

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

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A fitting entrance for the North Herts Museum and Community Facility

Councillors voted last night (23 April) in favour of including an additional building into the project to renovate Hitchin Town Hall and create a new museum for North Hertfordshire.

The inclusion of 15 Brand Street into the project was agreed following a proposal put forward by the Council's partner in the project, Hitchin Town Hall Ltd and the community groups it represents.

The incorporation of 15 Brand Street into the project will enlarge the museum entrance and create a more commanding and striking street presence for the museum as well as creating additional display space.

Hitchin Town Hall Ltd have committed to investing an additional £180,000 into the project to acquire the building and North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC) will commit an additional amount of approximately £100,000 to the overall scheme.

Cllr Tricia Cowley, NHDC's Portfolio Holder for Community Engagement said: "The decision by Full Council last night to include 15 Brand Street into the North Hertfordshire Museum and Community Facility development was taken after careful consideration of the opportunities and risks to the overall project. We are very grateful to Hitchin Town Hall Ltd for their generous offer of expenditure to help fund the purchase of 15 Brand Street.

"This extension to the development will improve the aesthetic appearance of the new

continues...

museum building and create additional display space, which will also hopefully in turn increase the number of visitors to the Museum. We look forward to continuing working in partnership with Hitchin Town Hall Ltd to deliver a museum and community facility which the community will be proud of.”

Brent Smith, Chairman and Trustee of Hitchin Town Hall Ltd, said “We are delighted that NHDC have caught the vision for the hugely improved scheme and have voted to go the extra mile and give the combined Town Hall and Museum the entrance that it deserves. We look forward to being able to realise the full potential offered by the enlarged site . The support of the councillors at last night’s meeting was overwhelming.”

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Notes to editors

It is estimated that the inclusion of 15 Brand Street into the development will add an additional four months onto the project timeline, meaning a revised completion date of March 2015.

The inclusion of 15 Brand Street into the development will be subject to Hitchin Town Hall Ltd securing the £180,000 of donations / loans required to finance the acquisition of 15 Brand Street and the agreement of funders ACF to the terms and timescales acceptable to the Council.

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