

Councillor Representation Reporting Form

Councillor: Cllr Christian Newsome

Body: High Street Heritage Action Zone Meeting

Report Date: 19 January 2024

Meetings
attended and
dates

High Street Heritage Action Zone Meeting 19th January 2024 1pm via Teams

Key issues discussed at the meeting(s) (relevant to LTC and its constituents)

Members Present: Myself (Christian Newsome) Danny Steel, Richard Perkins, Jennifer Gannon, Kate Ellis, Tony Callandine, Darren Newman, Rebecca Styles, Benjamin Porter, Gary Griffin.

Danny Steel introduced the meeting wishing everyone a Happy New Year for 2024, and marked the first meeting of this year.

Danny gave an update on the Crown Public House, he said that it was in the hands of receivers CG and Co and that they are considering putting the property up for auction. They have been in touch with the Auction House for the valuation process, and he is hopeful that it will find new owners who will restore the building, which is good news!

Rebecca Styles gave a presentation on various HAZ projects throughout the town to date with an update.

Royal Court Hotel - This was granted £50,000 for windows, which are currently awaiting sash chords and latches to be fitted.

Danny Steel mentioned that the current owners are looking for a partnership to complete the project, which may suggest they are running out of money. Rebecca said that if the building was sold the grant money would need to be repaid.

Tuttles building - Phase 1 is complete in the refurbishment of the upper floors and new windows. The next phase will be the reinstatement of new shop fronts from Jan-Feb 2024. They are completing the grey colour from Wetherspoons all the way along the shop fronts for consistency, with new traditional signwriting for the businesses along here. Rebecca commented that it was good to see all shops now occupied in the former Tuttles Building, the corner unit was initially going to be a chicken takeaway, but she believes will now be a sit in Indian restaurant.

Former Cooks Building London Road South - HAZ funded works to the upper floor now complete. Rebecca mentioned that the developers funded the upper floor infill unit themselves, and have decided to take the paint work off the front of the building and clean up the brick work. The next phase of the HAZ works will be the instillation of 5 new shop fronts, this work will take place from the 8/1/24 until 23/2/24.

Shop Front small grants scheme - The first round of funding has now been completed with the next phase of grants for this year to be awarded with several different sized grants.

HAZ Cultural Programme - The 1880's Weekend was postponed for a year due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, and instead took place in 2023. It was not the best event in terms of numbers, but it was well attended.

Greetings from Lowestoft Event - This was a Suffolk Artlink project celebrating the history of Lowestoft, phase 1 was in the lead up to the First Light Festival. Phase 2 was a competition creating your own postcards, 171 submissions were received which was a fantastic response. There was a judging panel who picked the best 6 postcards. There was an event at the East Point Pavilion for winners, they were mass produced and are available for free.

Q3 Grants and Commissions - These are Tuttles Tales, Visiting Kirkley website, animating our heritage. There will be an end of HAZ celebration event on the 23rd March 2024 in Kirkley with further details to be announced. It was mentioned that Peter Aldous should be invited too.

Project Closure-Completion of internal audit, cultural programme evaluation, main scheme closure and evaluation for Historic England, HAZ board and partner interviews, overall London Road and Lowestoft HAZ evaluation report.

Rebecca Styles summarised that over the 3 and a half year project there were some amazing things to celebrate. The date of the next HSHAZ board meeting will be on the 19th March at 1pm on Teams. Danny Steel thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting 15.11.

Date:

required by LTC?		

Signed: