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MEETING OF GORLESTON COUNCILLORS

11 July 2006 – 6.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Collins (Chairman); Councillors Barker, Blyth, Cook, Hewitt, B Walker, C Walker and Williamson.

Peter Warner (Head of Planning and Development) and Julie Gulliver (Member Services Officer).

The Chairman and Councillors introduced themselves and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Ian Parkes representing Norfolk County Council.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February were confirmed.

3. GORLESTON SEAFRONT AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Please see following agenda items.

4. GORLESTON HIGH STREET

A written report had been submitted with the agenda by Norfolk County Council in respect of the above issue but due to other commitments a NCC representative was unable to attend to discuss the content. In their absence the Head of Planning and Development (GYBC) spoke about the report findings and what options were potentially available.

Peter Warner reminded those present that the County Council had been asked to look at ways in which they could improve the Gorleston High Street area, both for residents and those who travel to the vicinity, in terms of making the area more pedestrian/user friendly.

Also discussed was the option of a third river crossing.

Reassurance was given that discussions in relation to proposed changes to Gorleston High Street were at a pre-consultation stage only and no option had been agreed.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

5. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1) Future of the High Street

This question was answered under the previous agenda item.

(2) Gorleston Promenade – Restaurant Proposal

Councillor Barry Stone addressed residents and Councillor's concerns over consultations that were currently taking place in relation to the planned development of the Gorleston promenade. In particular he spoke about a new amenity that was being proposed for the lower promenade and confirmed that no specific business had been planned but once known, this would be presented for public consultation for comments.

He continued by stating that any development would be for the benefit of Gorleston residents and not tourists and would address areas along the promenade that currently required updating, for example the beach huts/paddling pool and shelters.

Concerns were raised that inclusion of the public in the process should have been prior to any consultation taking place. It was confirmed that it was now too late to bring the public into the process but Councillor Stone reiterated that no development would be agreed without their prior consultation.

A further question was raised as to why no European funding had been applied for. The point was made that as Gorleston had not qualified for 'assisted area status', no European funding was available.

Finally, member's agreed that a proper strategic plan was needed for future development of Gorleston.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(3) Pavilion Theatre/Pier Hotel – Included in Conservation Area

The Head of Planning and Development stated that the above would be included in the proposed conservation area extensions and a plan was made available showing this.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(4) Detailed Plan for Future Development of Promenade

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(5) Local Development Framework (LDF) for Gorleston

The Head of Planning and Development stated that at present there was one statutory development plan for the Borough. In future, with the change in legislation that took place in 2004, a series of 'Local Development Documents' would be produced to guide developments to 2021. He added that 1st East, the new Urban Regeneration Company would be working to produce one of these documents, an Area Action Plan for Waterfront Regeneration Areas. A further Area Action Plan would be proposed for Gorleston itself. This would be a specific plan incorporated for Gorleston, timetable as follows:-

- September 2006 to be presented to the public.
- September/May 2007 options
- June 2007/December 2007 preferred option to be agreed.
- June 2008 Secretary of State to consider and decision final.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(6-9) Public Plan for Gorleston

(10) Funding for Development of the Area

The question was asked whether Gorleston would qualify for any level of funding from Europe or elsewhere and the Head of Planning and Development stated that he would look into this and also ask the Regeneration Services Department to provide details at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Head of Planning and Development and the Head of Regeneration Services provide details in respect of funding at the next meeting.

(Councillor Watts here assumed the Chair for the following agenda items).

(11). Art and Sculpture Plans for Gorleston

The Head of Planning and Development read out a section from 1st East's Master plan – 'Preferred Options' in respect of the above.

Councillor Stone added that 1st East were consulting widely on this and would be looking to turn the vicinity by the Harbours Mouth into a recreation area, providing a greener open space for residents to enjoy.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(12). Gorleston Conservation Area

The Head of Planning and Development confirmed that a Conservation Officer had been asked to look into the consultation over the forthcoming two months. A plan of the area was, as previously stated, made available at the meeting.

Members asked that any proposals which would affect this area go before the Corporate Management Board for consideration, prior to any decisions being taken, which was agreed by the majority of those in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That a recommendation be made that the Conservation Officer's report be brought to the Corporate Management Board for consideration, prior to any decisions being taken.

(13). **Gorleston – Retained as Shopping Centre**

The Head of Planning and Development confirmed that a Government funded 'retail study' had taken place which had concluded that Gorleston High Street should remain as a key retail centre.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(14). **One-Way System – Precedence for Pedestrians**

The Head of Planning and Development stated that it was too early to provide an answer to the question as further consultation was required.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(15). **Current Bandstand Situation**

The Head of Planning and Development confirmed that this facility had already received planning permission.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

(1). **Uncollected Council Tax**

Councillor Stone recognised that the negotiations for the new lease of the Ocean Room had gone on for some considerable time but confirmed that the new contract had now been signed and all monies owed had been paid to the Council.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(2). **Gorleston Beach – Weekly Tractor Cleaning**

It was confirmed that the Head of Environment and Health had verified that the equipment used to clean the beach had been faulty and was being resolved.

RESOLVED:

That the above be noted.

(3-4). These questions had been answered in previous discussion.

(5). **Bowling Green Attendant**

This question would be taken back to the Head of Environment and Health for a response.

(6). **Gorleston Grants – Grant not applied for**

Councillor Watts stated that grants had been applied for and work undertaken in the High Road/Riverside Road area.

RESOLVED:
That the above be noted.

(7). **Sea Defence Update**

A report would be provided at the next meeting.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Watts thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The next meeting would be advised.

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