

# HITCHIN FORUM

Caring for our Town

North Hertfordshire District Councillors

7 Bearton Green,  
Hitchin,  
Herts  
SG5 1UN  
13<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Dear Councillor,

## **Future High Streets Fund – Hitchin Town Centre expression of interest**

Since its formation in 1992, Hitchin Forum has been actively involved in commenting on the various plans for Churchgate, Hitchin Market and Hitchin Town Centre, most recently as a member of the Churchgate Liaison Forum. **Hitchin Forum was instrumental in setting up the January 2013 petition which demonstrated the strength of local opposition to the Simons proposals after which the contract with Simons was terminated by NHDC.**

The need to 'do something about Churchgate' has been acknowledged for many years by NHDC Councillors across all parties and throughout the district, not just those representing Hitchin wards. Previous proposals failed because they were developer-led and failed to take into account the historic character and scale of the town or the concerns and needs of local residents. By contrast, the members of the Churchgate Resurgence Pro Bono group are all local professionals with intimate knowledge of the history, issues and constraints of any redevelopment. Their proposals published last autumn met with strong public support. The group has already spent many hours in developing their proposals to the point where they have been described as 'oven ready' by the Leader of the Council.

Hitchin Forum therefore fully supports North Herts District Council's application to the Future High Streets Fund to evaluate potential options for redeveloping Hitchin High Street into a sustainable 21<sup>st</sup> Century Market Town.

Yours sincerely,



Bill Sellicks (Chairman)

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Founded 1992

[www.hitchinform.org.uk](http://www.hitchinform.org.uk)

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Member of: Hitchin Initiative  
Campaign to Protect Rural England