

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

CITY CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES of the meeting held at Loxley House on 23 February 2015 from 3.32pm - 5.17pm

Membership

Present

Councillor Michael Edwards (Chair)
Janine Bone
Councillor Chris Gibson
Councillor John Hartshorne
Councillor Nicola Heaton
Councillor Anne Peach
Jennifer Spencer
Adam Tamsett
Councillor Dave Trimble
Tom Waldron-Lynch

Absent

Jeff Allen
Councillor Azad Choudhry
Chris Sinclair
Councillor Jon Collins
Councillor Georgina Culley
Simon Gray
Councillor Brian Grocock
Councillor Nick McDonald
Councillor David Mellen
Inspector Shaun Ostle
Steve Pashley
Councillor Jane Urquhart

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Eddie Curry - Head of Parks and Open Spaces
Kathy McArdle - Cultural Quarter
Catherine Mayhew - City-Centre Co-ordinator
Angela Rawson - Licensing Manager
Paul Seddon - Head of Development Management and Regeneration
Stewart Thornhill - City Centre Development Manager
Phil Wye - Governance Officer

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Georgina Culley (other Council business)
Councillor Nick McDonald (other Council business)
Councillor David Mellen (other Council business)

Jeff Allen
David Bishop
Shaun Ostle
Steve Pashley
Chris Sinclair
Jennifer Spencer

41 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Chris Gibson and Councillor Michael Edwards declared an interest in agenda item 6 (Intu Broadmarsh Redevelopment Scheme, minute 45 below) as they sit on the Planning Committee for Nottingham City Council, which did not prevent them from speaking or voting on the item.

42 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2014 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

43 CITY CENTRE LANDSCAPE GOOD TO GREAT IMPROVEMENTS

Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, introduced Corporate Director for Community Services' report which updated the Forum on the proposed City Centre Landscape Good to Great improvements, highlighting the following points:

- (a) the improvements will be funded by Good to Great initiative money, and aim to improve the look and feel of the city centre through the following package of improvements:
- a new City Centre interpretive trail infrastructure, and removal of older street interpretation;
 - new interactive interpretation trails, which will be higher quality, more meaningful and themed e.g. Robin Hood, Independent Shopping, Caves, Writers, Beer and Horticulture;
 - new entrance enhancements, including archways, dressing and banners in key shopping streets. Locations will be identified through work with artists and partners;
 - a new creative street lighting scheme in the independent retail areas of the City Centre such as the Lace Market;
 - City Centre tree replacement, removing unsightly high tree stumps;
 - completion of the planting scheme on Maid Marion way (this is already complete);
 - refurbishment and continual management of the planting in Old Market Square;
 - installation of new creative planters and floral features;
 - addition of a further 2 sculptures to the horticultural trail to promote the Clean and Green agenda;
- (b) the improvement of the City Centre environment will help to improve cultural events such as Light Night;
- (c) part of the funding will come from Section 106 money from schemes where the money's proposed use was 'off site public open space within Nottingham City Centre. This additional money has made it possible to increase the ambition and scale of the project. The funding was approved by the Area 8 Committee at its February 2015 meeting;
- (d) this is phase 1 of a 3 year programme of improvements, and the City Centre Forum will be informed of future updates;

Following the presentation, Eddie gave the following responses to questions by Committee members:

- (e) longevity of the schemes will be ensured by building partnerships, for example, the cultural quarter and Intu. New planting will use fit-for-purpose, tolerant plants. As available money is limited, creative options are the best value for money;
- (f) there should be a balance between interactive, digital interpretation and traditional plaques and signs as not everybody has access to modern technology. Any new initiatives must tie in with the Heritage Strategy;
- (g) the sculptures on the horticultural trail are retail-themed rather than heritage-themed in order to help drive retail footfall;

RESOLVED to note the proposals for the City Centre open spaces / landscape improvements.

44 ON-STREET CHARITY COLLECTIONS IN THE CITY CENTRE

Angela Rawson, Licensing Manager, gave a presentation on charity collection in the City Centre, highlighting the following points:

- (a) anybody who wishes to carry out on-street charity collection must apply for a permit through Nottingham City Council (NCC), and this must be supported by a letter from a charity authorising them to collect on its behalf. Applicants are encouraged to contact the Licensing office to check whether or not a site is available. After collecting, a sign-off by a chartered accountant is required before they are allowed to collect again;
- (b) permits are free of charge and come under one of three categories: full (operates throughout the entire city boundary), local (for a specific area or street) or for collection in front of the council house, which is the only location which allows a table with leaflets;
- (c) one permit per charity is issued at any one time. The application form asks how many collectors there will be and this is used to monitor the number of collectors at any time in the City Centre. The average number of permits allocated per year is 80, with a historical high of 200. Community Protection Officers (CPOs) can ask to see a permit and move collectors on if this is not shown;
- (d) for face-to-face fundraising (also known as chugging), where a charity is asking to set up direct debits rather than appealing for cash, no license is required. The Council has overall control of chugging through an agreement with the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association (PFRA), and can designate the areas where fundraising is permitted, the number of fundraisers per visit and the frequency of visits;
- (e) a diary is produced by the PFRA to show which fundraising team is visiting when and where. This is copied to the Licensing team and to CPOs. All fundraisers must wear an ID card, and fundraising is only permitted in 4 city centre locations:

Lister Gate, Smithy Row, Long Row and Milton Street;

- (f) only two complaints have been received in the past 14 months from members of the public although there have been further complaints from businesses such as pavement cafes. Past complaints have led to changes in policy, such as a reduction of the permitted number in each fundraising team from 6 to 5 and the change of some permitted locations;
- (g) the PFRA carry out spot-checks and have their own rulebook which is enforced by penalties and sanctions. CPOs can also challenge fundraisers and move them on using Anti-social behaviour (ASB) powers;
- (h) Birmingham City Council proposed a byelaw aimed at preventing aggressive street collectors, but this was rejected by the Local Government Minister in July 2014. Birmingham did not appeal the decision and instead made an agreement with the PFRA. In areas where an agreement with the PFRA has been made there has been a fall of 75% in complaints. Nottingham was one of the first to make an agreement and has been held up as an example of good practice;
- (i) there has been a reduction in the number of complaints since GIFT, the largest fundraising group, went into administration in February 2012.

During discussion, Committee members made the following points:

- (j) Intu shopping centres have similar controls and are increasingly unlikely to allow charity collection inside. Milton Street may need to stop being one of the designated areas for charity collection as this will be a restaurant area with outside seating once refurbishment of the Intu Victoria Centre is complete;
- (k) collection within stores is not under the remit of NCC but it is expected that larger stores will have their own polices around charity collection;
- (l) some groups have been allowed to collect whose policies are not in tune with council policies. There has been confusion over which charities have permits at times but work has been done with CPOs to prevent this. These activities have now been curtailed and Clumber Street has been cleared of charity collecting.

RESOLVED to note the presentation and the discussion which followed.

45 INTU BROADMARSH REDEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Adam Tamsett, Manager, Intu Broadmarsh and Janine Bone, Regional Director, Intu, gave a presentation on the redevelopment of the Intu Broadmarsh shopping centre, highlighting the following points:

- (a) the Broadmarsh redevelopment is an important part of Intu's vision for Nottingham City Centre, following the refurbishment of Intu Victoria Centre by Christmas 2015. The ultimate aim is to help raise Nottingham's retail rankings and for both centres to complement each other and give a different offer. The redevelopment also ties in with the Council's 'Southern Gateway' plans including the

pedestrianisation of Collin Street and Broadmarsh carpark improvements;

- (b) Intu Broadmarsh will provide better pedestrian routes and connections to the wider city and will be reinvigorated with new places to shop, eat, relax and play, from daytime through to evening including:
- a variety of places to eat from grab and go to sit-down restaurants;
 - a multi-screen cinema and new places to relax and play, possibly a bowling alley or a playcentre;
 - new toilets, parent and child facilities and accessible facilities for wheelchair users;
- (c) new entrances to the centre will be created at Collin Street, Middle Hill and Drury Walk
- (d) the brick wall which currently faces onto Collin Street will be cut through to create a new realigned route from Collin Street to Lister Gate. This link will be much wider than the current walkway and will have a fully glazed ceiling. It will have the look and feel of an external street with paving and brick walls, despite being indoors;
- (e) the upper mall will house new restaurants, a multi-screen cinema and entertainment facilities. The interior of the mall will be completely refurbished in a style similar to the refurbishment of Intu Victoria Centre. The façade of the building facing Middle Hill will have a new entrance which will lead directly to the upper mall and cinema. New outward-facing glazing will be cut into this façade. One of the bridges which link to the multi-storey carpark will be retained and modernised;
- (f) the roof of the Drury Walk entrance will be removed and this will be widened to create an open street with a pocket square, which aligns with Bridlesmith Gate. The new buildings in this area are designed to complement the existing heritage buildings on Middle Pavement.
- (g) the existing flagship stores will remain but the tenant mix will be improved, from High Street retail in the main mall to high-end retail at Drury Walk;

Mr Tamsett and Ms Bone gave the following responses to questions asked by the Committee:

- (h) the public consultation has received 1500 responses, 89% of which have been positive;
- (i) an open street with no doors between Collin Street and Lister Gate has been investigated but public response to this in similar schemes such as Westfield in London has been unpopular. Customers expect an indoor mall and having no doors will create a wind tunnel. The ambition is for the route to feel like an open street despite being indoors. The doors will be larger and more user-friendly than at the current centre;

- (j) a new tram stop is planned at Collin Street and the new entrance on Middle Hill is designed to link with this. Architects are still working on designs for this entrance and it may be made more prominent. The façade here will be clad in a high quality material to entice people;
- (k) the centre has been designed to be delivered either with or without future pedestrianisation of Collin Street so as not to delay the refurbishment, however the aspiration is for the schemes to complement each other;
- (l) the design of the new buildings at Drury Walk will use high quality materials in a traditional style. Research has been done about the original buildings that Broadmarsh replaced when it was originally built and used in the design. The pocket square will integrate with the garden at the back of Jamie's Italian;
- (m) the new shop units have been designed using Intu's retail expertise to be of a sufficient size and quality to attract new tenants
- (n) the Middle Hill area of the mall will have new glazing but the main mall will have no new natural light due to costs. However, there will be improvements to the artificial lighting and wooden panelled ceilings to increase the sense of space.

RESOLVED to note the presentation and thank Mr Tamsett and Ms Bone for including the City Centre Forum in its consultation.