

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

DECISION SHEET

**Meeting of the Hitchin Committee held in the School Hall, Tilehouse Street Baptist Church
on Tuesday, 30th November, 2021 at 7.30 pm**

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Judi Billing, Sam Collins, Paul Clark, Keith Hoskins and Kay Tart.

3 MINUTES - 12 OCTOBER 2021

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 October 2021 be approved as a true record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

4 NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business notified.

5 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present at the meeting, especially those who had attended to give a presentation;
- (2) The Chair advised that, in accordance with Council Policy, the meeting would be audio recorded;
- (3) The Chair 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;
- (4) The Chair announced that, due to illness, Shane Cole and Liz Wills were unable to update the Committee at this meeting, but would be asked to at a future meeting.

6 HITCHIN BID MANAGER

A verbal presentation was given by the Hitchin BID Manager, Mr Tom Hardy.

Members asked questions and took part in discussion including topics such as:

- Hitchin Town Centre Strategy
- Churchgate
- The impact of the emerging Local Plan

The Chair of the Committee undertook to write to Council officers and the relevant Executive Members concerning the issues raised.

7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - SAVE HITCHIN GREEN BELT

A verbal presentation was given by Phil Davis on the work of the Save Hitchin Green Belt group.

8 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - HITCHIN FAIR TRADE TOWN

A verbal presentation was given by Helen Richardson on Hitchin as a Fair Trade Town.

It was:

RECOMMENDED TO THE SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL & COMMUNITY: that options for an appointment to Fair Trade Town Hitchin as an 'outside body,' be considered.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION: To establish and maintain relations with an outside body benefiting the Hitchin community.

9 WARD MATTERS AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS - MEMBERS' REPORTS

N.B Councillor Keith Hoskins who was due to present was unable to attend this meeting.

A verbal presentation was given by Lewis Reynolds, Maydencroft, and Glyn Doggett on the proposed works to revitalise The Dell and surrounding woodland.

Members asked questions and took part in discussion including points such as:

- The Committee's support for the redevelopment of the Dell
- The financial details of any redevelopment plan
- Possible sources of funding for redevelopment

The Chair of the Committee undertook to write to Council officers and relevant Executive Members concerning the points raised.

10 GRANT APPLICATIONS AND COMMUNITY UPDATE

RESOLVED: That the Committee endorse the actions taken by the Community Engagement team to promote greater community capacity and well-being for Hitchin.

REASONS FOR DECISION:

- (1) To ensure the Members are kept informed of the work of the Community Engagement Team.
- (2) To inform Members of the financial resources available by drawing attention to the current budgetary situation and ensure that all actions are performed in line with the Authority's Financial Regulations, the Council's Constitution, and the guidance of the existing Grants policy as agreed by Cabinet in January 2020.

11 INFORMATION NOTE AND GROUP DISCUSSION

RESOLVED: That the Information Note of the Service Director – Regulatory entitled "Unemployment, Furlough, Vacancies and Town Centre Activity in Hitchin," along with its appendices be noted.

12 POSSIBLE AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair notified Members that the following items were to be included for updates on the next agenda; Charnwood House, Churchgate lease, Herts Constabulary and Events in Hitchin (pride, platinum jubilee).

The following items were suggested as topics on future agendas:

- King George V Playing Fields

The Chair requested that, should any Members have any further suggestions for agenda items for future meetings, they advise himself, officers or the Committee Clerk.