

North Walsham High Street Heritage Action Zone

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| Portfolio Holder | Cllr R Kershaw |
| Senior Responsible Office telephone number and email: | Rob Young; 01263 516162; robert.young@north-norfolk.gov.uk |

LIST OF ADDITIONAL PAPERS SUBMITTED

<https://northnorfolkdistrictcouncil.mysocialpinpoint.co.uk/placemaking/placemaking-home/>

The North Walsham High Street Heritage Action Zone is an integrated programme of activities packaged into the following four key projects:

1. The Cedars: restoration of the Council owned Listed building and its curtilage and bringing it back into beneficial use
2. Place making: improvements to the accessibility and attractiveness of town centre streetscape and key public areas
3. Building improvements: provision of grants to facilitate building repairs, restoration and improvement
4. Cultural programme: establishing a programme of events that celebrate the town's culture and history

The Programme is led by North Norfolk District Council and funding is provided by The Council, Historic England, New Anglia LEP (Government Building Back Better Fund) and the National Lottery Heritage Fund (for the Cultural Programming).

The following summary illustrates the current status of the various elements of the programme.

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| Cedars |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tender invitation reissued closing 7 January• Works to commence on site late January/early February subject to availability and capacity of contractors and availability of materials• Discussions held with potential tenants and Heads of Terms under consideration• Christmas lights installed at Cedars as part of NW Town Centre Christmas lights• Potential funding application for feasibility study for development of barns being developed with NW Town Council• Honey bee colony being removed |
| Town Centre Placemaking |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Feedback from consultation and various survey results analysed and incorporated into revised designs• Stage 4 designs produced for Shambles and Black Swan Garden area |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Vertical’ public realm walls at Shambles and Black Swan Loke being investigated • Decisions on final designs and scale, locations and materials to be used in place making improvement works to be taken December • Materials being reviewed including on site review of samples • Costings and scheduling of early works package to be developed when designs finalised • Design for bus interchange on New Road carpark continuing to be developed in partnership with Norfolk County Council (NCC) and North Walsham Town Council |
| <p>Building Improvement Grant (BIG) Scheme</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson Architects (Norwich) appointed lead administrators (conservation accredited architects) for the BIG scheme and meeting weekly • Pipeline projects reviewed and site visits commenced • Application supporting documents being reviewed for eligibility by the lead architects and Historic England prior to grant application submission • Numerous site meetings held with potential applicants |
| <p>Community Engagement</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face to face survey conducted with 40 businesses in Market Place on specific needs and delivery/collection requirements • Briefing produced for elected Members and Project Board members on consultation findings and amendments to Place Making proposals • Involvement planned at Christmas Lights Switch On event (event cancelled due to poor weather but Orchestras Live performance held in a cafe) • Comms information shared on NW HSHAZ Facebook • Comms planned for next stage Place Making, Cedars contractor appointment, bee removal, BIG projects and GPR survey |
| <p>Historic England Historic Area Assessment</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into the Cedars being undertaken • Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) survey of Market Place cellars and tunnels completed 14 – 16 December including Market Place, Shambles area and Black Swan Loke garden space and Paston College grounds and carpark |
| <p>Heritage Research and Skills</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signwriting Workshop being planned for summer 2022 • Learning opportunities are being explored with local partners and presentation to NW primary schools cluster head teachers being arranged in New Year to consider North Walsham town outdoor classroom proposal • Digitisation of archive photographs and materials with training for volunteers and interpretation under consideration • Photography Workshop for Paston College students being developed with HE Lead Photographer • The Historic England in-depth architectural research for the Historic Area Assessment will generate opportunities to increase awareness and appreciation of the history of North Walsham. The HAA and local historic research will be used for events such as talks, heritage trails, publications and leaflets and contribute to the Cultural Programme being delivered through the Cultural Consortium - findings to be shared and communicated by HE • Quarterly meeting held 7 December with HE researchers and NW heritage stakeholders |
| <p>Cultural Programming</p> |

- Cultural Consortium meeting held
- Creative Workshop evaluated
- Workshop being held with Cultural Consortium members in January to develop opportunities to link with cultural events planned for 2022, wider HAZ scheme and engage wide range of stakeholders, audiences and participants including young people, businesses, older people

Budget, issues and risks

- As reported HE require expenditure budgeted in 2021-22 to be spent within the financial year forecast and indicated there is no opportunity to roll forward any budget underspend to Year 3
- Without the capacity to reprofile the project budget, well publicised issues affecting the construction sector including materials shortages, long lead times, high and still increasing costs, high demand for professionals and specialists including conservation accredited architects and project backlogs from 2020 and labour shortages put the North Walsham HSHAZ projects at risk, in particular the construction projects including the Cedars restoration, North Walsham Town Centre Place Making and Building Improvement Grants scheme
- New Anglia LEP have requested forecast spend for remainder of 2021-22 and level of funding expenditure forecast to be required beyond year end for the place making project expenditure
- The challenges being experienced in relation to the delivery of the place making works have been discussed and recognised by the funding organisations
- Once costs and programme refined following incorporation of consultation feedback and technical survey information, a mechanism for Capital Transfer to be sought with LEP/Suffolk County Council (accountable body)
- Mitigation measures continue to be implemented and planned where possible including working in partnership with NCC and the contractors. Once designs finalised and costs have been identified materials will be ordered and purchased.
- Ongoing liaison carried out with property owners to identify and prioritise potential BIG scheme projects that can be delivered within shortest timescales
- The Risk Log is reviewed weekly and updated as appropriate