

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Property
<b>Portfolio Holder Name:</b>	Cllr Tim Mander
<b>Full Council Meeting Date:</b>	Thursday 7th December 2023
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	TC2023/104

This is my fourth report as Property Portfolio Holder and gives me an opportunity to update Full Council on progress on a number of important projects since the last Council meeting as follows:

- **Town Hall** – Despite some delays with the planning process, I am pleased to say that both the solar panel application and proposal to convert the former Labour rooms into a two-bedroom flat have been formally registered and both applications have received support of the Town Council's Planning Committee. The other good news is that the main application for the Town Fund works to the Town Hall Theatre and changing rooms has at long last being registered and my thanks go out to the Chair of Somerset Area Planning North, Cllr Kathy Pearce, who chased this up for Somerset Council Planning Officer's to ensure they were aware of the importance and urgency of the project.
- **Recreation Community Hub** – Great to hear this is all but completed and huge thanks to the Team led by Geoff who have ensured that the works have been completed so diligently. I will be taking advantage of the site visit that Geoff has organised and I am sure any members unable to attend will be welcome to visit once the project is up and running. Best of luck to Ann-Marie in delivering the project to the community.
- **The Docks** – together with the Town Clerk I attended a further briefing given by the Somerset Council Project Team led by Louise Darch together with Mark Lidster and Nick Tait. They were able to confirm that a specialist consultant had been appointed to examine the three locks serving the docks and a further consultant would be engaged to advise on how best to separate silt and water. The other important information to share is the public consultation event to be held at the Sea Cadets on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December from 3.30pm to 6.30pm. It is really important that we engage with the community and get the public on side, and I would implore members to attend.
- **Blake Museum** – I will be attending a Blake Museum Steering Group meeting on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November and will give a verbal update on the projects if requested.
- **Bridgwater Arts Centre** – here again pleased to say that after some delay the Town Fund Planning Application has now been registered. I am also pleased to report that Geoff has been in discussion with the Arts Centre Board so they can manage their programme of events in line with the delay to the start of works which is now likely to run into April/May.

**Recommendations:** (if you are expecting Council to make a decision from your report)

None

