



Hunstanton Advisory Group

MEETING NOTES

Thursday, 12 September 2024

18:00 hrs

Hunstanton Town Hall

Group Members: Charles Le Strange Meakin (Chair), Cllr Simon Ring, Cllr Paul Beal, Cllr Michael Ruston, Mark Kacary,

Apologies: Joel Large (Vice Chair), James Wild MP, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cllr Angie Dickinson, Joe Bates, Brian Hallard, Paul Searle, Cllr Jordan Cripps

Officer Support: Chris Starkie (NCC), Jason Richardson (BCKLWN)

Meeting Notes

1. **Apologies** – see above.
2. **Declarations of interest** (standing item) – none arising.
3. Notes of previous meeting (11 July 2024 – attached) – there have been no objections to the notes so agreed and accepted.
4. **Discussion on Strategic Development**

The primary purpose of the meeting was to update on open actions and discuss some opportunities in the Town with Cllr Ring of Borough. The following points were noted:

- Actions on Town Signage are pending Borough appointment of a new resorts officer. We understand this role should be filled by November 2024.
- The role of Town Events Manager is being maintained post Roger Partridge's retirement. We understand this role should be filled by November 2024.
- Plans to improve the Town's media presence are ongoing. Meeting between all interested parties (HTC, HAG, Events Committee, Borough and a potential consultant) being held on 18th September 2024.
- Finalisation of renewal of the Recreation Ground lease is with Borough lawyers. It was agreed this should not prevent the formation of the Committee to actively work on improving the use of the site. Such Committee might also consider the more effective use of the pitch and putt site as well. Simon Ring to engage with Borough officers to progress this.

- High Street – could the previous role of ‘High Street Manager’ be reinstated? Such a role to provide resource working with shop operators to improve the appearance and operation of the High Street. Could Borough also investigate what legal powers they have to encourage owners to adequately maintain high street properties and improve the appearance of the High Street. Simon Ring to investigate and report back.
- Use of land between Rainbow Park and Sea Life centre. This is leased to the Sea Life centre, but not maintained or utilised. Its current state detracts from the appearance of the Prom, and it could be used far more productively than is currently the case i.e. picnic area, volleyball, nicely maintained garden. Simon Ring to investigate and report back.
- Hunstanton Sailing Club – what can be done to enable boat sailing activities to recommence? This would have the scope to increase water sports tourism and boost use of the excellent facilities there. If combined with offshore moorings in the Wash it could enhance visitor numbers and use of the facility. Simon Ring to explore the art of the possible with Jason Richardson (including paper prepared on offshore moorings) and report back.
- There was brief discussion of campervan facilities in the Town. Could some Borough site be made available to provide fee paying facilities for campervans? This would help alleviate use of side streets and illegal emptying of grey water into drains. Simon commented that this prospect was being considered although a suitable site location was yet to be determined.
- Oasis – one of Alive’s/ Borough’s priority issues is to replace the Oasis. Proposals of concepts are being put together for a December cabinet meeting. Subject to that approval, more detailed thought will be given to local and configuration. A seafront location, which also offers the opportunity to modernise/ expand the seafront offering, may be favoured. It is hoped that it would be funded through a combination of borrowing and JVs with private investors. Simon to keep HAG updated.
- The opportunity for a lower cost hotel operator to move into the Town was discussed. Simon to revisit past communications from interested parties and consider what opportunity there is to do this.

6. Any other business

Date of next meeting – Thursday, 10 October 2024

Close