

<b>Agenda Item No:</b>	8	
<b>Committee:</b>	Cabinet	
<b>Date:</b>	11 September 2023	
<b>Report Title:</b>	Wisbech High Street Update	

## 1 Purpose / Summary

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with a monthly update regarding ongoing work related to 24 High Street, Wisbech.

## 2 Key Issues

### 24 High Street Progress

- 2.1 Etec continue to work on 24 High Street. Working remains below street level and party wall issues. The expectation is to get above ground early in 2024.
- 2.2 Work is on progress and on track in terms of cost.
- 2.3 An application for funding has been submitted to National Lottery Heritage Fund. Feedback has been received and further documents being submitted.
- 2.4 CPCA is part funding the building work too. 50% of the grant has been received as we have started on site, with the final grant due at the end of the build. A CPCA officer has attended the site and is pleased to see work underway.
- 2.5 A representative from Historic England also visited the site. Again they are pleased to see works underway, following a gap sitting in the historic High Street for so many years.
- 2.6 The next update to Cabinet regarding number 24 will be in early 2024 when the milestone of getting above ground is reached.

### 11-12 High Street

- 2.7 The Council has been in touch with 4 consultants in order to procure an options appraisal that will satisfy the Lottery Heritage Fund in terms of an expert analysis of what is possible and suitable for the space at 11-12 High Street. Due to pipeline of work and summer holidays none of the consultants could commence work promptly. One has already been on site with Council officers and will begin a report in late September, likely due in October. This report will be received too late for October Cabinet (2 October 2023) and will be presented at November Cabinet.

- 2.8 Historic England attended 11-12 High Street. They are keen to understand what the options report will say and are happy to feed into this process – supporting the extension request for to the Lottery Fund for the NLHF project.
- 2.9 It is also recognised that a start of site for any potential option is at least 12 months away, given governance, potentially planning and procurement processes. That being the case, and in consultation with local Members, it has been decided to redesign the current scaffolding to push it back to the building line. This will allow public use of the footpath again. This is important as the building work at 24 High Street – opposite – has meant that both footpaths on each side of the High Street are currently out of use. This alteration to the scaffolding will take place in the next few weeks and will ensure a footpath is available throughout the build period for 24 High Street (ending in November 2024).
- 2.10 The current scaffolding at 11-12 High Street protrudes out onto the footpath, taking up the whole path. It has been recognised that this is a poor design and means that pedestrians must necessarily use the road at this point in the High Street.
- 2.11 As the scaffolding and hoarding is expected to remain in place in for at least another year, the Council has placed an order - value £25,000 - to have the scaffolding redesigned and pushed back to the building line, allowing pedestrian use of the footpath once again.

### 3 Recommendations

- 3.1 That Cabinet notes the current position in relation to the 24 High Street construction project in Wisbech High Street and notes information regarding the property at 11-12 High Street.

Wards Affected	Medworth Ward	
Forward Plan Reference	KEY21APR22/01	
Portfolio Holders	Cllr Chris Seaton Cllr Ian Benney Cllr Chris Boden	Portfolio Holder for Social Mobility and Heritage Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance
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