MINUTES
26 FEBRUARY 2020
HOE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
   Apologies were received from Martin Worrall, Hugh Janes and Chris Penberthy .

2. **Presentation by guest speaker Catherine Arthurs – Gormley Statue & Mayflower Trails.**
   Catherine Arthurs (CA) introduced herself as Strategic Projects Team Leader and her colleagues Tim Mills (TM) Art Curator at The Box, and Helen Trenerry, Project Manager.
   TM gave an historical overview of Sir Anthony Gormley's achievements and awards and a synopsis of his work, Look II, to be installed on West Hoe Pier. Look II will be slightly less than 4m in height, comprises 22 cast blocks and weighs 2700kg. It is intended to represent a human figure expressing a yearning to travel over the horizon and to establish another life.

   CA said that the figure would have foundations going down to the bedrock beneath the pier. To support this work, the pier walls would be re-pointed and a void at the end of the pier structure would be filled. The area around the figure will be repaved. The consultation period for this will end on 10 March and it is hoped that the installation will be completed in May.

   Penny Tarrant (PT) advised that HNF had been briefed on these proposals earlier and that the necessary risk assessments had been carried out. HNF support the application.

   TM said that there is a lot of information about the statue on The Box website, and that there will be information/interpretation at the site. The format of this has not yet been decided upon.

A discussion took place around which languages the information should be available in, with suggestions for an app, and other technology.

CA said that the statue would form part of the 3 Mayflower Trails around the city.

3. Presentation by guest speaker Morgan Phillips, GIUK – Drake's Island

Morgan Phillips (MP) introduced himself as the MD of the company that owns Drakes Island. They are only the 3rd entity to own the Island.
Originally it was called St Michaels around the 12th Century, then later St Nicholas Island, until it became known as Drake's Island by the 19th Century.

Future Plans for Drake's Island:
The island will be open all year, and the structures will be kept in their current form as much as possible.
There will be access for those with disabilities, including a lift shaft to the top of the island.
There will be a Heritage Centre, a Wildlife Reserve, and a Marine Conservation/ Research Centre.
These activities will be developed in partnership with a wide range of Plymouth organisations, including Plymouth University, The National Marine Aquarium, local schools, City College, boat handling companies, local businesses and re-enactment groups. Historic England and Plymouth City Council are supporting the project.
Environmental research and conservation will be undertaken on the island into, for example, wave power, tidal power, sea-grass beds and power storage systems.
There will be a hotel and wedding venue and a cafe.

The timescale for completion was questioned. MP said that in very limited numbers, people were invited onto the island in closely controlled circumstances, e.g. St Luke's Hospice Open Garden day in March. However, the whole project is expected to take 7-10 years to complete.

Erica Tiller asked whether the project was financially viable in the longer term. MP said that they had some initial funding, and substantial investor backing, and that there would be a charge to go there, a hotel, weddings, a restaurant, re-enactment events, possible small scale music events, plus benefits from the use of potential research facilities by Plymouth University, NMA etc.

PT enquired about the possibility of including a lift servicing the Hoe to enable disabled access, in the contract to build a lift on the island – a 2 for 1. MP said that this could be included in the dialogue and funding possibilities considered.
PT to communicate with MP on details of the Hoe lift.

Action: PT

4. Planning update.

The planning update was provided by Martin, and presented by Carole Worrall in his absence.
Please see the details attached.

5. **Neighbourhood Plan themes update – Hilary Kolinsky**

Hilary Kolinsky (HK) gave a brief update on the function and purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan. It will form a policy document below local planning policy. A draft plan is currently being pulled together across four working groups: Economy, Culture and Tourism, Transport and Pedestrians, Heritage and guiding development, and Blue and Green. It is anticipated that there will be a draft plan by the end of March.
The next meeting for the wider membership re the Neighbourhood Plan will take place on 25 March.
A meeting for sub groups and other interested forum members will take place on 11th March to discuss some contentious issues.
Input is welcome, as the draft is taking shape.

6. **Register Office – alternative vision update – Jacky Clift**

Jacky gave a brief history of the development situation regarding The Register Office. Currently, PCC is considering selling the site and allowing a large hotel to be built on it. PT advised that the Council put forward a plan to build 52 homes as well as the hotel.

HNF have taken the initiative and are in the process of putting together an alternative plan to keep the site in public ownership, while developing it to provide housing, a wedding venue or some hotel rooms.
A bid by the forum for national funding has been successful to support the fact finding and creation of the neighbourhood plan.
A total of £50K has been allocated, which will fund professional help by David Chapman of Aecom to produce a Housing Needs Assessment and an update to the Conservation Area Management plan as well to advance the feasibility study for the Register Office site itself. This is an opportunity to voice the community's wishes and concern via an evidence- based 'hard fact' report.

There was some discussion on the role of PR and social media in promoting and disseminating the Register Office plan.
Tom Godwin suggested that more HNF PR was needed and agreed to discuss this outside the meeting.

Action: PT/TG

7. **AOB**
There was no Any Other Business.

8. **Date of next meeting: 22 April 2020, Hoe Bowling Club at 19:00**