

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group Ancillary Meeting, 17.00, 28th, February, 2018 at Oakham Town Council

Present: Christopher Clark (chair), Paul Dowse, John Nowell, David Salkeld, Nick Taylor, Janet Hughes, Colin Dunigan and Michael Hinman (minutes).

Representative of Kino: Genevieve Margrett.

Welcome: Christopher Clark welcomed Janet Hughes to the Group.

Presentation

Genevieve Margrett spoke about the Kino project to open a Rutland cinema with café in the building currently occupied by the Baptist church in Melton Road. Oakham's last cinema had closed a generation previously and the lack of provision had often been mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan survey. 60,000 people lived within a twelve-mile radius of the site and the facility would enhance Rutland's tourism offer. Nationally, cinema attendance figures had remained steady since 2007 despite the growth of personal technology. A more local cinema could provide a better quality of experience than the typical multiplex. Although a high proportion of the population went to the cinema, the Midlands had not been targeted outside Birmingham.

The intention was to alter the Baptist church building so that there would be two screens at different levels, along with a café. Screen 1 would have 86 seats, Screen 2 46 and the café 40. There would be wheelchair access to Screen 2, which would be on the first floor, and there would be two wheelchair spaces in each theatre. The café would act as a financial and social support for the cinema. Patrons would be permitted to take some food into the viewing areas but it would be unobtrusive (tapas rather than hot dogs). There would be a kitchen and toilets. Screen 1's screen would be located across the building's Melton Road entrance, so access would be along the eastern side.

It was hoped to have the cinema open from 10.00 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. every day of the week. Screen 2 could be hired out for the showing of specialist films. The programme might be so arranged that a given film would be shown around a fortnight after release. Kino wanted to apply for a drinks licence. When the facility was operating, it might be thought better not to allow food into one theatre or the other. The access for those with reduced mobility was an asset that the Melton Mowbray cinema could not offer. The company would undertake some light landscaping of the area at the back of the building and would retain the gravestones situated there.

The company had been registered, would have shares and issue dividends in the normal way and its directors were talking to potential local investors. There would be membership options. Depending partly on when the church vacated the site in order to enter new premises, the cinema might open in 2019 but would probably do so later, dependent on raising the money. There was an arbitrary six-month window while Kino raised funds and the church sought a new venue. Publicity would include an open event in the vacated building.

During a question and answer session, GM was urged to make the most of the Melton Road frontage. The project's social potential included encouragement of a revived Oakham Festival. Arts for Rutland was in favour of the scheme. There should be work with schools. Pricing would be simple, and in line with what Melton charged, so more than was the case at Stamford but cheaper

than at multiplexes. Although GM had not done anything quite like this before, she had a background in marketing and her partner had financial experience.

CC thanked GM for her interesting presentation.

Other Business

Colin Dunigan summarised for Janet Hughes Open Plan's requirement that the group expand topographical zoning of the whole of Oakham and Barleythorpe from the work that he had done on the town centre, which was necessary not least as a prelude to walkabouts with members of the public around selected areas. Group members examined Nick Taylor's preliminary work on this, which Paul Dowse and Michael Hinman would go into in more detail.

Date of Next Committee Meeting would be arranged by Doodle.