

Newsletter Number 33



OPENING OF HERRING BRIDGE

On Thursday 1 February I had the honour as Chair of the Civic Society to attend the opening of the Herring Bridge. It was a magnificent occasion with presentations by many officials and there were large crowds lining the bridge. Below are a few photographs taken during the event.





Herring Bridge

Opened on Thursday 1st February 2024
by The Rt. Hon. Sir Brandon Lewis CBE MP

Named by public vote in honour of the famous
Great Yarmouth Herring Boat Fleet
which once dominated the river at this location.

Funded and delivered by Norfolk County Council,
the Department for Transport and the New Anglia LEP.

FUTURE MEETINGS

to be held at Christchurch, King Street, NR30 2HL

Tuesday 6 February, 2024. 7.30pm Great Yarmouth Renaissance.

Hugh Crossley, Lord Somerleyton. **CANCELLED**

March, date to be confirmed

Talk by Sir Brandon Lewis, CBE, MP

April. Date to be confirmed. **Nelson Ward**

Presentation about the problems and solutions of NelsonWard

RECENT MEETINGS

Tuesday 9 January, 2024. 7.30pm. Harbour Radio: Its place in Great Yarmouth and the importance of communities.

Nevv Moore, Founder and Head of Harbour Radio.

He had first come to Great Yarmouth in the late 1980's and fell in love with the place. He worked as a DJ at 151 King Street and in 2014 applied for an online internet licence. In 2017 an FM licence was granted and has its headquarters at 137 King Street. It is run by volunteers and he is hoping to improve their quality. There are 119,000 people living in the Borough and 29% listen to Harbour Radio at some time and it is heard world wide.

The Radio Station is involved in many outdoor events, has an audience of 19,500 daily which is increasing. It aims to bring the community together. It is funded by advertising, sponsorships and by Nevv himself.

SAFER STREETS. We have been approached by the Borough Council to oversee a project to clean up some of the Rows and alleyways and to lead discussions monthly about neighbourhood crime and violence against women and girls. Four members of the committee have agreed to lead on this but the start of this project has been delayed due to some legal problems.

COMMUNITY PAYBACK ON GORLESTON CLIFFS Although Gorleston is not within the Civic Society catchment area I have been pleased to see members of the Community Payback team - consisting of people who are doing community work for crimes they have committed - cutting back the edges to paths on Gorleston Cliffs over the last few weekends. It is hoped that this scheme will be applied to other parts of Great Yarmouth.

LONG TERM PLAN FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT. In September 2023 government launched this scheme and Great Yarmouth was one of just over 50 towns to received £20M to be spread over 10 years. Between now and August we need to submit a 10-year vision and 3 year investment plan setting out the town's vision and priorities for investment and regeneration, aligned to themes of safety and security, high streets, heritage and regeneration, and transport and connectivity. We are tasked with involving the community in reaching our vision and I trust that all members of the Civic Society will take an active part in this and encouraging others to do so.

WORKSHOP ON NORFOLK'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY 30 January. This was overseen by personnel from Norfolk County Council to obtain opinions from personnel in the borough. Not surprisingly Great Yarmouth came at the bottom of league tables for Norfolk and England concerning growth, productivity, education attainment, and the proportion of people not seeking employment or being unemployed. However, we have an established offshore wind sector and supply chain, a strong tourism, cultural and arts sector and the highest levels of life satisfaction and wellbeing in the county. Our challenges are health inequalities, high deprivation and low rate of people with qualifications.

The importance of improving education and raising aspirations among the young was stressed and increasing the length of the tourism season. The important of working with the schools and

colleges, bootcamps and apprenticeships was emphasised as well as giving greater publicity to the great opportunities that were happening in the Borough.

TOWN BOARD 30 January. Here are some of the issues discussed.

Operations and Maintenance Campus at mouth of river is on track

The Place: University Learning Hub and Library. Re-roofing nearly complete and topping out ceremony at end of February. Courses to start in the autumn are about to be advertised.

Market Place landscaping starts after Easter Fair and should be completed by October/November

The Conge. Clearance of buildings on south side to be completed soon prior to building 40 homes. I asked for consideration to be given to having a community heating system powered by ground source and solar panels. This will be considered.

North Quay. There have been some positive views from several developers.

Vauxhall Bridge survey should be available in next two weeks.

Railway Station. Some improvements being made to make it more user friendly

Ice House Funding for its development has been approved.

Sculpture Trail. There were 98 applications 22 of which were for a Market Place statue.

A final list of those to go forward is being drawn up.

On 30 January I spoke to Sheila Oxtoby, CEO of the GYBC, that it appeared that the firm in Leicester who had been given the contract to clear the town of weeds had not done the job and she said she would look into the matter. She would also investigate why various bodies do not work together. e.g while the A47 between Gorleston and Great Yarmouth was being resurfaced the weeds along the edge of the road were not treated at the same time.

Community Improvement Districts. These were discussed in Civic Voice's Digital meeting on 18 January. Kate McKenzie said they brought people together, galvanised local action and had the power to bring about changes. Hendon had bought some properties for the community through the Community Ownership Fund, Wolverton had some pop-up shops and other towns held monthly meetings.

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