



Leader's Report

21st October 2015

Report of the Leader of the Council

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Leader's report to Council.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To receive the report of the Leader of Council.

REPORT

1.0 Cabinet

Information on Cabinet matters is provided in the minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on 6th October 2015, later in this agenda.

2.0 Decisions required to be taken urgently

There are no decisions to report since the last Leader's Report on 23 September 2015.

3.0 Leader's Comments

This has been a quieter period for meetings, but work has been going on as always about the Local Plan. Two meetings with Turleys have happened whilst I have been away, but from feedback that I have received there are still concerns. The housing figures are contentious, but we are told that they have to be accepted. Even more contentious are the Land Allocation plans. Further consultation on these are taking place and I hope that residents will attend and make their feelings known.

A Dementia Futures Event was held on the 18 September in Lancaster Town Hall. This was an excellent sharing of information from Lancaster University. It was very well attended, including people from both Lancashire and Cumbria. An amazing

range of research in many fields is happening and it was very encouraging to hear about future possibilities to enable early diagnosis and to improve the lives of those suffering from dementia. The proposed Health Innovation Park next to the University will help to draw together all the strands of research and enable further research on this, as yet, incurable disease.

I was glad to see that there was a celebration at the Mother and Child statue on Morecambe promenade. Congratulations to all those who worked so hard to raise funding. On Sunday's *Countryfile* on TV the statue was prominently filmed as part of Morecambe Bay.

A meeting was held with Lancaster Vision members on the 22 September. This group is very keen to see Lancaster prosper and is particularly concerned about regeneration and jobs. They comment on Local Plan proposals and have also commented on the new Traffic Management Plans for our area. They want to see Lancaster thrive as a wonderful place to live and work and to develop further a tourism destination.

The highlight of the month was a visit to Quay Meadow. Some weeks ago I attended an excellent conference at The Storey on "Beyond the Castle". Since then, work has been going on to uncover Roman remains on the Meadow and the prospect of uncovering a Roman Villa nearer to the Castle is now being discussed. It is thought that the dig shows walls that would have belonged to storehouses for the army near to where the river would have been at that time. Warehousing then and in Victoria times, warehousing again. The river would have been much wider when the Romans were here. Many volunteers were digging and an expert from London said that more would come now that they know there is something important there. The size of the buildings is amazing and the enthusiasm of the workers was contagious.

Lancaster Chamber of Commerce and BID met the Cabinet on the 29 September. This is a worthwhile meeting every three months to compare notes and to update us all on matters of concern. The BID update was given and I hope that this work will continue as the Lancaster BID Group are asking members to continue the good work. I sincerely hope that the Morecambe BID Group will be formed to help Morecambe and to lead to closer relationships with the Lancaster Group and the Council.

We are receiving letters from The Home Office about the resettlement of refugees. They acknowledge that councils need certainty about the financing of the scheme in order to enter into contracts and commit resources and we await further updates and information.

4.0 Other Matters

Cabinet minutes are attached at the end of this agenda

5.0 Key Decisions

The following Officer Delegated (Key) Decisions were taken during this period:

- (1) 2nd Class Postal Services

Background Papers

Cabinet agenda and minutes of the meetings held on 6th October 2015.