

# **NNDC District Councillor**

## **Town Council Report – 31 May 2022**

### **Heritage Action Zone Update**

#### **CEDAR HOUSE:**

There has been a pause in the works following the stripping out of the building as more plastering work than planned was required and because the proposed heating system could not be progressed as grant funding was not successful. As a result, there will now be an electric heating system which will require removal of the existing gas pipes/ radiators as well as some increase in costs. Council officers have advised that revised costs and a schedule of works have recently been agreed and work is now about to recommence. A revised expected date for completion of the works has not yet been given.

#### **NEW RD CAR PARK:**

It is still expected that a completion date of late June for the bus interchange could be met. Access to the car park will be closed for two days for resurfacing and Council officers have been asked to give as much notice as possible of the dates to the Community Centre and Library. Both the Post Office and Kings Lynn Parking Enforcement have been asked not to park their vans at New Rd during the works to release parking slots for users of the Library and Community Centre. Kings Lynn are now complying with this request, but the Post Office disappointingly are not always doing so. The refurbishment works on the car park toilets were brought forward to coincide with the bus Interchange works and the targeted completion date is July 11th. Whilst the toilets are closed portable toilets have been installed for users of the park and the events taking place there over the Jubilee weekend.

#### **CHURCH APPROACH/SHAMBLES:**

The original completion date was early/mid-June. The works are running behind schedule due to delays in getting permission from the Church authorities for access to the churchyard and the discovery of a live cable which had to be isolated by UK Power Network. Officers have been involved in discussions with the designers and the contractor on how the remaining works can be accelerated. The top area between Market Place and St Nicholas Court should be the first area to be opened. For the duration of the works arrangements have been made for the Hop Inn and Shambles restaurant to have tables and chairs outside their premises at weekends. A projected completion date for the works is still awaited.

#### **MARKET PLACE:**

These works are currently scheduled to start in September and last for six months. Discussions on the phasing of the works and temporary arrangements for parking and the location of the market are ongoing. Local members are closely monitoring the outcome of these discussions. The aim is to minimise disruption to businesses during the works. A draft Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to limit traffic in the revamped Market Place is currently out for consultation and the closing date is May 31st. The draft TRO whilst restricting through traffic during the day until 4pm, permits loading and access for residents and disabled users at all times.

**City Gate (Former Davenport Magical Kingdom) site Cromer Rd.**

In April it was publicly announced that planning permission had been approved for the change of use to this site from entertainment to builders' merchant. The builder's merchant is MKM a UK based builders' merchant for building, kitchen, and bathroom supplies. They are currently advertising for staff. The Council believes it will bring 15-30 new jobs to the local area. The Council has also recently received a planning application to convert the remaining steel skeleton structure into a warehouse. Subject to planning approval being received, this should remove the remaining eye sore on the site. Who will occupy the warehouse is not known.

**Hornbeam Rd Site**

The three industrial units owned by the Council have recently been let to one company. The lease was signed by both parties in mid-May. The identity of the Company will hopefully become public soon.

The Council owned car park on the site has been opened as a temporary free car park for the rest of this year whilst the HAZ works are in progress. The usage of this car park will be monitored as it will help to determine its future use.

EGS

30/5/22