

ROYSTON AND DISTRICT COMMITTEE

22nd June 2011

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

AGENDA ITEM No.

7

UPDATE ON FISH HILL SQUARE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME: INFORMATION NOTE

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND ENTERPRISE
MANAGER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the progress of the project since the previous report in October 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Royston Town Centre Strategy, adopted in June 2008, sets out an Action Plan which requires the preparation and delivery of an enhancement scheme for Fish Hill Square. The aim of the Strategy is to provide a comprehensive framework to promote integrated development and enhancement of Royston town centre over the next 10 to 15 years that will seek to benefit its future economic viability and vitality while emphasising its historic character and local identity as a market town.
- 2.2 The Council appointed Building Design Partnership (BDP) in May 2010 to prepare design proposals for the Fish Hill Square enhancement scheme and to supervise the implementation of the works on site.
- 2.3 The funding for the enhancements works is from Growth Area Funding (GAF). Due to the limited size of the budget, part of BDP's brief is to determine how to make the most effective use of the funding available to achieve the best design solution.
- 2.4 A design proposal was prepared following previous consultation events, meetings and surveys and was agreed for public consultation following a joint briefing session with Royston District members and Royston Town Council.
- 2.5 A public consultation period on the draft design proposals ran for nearly four weeks between 28th August and 23rd September 2010.

3. PROJECT UPDATE

Contractor

- 3.1 Following the public consultation in August/September 2010 the final design for the enhancement scheme was agreed and 'frozen' by the Project Board in November 2010. BDP, the designers, were then able to prepare contract documents and detailed drawings for tender.

- 3.2 An advertisement was placed on the government web site Supply2Gov (for projects under the OJEU threshold) in January 2011 for interested contractors. 22 contractors requested the PQQ documents. 14 submitted PQQs for assessment and from these a total of 7 companies were selected for the tender list. The unsuccessful companies were eliminated on either financial, insurance or quality grounds.
- 3.3 The tender period lasted from 25th March to 8th April 2011. One company declined to submit a tender which left 6 tenders to be assessed. The tenders were assessed on quality and price. Three tenderers were selected for interview.
- 3.4 Following the interviews Maylim Limited were chosen as the successful contractor and appointed in May 2011 to carry out the enhancement works.
- 3.5 The project team met with Maylim in May 2011 to discuss details of the scheme including lighting, traffic management and phasing.
- 3.6 Maylim are programmed to start works on site on Monday 4th July 2011.

Name of Square

- 3.7 During the consultation in August/September 2010 the public were asked for their ideas for a name for the enhanced square which had no official name. In May 2011 a poll was carried out on the seven most popular names. The winning name was 'Fish Hill Square' and this name will be etched into the new granite benches which are to be installed in the square.

Sculpture

- 3.8 A competition was held in the Meridian School in Royston to design a sculpture for the square. The competition was open to all students in the school and there was a good response with students coming up with a wide variety of ideas for the sculpture. The winning design was by Vicky Chapman. Her prize was a visit to BDP's office in London and a plaque with her name next to the erected sculpture. It is intended to erect the sculpture at the end of the scheme.

Information Update

- 3.9 Press releases have appeared in the Royston Crow and the Royston Weekly News on the appointment of the contractor, the sculpture competition and the naming of the square.
- 3.10 Letters have been sent to all businesses and residents directly effected by the works inviting them to a drop-in session on 13th June 2011 to meet the contractor and find out about his programme and phasing of the works.
- 3.11 Invitations have been sent to all Royston Town Councillors and Royston District Councillors to attend a joint briefing session to meet the contractor and find out about his programme and phasing of the works.
- 3.12 An article appeared in the May edition of Outlook informing people about the poll on the name of the square and an update on the sculpture.
- 3.13 The councils website has been kept up-to-date throughout the period of the project.

Information during construction

- 3.14 The Council and BDP are conscious that the method of implementing the works requires careful consideration to accommodate the needs of the local businesses and residents and any special events programmed to occur during the construction period. The intention is to cause minimal disruption to the functioning of the town centre during the construction phase.

- 3.15 The council's web site will be kept updated through the construction works. There will be an information notice in Royston Library. The contractor will contact directly those businesses and residents who will be effected by any day to day operations through various leaflet drops and necessary meetings to keep people informed about the contractor's works programme throughout the construction period.
- 3.16 Maylim are expected to complete the works in October 2011.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 That Royston and District Committee note the content of this information note.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS

- 5.1 Louise Symes, Planning Policy and Projects, ext 4359
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