



Arts, Museums & Heritage Forum Briefing

September 2010

This Newsletter is intended to update Members of the Arts, Museums & Heritage Forum on the Hitchin Town Hall/Museum project, following the Cabinet meeting held on 28th September 2010. The Report and Appendix were sent out on 29 September.

The Report was updated at the meeting to confirm:

- English Heritage have advised that they anticipate a decision on the application for listing will be made by the end of September.
- That the detailed follow up questions on Hitchin Initiative's Business Plan have now been addressed and these will now be used to provide a report to Full Council on both schemes once a decision on listing is known.
- That the 'Communitybuilders' fund, which it is hoped will provide additional funding for the Hitchin Initiative scheme, is still receiving and allocating grants – despite fears it may have been affected by central government spending cuts, and they have confirmed the Hitchin Initiative application has been received.

The resolution of the Cabinet meeting was as follows: 'That the Council considers the situation as it exists in respect of Hitchin Town Hall at its meeting to be held on 11 November 2010'.

Cabinet members recommended to Council 'That, should the decision on listing Hitchin Town Hall be further delayed beyond 11 November 2010, Council instructs officers to research and report on alternative options for the future of Hitchin Town Hall and the Museums Service.'

The reason for this was 'To progress matters in respect of the future use of Hitchin Town Hall.'

As ever, we will provide further updates as these become available. In the meantime if you have any queries or you would like a hard copy of the full Cabinet report please contact Ros Allwood, Museums Manager on 01462 435197 or ros.allwood@north-herts.gov.uk