

Members made the following comments on the consultation process -

- Regard should be given for a wider consultation to allow those who were not comfortable with, or had no access to IT, social media etc. to engage.
- That it would have been beneficial for the Area Planning Committee to comment on the proposal after the consultation period had ended in order to see and consider the comments and feedback, as part of their view.

Members made the following comments on the proposal -

- It was believed the Furlongs Motoring Complex, Powis Street would form part of an upcoming planning application which, if submitted post the Cabinet decision, would the applicant or others within the Heritage Zone have to take into account, the conservation aspects as part of the development.
- Members noted a number of historic buildings were in poor condition and has suffered serious neglect with property owners allowing facades to fall into a poor repair due to a lack of maintenance. Would it be possible to include an obligation on landlords to maintain the upkeep of building facades? If not, could the council undertake the work, reclaiming the costs from the building owners.
- As part of the conservation programme, could some of the funding for the Woolwich Town Centre Regeneration be directed to restoring the original facades in Powis Street and Hare Street, often hidden behind plastic shop signs, be restored to add character back into the area.
- It was understood the Regeneration Team were undertaking a consultation in respect of shop fronts and vacant commercial unit possessions. What contribution was the Conservation Team making to maximise the overall regeneration and conservation benefit.
- Concern was held at how Town Centres, particularly Woolwich Town Centre, were maintained on a day-to-day basis. That Cabinet was encouraged to consider including improvements to create a more qualitative area.
- It was strongly felt that if it was not possible to improve the shop fronts in Woolwich Town Centre and address the issues around commercial buildings 'all would be lost'.
- As buildings were being brought back to standard, could disability access improvement or establishment of, be taken into consideration. Further, consideration should also be given on how they could also become environmentally sustainable, such as solar power units.

- With the relocation of the Waterfront Leisure Centre to Woolwich Town Centre in 2023-24, the opportunity to restore and protect the riverside view from Hare Street was strongly supported.
- The cabinet should be encouraged to instruct or make it policy that any potential developer must respect and maintain the Hare Street sightline to the river.
- Over the past 60 years a lot of historic buildings and heritage had been lost and the design of Woolwich had been eroded. It was imperative that all opportunities were taken to retain and, where possible, reinstate heritage aspects.
- Reference had been made to the unique straight sight line and openness of Powis Street. Could the openness be protected, particularly from overshadowing be proposed or future proposed developments and/or an exclusion zone of tall buildings in and within the proximity of the Town Centre Conservation Area be considered.
- Important to re-establish the link between Woolwich Town Centre and St. Marys Gardens so that residents can utilise the space better.
- It was noted that there had been at least 4 similar reports produced and presented in respect of Woolwich Conservation and improvement in the past, none of which appeared to have been successful in their aims. It was hoped that this position would not be repeated.
- The public should have the opportunity to see these iconic buildings and it was the Council's duty to ensure this was possible.
- The Area Planning Committee would impress on Cabinet that the Council had a duty and responsibility to protect and maintain its heritage for future generations and an action plan should be a requirement as to how this would be undertaken.
- Once approved, the Supplementary Planning Document must be given the importance.