HITCHIN COMMITTEE
1ST December 2020

PART 1 Report **Information Note**

Riverside Walk, Hitchin :

INFORMATION NOTE OF THE: Interim Property Consultant

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Keith Hoskins

PRIORITY : ATTRACTIVE AND THRIVING

1 SUMMARY

It has been a long term objective of the District Council to create a riverside walk in Hitchin to provide a pedestrian route through from Bridge Street to Biggin Lane.

2 STEPS TO DATE

2.1 In late 2019 the Residents Management group of Jill Grey Place were contacted. When this development was completed a planning obligation required the transfer of the pathway and brick planters to the District Council. This transfer never took place and there are outstanding issues regarding the future ownership of street lighting and electricity supplies. There is no simple solution to effect this transfer.

2.2 This route would also require a bridge to be constructed at the boundary of 'The Biggin' across to the car park access road.

2.3 Early in 2020 investigation began regarding an alternative route on the opposite side of the river. The conversion of the Conservative Club to the Angel Vaults provided a planning agreement to require the transfer of a strip of land along the river bank to the District Council. The option for this transfer remains open and straightforward.

3. INFORMATION TO NOTE

3.1 Investigations are underway to obtain rights to complete this route.

3.2 Consultation with Parking Services is underway in order to provide a safe route across the car park

4. NEXT STEPS

- Reach agreement with land owners
- Agree layout plan for pedestrian route through Biggin Lane car park
- Prepare specification and budget cost for works
- Agree new location for recycling bins

5. APPENDICES

None

6. CONTACT OFFICERS

Peter Lapham, Interim Property Consultant, peter.lapham@north-herts.gov.uk
Ext 4612

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None