of the SoSBEIS will be made in March 2018. The period for submission of comments will be April to June 2018 with a decision from SoSBEIS being made in September 2018.

St George's Guildhall

The BCKLWN sub-committee charged with reporting back on the proposed future of the Guildhall and the Arts Centre complex has submitted its report. We wrote to Cllr Avril Wright, the chairman of the sub-committee, with our observations shortly before the report was to be submitted. Whilst she accepted a number of our recommendations it is up to BCKLWN to decide whether or not to include them in their deliberations. Consequently, we have written to Cllr Elizabeth Nockolds, deputy leader of the council, and budget-holder for the arts and heritage. We have emphasised that the success of the Arts Centre and the Guildhall pivots on the appointment of an experienced arts administrator and cannot be left to amateurs. Much of the sub-committee's work has 'secret' status. Sally, representing the forum, sits on LARCH – the group of arts organisations and individuals, which was formed in an attempt to become involved with the council to aid and support its lottery bid; to date the council has been reluctant to involve LARCH but better news is hoped for.

Beales Department Store Site

Concern has been expressed regarding the slow development of the Beales department store site for the new H&M store. Abbie Panks, Vancouver Quarter Manager, informs us that the seeming delay is due to the amount of subterranean utilities requiring installation and that the project is on target. However fine the new building will be, it will be disgraced by the appalling condition of the former GPO building next door, which continues to seek a purchaser.

Town Heritage Initiative

Work on the Wennis in Saturday Market Place has been completed and it opened in March under the management of Mr and Mrs Golding, proprietors of Market Bistro. It has been named Goldings. Similarly, work on the former Courts Furnishings premises in St James' Street is coming to fruition as are the works on the former Rummer public house on the corner of St James' Street and Tower Street. Work is shortly to start on the building occupied by the Chinese takeaway in St James' Street and scaffolding went up last week around the former RAOB building (the KL Penny Bank), also in St James' Street. What with the scaffold on the Minster, this part of town is looking extremely busy, conservation-wise.

Restaurant Boat.

The plan to site this enterprise in the Outer Purfleet has been on the cards for some time. Plans for what is deemed a 'restaurant boat' go before the planners on (Tuesday May 8) and there is a degree of disquiet among neighbouring residents. Although the forum committee is not against the idea, several concerns arise, not least the 'entertainment' element. At time of writing we are working on the forum's response.

Data Protection.

Along with all other organisations we have to get your agreement to hold your details and to provide you with the ward forum's privacy policy. This means you signing an agreement form – sorry but if you don't we won't be able to continue sending you these illuminating and informative communications. Form and policy are being sent to you under separate cover so that you can bring the completed form with you to the meeting, thus ensuring you remain a constituent of the St Margaret's with St Nicholas War Forum – and saving you the cost of postage .

Dr Julian Litten
Chairman
30 April 2018