

ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

Report to	Finance Governance & Asset Management
Meeting date	17 January 2023
Agenda item	12 - Forward Plan

1. Surplus land review of town council land	
Oct to Dec 21	Consideration of land which may be excess to the council's requirements. Needs to be part of wider discussions with District Council
March 2022	Report of the Town Clerk presented at the meeting. Following discussion and amendment of FGAM recommendation Council resolved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The following plots of land are designated surplus to town council's requirements: (three sites, detailed in confidential minutes to Council meeting) (ii) The town clerk approaches the district council to offer the land as affordable housing sites (iii) A further report in relation to this matter be brought forward to the meeting of the FGAM committee on 21 June 2022 (iv) The ward members for the three areas be consulted prior to any decisions being made.
June 2022	Update and report: This is now part of the discussions with the District Council regarding landownership in Abingdon. Nothing further to report at this stage.
July 2022	Members have been consulted. See confidential agenda item for that meeting.
October 2022	See forward plan update (confidential). It was agreed that the matter be referred back to the Environment and Recreation Committee for their view regarding whether the land in question had any amenity value. If not then the matter would then be further considered by the Finance, Governance and Asset Management Committee, for potential disposal.
2. Building maintenance & improvement programme (VM)	

Oct to Dec 2020	Installation of new boilers
Jan to Mar 2021	Agreement of maintenance and improvement programme
Apr to Jun 2021	Maintenance and improvement programme year 2
June 2021: review	May 2021 committee: agreed maintenance/ improvement programme
Apr to June 2022	Maintenance and improvement programme year 3: see updates to FGAM Meeting of 21 June 2022, agenda item 11.
Apr to June 2023	Maintenance and improvement programme year 4
3. Guildhall complex	
Jan to Mar 2021	Decide on longer term priorities for the Guildhall complex
June 2022 Update	Abbey Hall: long-term cinema lease (FGAM committee matter) <i>Historic rooms: service under consideration by Community Committee. Currently under outsourced management agreement Old Magistrates Court: Improvement works planned for creation of civic complex; see update in Properties Officer confidential report item 17.</i>
4. Abbey Hall lease	
Oct to Dec 2020	Sign off new lease to 28/2/22.
Jan to Mar 2021	Agree new (longer term) lease.
June 2021: review	Heads of Terms agreed by delegation team
July to Sept 2021	Agreement of any new lease and Guildhall arrangements with Abbey Cinema
Jan to Mar 2022	End of lease on Abbey Cinema (28.02.22)
Jan 2022	Extension of Abbey Cinema lease and ongoing negotiation of longer-term lease.
March 2022	Lease extended to 30 November 2022. Ongoing negotiation of 25-year lease with Abbey Cinema
June 2022	Properties Officer confidential report referred, agenda item 17.

July 2022	Properties Officer confidential report.
October 2022	Council has extended lease to 30/09/2023, pending agreement of a 15-year lease on the property. See also Properties Officer confidential report.
5. Museum basement	
Jan to Mar 2021	Options appraisal for basement.
June 2021: review	Options for basement considered at meeting of 10 June 2021.
July to Sept 2021	Discussions with various community groups - One planet and Carbon Cutters regarding a climate emergency cafe centre - initial proposal received 23rd August 2021 for discussion
June 2022	Climate emergency centre in operation. Proposals for a longer-term agreement to come forward to next FGAM meeting.
July 2022	See Museum Manager report item 10. Resolved that the license be extended for 12 months, the Museum Manager to explore the legal side of granting a longer-term license/lease to bring back to the committee in September 2022.
October 2022	<p>A new licence for 5 years is in preparation with Slade Legal. There are no conflicts of interest in granting a long-term license as either party can withdraw from the license agreement with one month's written notice.</p> <p>Your officers recommend that the Council agree this licence on the same terms and conditions as the current license.</p> <p>One Planet Abingdon are reviewing insurance arrangements and may wish to apply to Abingdon Town Council for a grant to cover a steep rise in insurance costs. The best price obtained so far is £466.20 Public Liability of 10 million GBP. License renewal is set for 27th November 2022.</p>
6. Museum lift options appraisal	
Apr to June 2021	Andrew Lord (AL) re preplanning application advice – locate original documents and application
June 2021: review	Original documentation has been reviewed by DS. VWHDC has suggested that pre-planning app advice should be taken. AL advises need to appoint an architect to undertake this exercise.

July to Sept 2021	Met with Ridge Jim Thomas, structural engineer, awaiting advice regarding design before approaching English Heritage/planning
March 2022	It was noted that timescales for the Museum lift options appraisal did not include all stages such as producing a business plan and it was agreed that these would be added to the forward plan in due course.
June 2022	<p>Ridge and Partners LLP have completed a feasibility and pre-planning application to Vale of the White Horse Planning Officers. Your Officers have approved submission of the documents and will await further information in response to the submission.</p> <p>Further update provided in Museum Manager report to FGAM, 21 June 2022, item 14.</p>
July 2022	<p>Meeting between Historic England, Ridge, Conservation and planning in response to submission of pre-planning advice application. Instruction to Ridge to proceed on Planning Application based on this outcome, and pending completion of a business plan (Actions register S21-2833 agreed by Town Council 1-12-2021. Councillors Bowring and Halliday to work with the Museum Manager on the business plan. This to include timetable of any relevant stages in the process.</p> <p>(Previous edition of FP stated procurement and works on site dates which need to be considered)</p>
October 2022	<p>Historic England have responded to the feasibility study prepared by Ridge Partners and suggest further commission of an updated access plan, informed by new reports of ‘a clearer and more comprehensive assessment of significance and including consideration of the conservation area’ and ‘an analysis of important views within the conservation area’</p> <p>Ridge Partners propose that further work should be conducted at pre-application advice stage and presented to Historic England for a second response to qualify best chances of submitting a successful planning application.</p>