

**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**HITCHIN COMMITTEE**

**MEETING HELD IN THE HIGHOVER SCHOOL,  
CAMBRIDGE ROAD, HITCHIN SG4 0JP  
ON TUESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** *Councillors Ian Albert (Chairman), Judi Billing, Val Bryant, Paul Clark, Sam Collins, Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg, Nicola Harris, Simon Harwood, Bernard Lovewell and Martin Stears-Handscomb*

**In Attendance:** *Anthony Roche (Deputy Chief Executive), Steve Crowley (Service Director - Commercial), Claire Morgan (Senior Communities Officer) and Hilary Dineen (Acting Committee and Member Services Manager)*

**Also Present:** *At the commencement of the meeting Councillor Claire Strong and 28 members of the public.*

**45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

*Audio recording – Start of Item – 45 seconds*

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clare Billing, Mike Hughson and Richard Thake.

**46 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

*Audio recording – Start of Item – 1 minute 12 seconds*

There was no other business notified.

**47 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Audio recording – Start of Item – 1 minute 17 seconds*

- (1) The Chairman thanked those who had attended Town Talk and welcomed those who were speaking at Public Participation;
- (2) The Chairman reminded Members that, in accordance with Council policy, this meeting was being audio recorded, members of the public may use their own devices to record the meeting or take photographs, but ensure that the meeting was not disrupted;
- (3) The Chairman advised that he had agreed that the Public Presentation time limit be extended to 15 minutes;
- (4) The Chairman drew attention to the item on the agenda front pages regarding Declarations of Interest and reminded Members that, in line with the Code of Conduct, any Declarations of Interest needed to be declared immediately prior to the item in question;
- (5) The Chairman announced that the aim was to discuss as much as possible in public and, once the discussions had taken place, make any resolutions this point.

Only if needed would the meeting go into Part 2 and if that was needed the press and public would be asked to leave.

He did not intend there to be any further discussion following any Part 2 discussions.

#### **48 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN INITIATIVE**

*Audio recording – Start of Item – 3 minutes 9 seconds*

Mr Keith Hoskins, Mrs Vicky Wyer and Mr John Wyer gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding their vision for the development of the Churchgate Shopping Centre, the Market and the Town Centre.

Mr Hoskins, speaking on behalf of Hitchin Initiative, Hitchin Forum, Hitchin Historical Society and Hitchin Society, advised that all of these organisations were supportive of the ideas in the forthcoming presentation.

Mrs Wyer and Mr Wyer made the PowerPoint presentation and explained in detail their concepts and ideas.

Following the presentation Mr and Mrs Wyer answered questions from Members.

#### **49 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE**

*Audio recording – Start of Item - 38 minutes 28 seconds*

Councillor Judi Billing declared a declarable Interest in that she was a Community Director of Hitchin Initiative.

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report entitled Regeneration of Churchgate Shopping Centre. The following appendices were attached to the report:

Report due to be submitted to Council on 22 November 2018  
Indicative Site Plan - Ground Floor  
Indicative Site Plan - First Floor

The Deputy Chief Executive advised that, in respect of the report to the Hitchin Committee the following correction was required:

- Paragraph 4.1 (iv) should be deleted

He drew attention to the following sections of the report due to be considered by Council on 22 November 2018:

- Section 4 - Alternative Options;
- Section 5 – Consultation;
- Section 7 – Background;
- Section 8 – Relevant Considerations;
- Section 10 – Financial Implications.

The following Members contributed to the debate (in order of initial contribution):

Councillor Simon Harwood;  
Councillor Sam Collins;  
Councillor Paul Clark;  
Councillor Judi Billing;  
Councillor Martin Stears-Handscomb;

It was proposed by Councillor Billing and Seconded by Councillor Stears-Handscomb that the Chairman of the Hitchin Committee should be a member of the Project Board.

It was proposed by Councillor Stears-Handscomb, seconded by Councillor Collins and upon the vote it was:

**RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:**

- (1) That the Chairman of Hitchin Committee should be a member of the Churchgate Project Board;
- (2) That the Hitchin Committee:
  - (i) Welcomes the ideas and concepts put forward by the community groups, as presented by John and Vicky Wyer;
  - (ii) Notes that, whilst some of the proposals may not be viable at this time, nevertheless many of the concepts and ideas make a positive contribution to the development of the project;
  - (iii) Asks the Council to engage with representatives of the community groups in the design and development of the project, should it go ahead.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** As the Churchgate Shopping Centre is located in Hitchin, this meeting provides a "forum for discussion on matters of local interest".

**50 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

*Audio recording – Start of Item – 1 hour 41 minutes 47 seconds*

Members agreed that it was not necessary to discuss the Part 2 report and therefore this item was not required.

**51 REGENERATION OF CHURCHGATE SHOPPING CENTRE**

The Part 2 report was not discussed (Minute 49 refers).

The meeting closed at 9.13 pm

Chairman