

John Richardson
Independent Chair
Hitchin Town Hall and District Museum Review Panel

14 August 2019

Hitchin Town Hall Review

Thank you for your email of 7 August in which you invite any additional information, corrections or amendments to what I have heard during the course of proceedings on 17/18 July and 2 August.

Given the wide ranging nature of statements provided and the fact much of this was not connected to the 'partnership' focus of your review, I do not think it will be possible to provide such a statement within the timescale and format you set out. Further, the order in which witnesses were called allowed later speakers only to comment on the previous oral statements without any structured cross-examinations and; not all witnesses were present for all three days of your hearings so, in the absence of a full transcript, would be unable to correct or amend all oral evidence provided.

In these circumstances I feel providing further information or a detailed commentary on anything I heard during the course of your proceedings would do little to assist the review in its work.

I would, however, reiterate the following points:

- If the Panel has specific questions it wishes to pose I would be pleased or respond to these. I understand that Mr Crowley has already provided you with the detailed specification for the stage wall as promised.
- The Council's records of the Development Agreement negotiations, Design team and Project Board meetings, together with the Council's decision making history to September 2016 are available at <https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/museums/museum-and-town-hall-project/hitchin-town-hall-museum-proposals>
- As stated in my oral submission, I contest the accuracy of significant elements of the written statements of a number of witnesses. I also contest significant elements of their subsequent oral evidence.

I will look forward to seeing your final report and the subsequent Overview & Scrutiny Committee's deliberations.

Regards

John Robinson
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