

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND
LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE ROBIN
ROOM, THE CASTLE, HERTFORD AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT: Cllr Miss Jane Sartin, in the Chair

Councillors: P Boyle, Mrs S Dunkley, Miss C Geall, Mrs S Newton, and
Miss M Tybinka.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms P Carpenter, Interim Town Clerk

Note: Cllr Miss Geall left the meeting at 8.20pm and Cllr Mrs Newton left the meeting at 8.40 pm

203. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Dr J Downs, A Stevenson and Mrs B Haddock

204. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Dunkley	DPI	Agenda item 3, TCUDS relating to Folly Island and the river	Lives at Folly Island & owns narrow boat
Cllr Miss Tybinka	DPI	Agenda item 3, TCUDS relating to Old Cross	Owns a Property at Old Cross

205. HERTFORD TOWN CENTRE URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

The Committee considered the details of the Hertford Town Centre Urban Design Strategy Consultation and made the following comments:

The Committee welcomed the strategy and noted that the report was overall a good document.

The following comments and observations were made in the order of the questionnaire, although the Committee expressed concern that many of the questions did not reflect the extent of the detail and information included within the full Strategy document:

Question 1. – Would the Strategy create a successful focus for the Town Centre? The Committee agreed in part but disagreed in part. The consensus of opinion was that the provision of larger shop units would not attract national shopping chains to Hertford, these were more likely to be taken by restaurant and leisure chains.

Question 2 – Would the Strategy re-focus the town towards the river. The Committee was supportive.

Question 3 – Would the strategies list make the most of Hertford's heritage and culture? The Committee agreed to an extent, but was not entirely supportive of proposals for the Castle grounds and proposed cinema.

Question 4- Did the quarters identified accurately reflect the areas in Hertford? The Committee was largely supportive but did not wish to see the extensive new signage proposed as part of this proposal, due to its detrimental impact on the town centre's visual appearance. It was suggested that the Market Quarter should be renamed the Salisbury Quarter to ensure that it was appropriate for all businesses located in the area.

Question 5 – With regard to the suggestion to close the road at the Western end of Fore Street to private vehicular traffic, the Committee were opposed to this proposal. In the event that it was agreed to instigate it, the Committee considered that part time closure would not be appropriate and it should be all or nothing to avoid confusion.

Question 6 – Relating to the west end of Market Street being changed to a resident and service access only zone, the Committee was of the opinion that parking arrangements should remain unchanged, allowing shoppers and residents to use the spaces.

Note: Cllrs Mrs Dunkley left the meeting prior to discussions on the following items:

Question 7 – Relating to limiting vehicle access to Folly Island with parking for residents at Hartham. The Committee did not support this option at all but was open to consideration to opening a second access onto Hartham. Extra parking for Folly Island residents and guests at Hartham would be welcome.

Question 8 – Reducing traffic through Bull Plain and parking. This option was considered to be a good option on market days with some, but not all, parking spaces removed.

Cllr Mrs Dunkley returned to the meeting.

Question 9 – Changes to improve cycling. The Committee agreed. It was considered important to encourage more cycling but did not wish to see cycle rails in Parliament Square. All such rails must be of a significant heritage design.

Question 10 – Yes, correct places for wayfinding totems identified but the Committee did not wish to see banners on lampposts. Account should also be taken of existing signage.

Question 11 – Bus station to remain in situ – Yes, agree. The toilets required refurbishment.

Question 12 – Allow bus station to be replaced by distributing bus stops to other locations in the town centre? The Committee disagreed. The distribution of bus stops was seen as creating clutter.

Question 13 – Agree with the place making principles for Bircherley Green, with a café facing the river frontage.

Question 14 – Option 1 is the preferred option for redevelopment of Bircherley Green although concerns remained regarding the height of the building and parking provision. A cinema was considered inappropriate and would be geared towards the evening economy so not supportive of other town centre businesses, as well as requiring greater parking facilities.

Question 15. Place making principles for Maidenhead Street. The Committee agreed.

Question 16. Option 2 was considered preferable.

Question 17 . Place making principles for the Marquee. The Committee agreed

Question 18. Option 1 was considered preferable.

Note: Cllr Miss Tybinka left the meeting during the discussion on this item.

St Andrew Quarter: The Committee largely agreed with the proposal but did not wish to see extra signage by way of banners to promote the Quarter.

Note: Cllr Miss Tybinka returned to the room.

Castle Grounds: The Committee would not wish to see the Ashley Webb shelter knocked down, but refurbished to improve the appearance. Development in the grounds was also considered inappropriate. The appearance of the shops on The Wash could be improved but not significantly altered so as to put off the current retailers. The Castle Gates were noted as an important significant feature. The current path on the riverbank could be improved but an additional path was not considered necessary.

Riverside Quarter: Answered in questions earlier.

East Hertford: The proposal is good in theory for improved permeability through the former Christ's Hospital site, but may not be supported by local residents given that it is private land. The name East Hertford was considered too close to Hertford East and could cause confusion.

Shire Quarter: Answered in questions earlier.

Market Quarter: Answered in questions earlier.

Gascoyne Way – Planting was considered to be the most appropriate method for improving the appearance of the car park.

Pedestrian Routes proposals. The Committee agreed.

The Committee reiterated that the Strategy was overall a good report for which the Council was largely supportive.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

The above comments be used to formulate a full response and forwarded to East Herts Council as the Town Council's response to the Consultation.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm