

Leader of the Council

Councillor Teresa O'Neill OBE



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21 August 2015

Mrs D Ives
Chairperson
Erith Town Forum
25 Lesney Park Road
Erith
Kent
DA8 3DQ

Dear Mrs Ives

Re: Former White Hart Public House and Carnegie Building Erith

Thank you for your letter of 27 July 2015 enclosing a Petition requesting the Council take urgent action to bring the above premises back into community use and for the enclosed list of suggested options.

Like the Town Forum, I too share your concerns for ensuring the long term future of these properties for our residents and Officers in the Planning and Regeneration and Assets team are currently working towards that goal. As I am sure you will appreciate, by their very nature these old buildings are expensive to maintain which often fetters their attractiveness to potential owners. In terms of the White Hart, when premises are not owned by the Council, this makes it even more difficult to control their future use and availability to the Community.

With regard to the White Hart, Planning Officers have been in ongoing discussions with the current owners of the premises and a Planning Application is now expected within the next two weeks for the reinstatement of the historic façade. The Regeneration and Assets team will also be making investigations to see what can be done to influence the return to its former use as a public house but I must stress our influence is very limited in that regard.

In terms of the Carnegie Building, this remains a key element of the Council's plans for the regeneration of Erith Western Gateway and its future is currently under active consideration with a view to securing its refurbishment and a use that reinforces its historic educational heritage.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teresa O'Neill'.

Councillor Teresa O'Neill OBE