



BTT Members,

The BTT Board hope you will find this newsletter useful and informative.

If you wish to comment or include something in the publication, please contact the Chair on p.riddington@outlook.com

Or the Secretary on gayerynsardbtt@gmail.com

The Board values your feedback and contributions.



Chair's Comments

Newsletter No 4

Dear Friends and Members

News From Lockdown - April 2020

These are trying and difficult times for us all and there seems to be little good news locally, national or even globally. So, I thought it might help lift the spirits if we sent a note which at least explained how we have managed to continue with some of our activities and, indeed have three significant achievements to publicise.

This document is in three main parts: John Popham has provided us with a synopsis of successes the Rail Station Group has had with Greater Anglia at the railway station; Paul Rynsard has

an update on High Baxter Street; and I have news on the 'Non- designated Heritage Assets' exercise.

Starting with the last:

'Non- designated Heritage Assets'

We have now completed the gazetteer of the unlisted buildings in the Medieval Grid, and this is now uploaded onto the BTT website. Please do visit the pages where you'll find an introduction which explains the background to the exercise and then the 21 streets as separate PDF documents. This is the result of a huge amount of work and several members have been involved in it, but I would particularly like to thank our old friend Peter Fuller who did a scrupulous job ensuring the facts and grammar are correct and, of course Rachael Salt who did the uploading.

Now this is done, and we can reflect on how successful it has been as an exercise, our minds may turn to how we might exploit what we've done and, continue the exercise outside of the Grid.



Update on 11 High Baxter Street

On the 16th April, we received from West Suffolk Planning Authority Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for our proposals for the house.

We shall place these approval documents on the website shortly



where you can read the full detail and conditions.

Thanks to our Architects at Whitworths and the Trust's working group for helping us through this process.

Within the next few weeks, we shall also complete the Stage 4 designs which are the technical drawings and specifications from which the builders and trades can quote and work to as we move forward.

As previously mentioned, we will commence with an external package of works that will include roof and elevations refurbishment and associated joinery work repair and replacement work with only limited work on the inside.

Many thanks to those that have made unsecured loans under our scheme for members and this hopefully will enable this work to commence in the summer. However, there is still the opportunity to join the scheme and we very much would encourage anyone who can help to do so, please contact our Treasurer Paul Tatum or Paul Rynsard for details.

We are meantime applying for loans elsewhere to ensure we have the funds to complete the works, but these come with draconian conditions which we'd prefer to avoid if possible.

The proposed site-based work is obviously going to be dependent on the current Covid-19 crisis and how the builders and their supply chains choose to operate for the rest of this year. We are perhaps in the fortunate position that we can manage our programme and the risks associated with the current situation and after we have received tenders for our first stage the Trust's Board will decide whether to proceed or delay and, like the Government, we will seek expert views.



Bury St Edmunds Railway Station

As recently posted on our website, the Trust is acting as co-ordinator for the Bury St Edmunds Rail Station Group which has welcomed the repairs that Greater Anglia are carrying out on the former station master's house that forms part of the rail station.

The most significant recent change, however, has been the completion of the car park to the rear of the station for which we commenced campaigning in 2015 (see the original report on our website).

In February, Greater Anglia were offered a major Access for All grant which will shortly result in the establishment of a new northern



entrance to the station that links directly with the existing southern one. This will not only help the disabled but result in a significant saving of time for regular commuters from the station.

While these recent improvements are excellent, we are still left with the problem of long-standing repairs to the non-operational historic listed fabric of the station. These date back to the late 1980s and are not the responsibility of the franchisee.

The Department for Transport has in the past explained that this is not an uncommon problem on historic stations such as Bury where it was not then, and in some instances is not still, possible to find tenants. As a result, maintenance of these stations has not been adequate. BTT drew attention to this problem in its 2015 report. Since then we have been seeking to prepare a Conservation Management Plan for this element of the station's fabric so that the necessary work can be prioritised and gradually undertaken as resources permit.

In order to achieve this a BSE Rail Station Group was established by the Trust. The Group is currently working

on commissioning the required plan so that we can, working with Greater Anglia, assess and prioritise the essential repairs. As Bury continues to grow, and there is an urgent need to cut down on car use, the station becomes ever more important as a transport hub with a current annual footfall of some 660,000 passengers.

A final plea

We have been two or three board members short for some time now and this is affecting what we are able to achieve.

We have advertised these roles and would encourage anyone with the time and energy to help the Trust by becoming a board member (or persuading someone you know who has these qualities to volunteer!).

The two particular skills we need are someone with a legal background and someone who has had involvement with practical building conservation. If you think either you, or someone you know, would like to find out more about these posts please do let me know.

Meanwhile do stay well everyone, who knows what the world will be like when we emerge from this crisis, but what we do know is that things won't be easier for our built heritage. If we want to ensure our old buildings survive, we need to help them do so with good, viable uses.

This is likely to be much more of an issue after the pandemic than it was

before. So, please, if you can do get involved with us and, most important, keep safe!

Best wishes to you all,

Peter Riddington

Chair Bury Town Trust