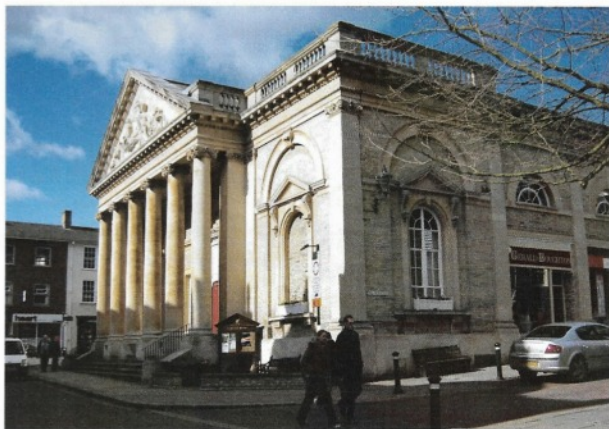


Spring 2011

SocietyReview

Committee views on the controversial Corn Exchange



You may have noticed the recent press reports. I am pleased to have the opportunity to clarify and explain the position that the committee have taken on the Corn Exchange in relation to the much anticipated Wetherspoons Planning Application.

Our decision to make 'observations' rather than 'objections' this time is based on a very thorough discussion with full examination of the details in Wetherspoons application. A year on, we have taken a very realistic view of the current situation as we consider that it is vital that this important listed building is suitably maintained and preserved. It is acknowledged, that in these difficult economic times, no other acceptable offers have come forward other than Wetherspoons, which will secure the long term care that this heritage building deserves.

These benefits clearly had to be taken into consideration when making our decision.

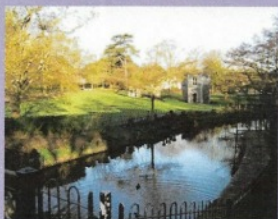
The company are committing a big investment into the Corn Exchange and to a first floor area which has attracted little interest, taking into account also the inherent letting difficulties coming from its access and space.

However, we have made very clear in our submitted statement to the Borough that we still have serious concerns with regard to the impact of increasing late night drinking activity seven days a week on the town centre, its businesses and nearby residents.

We have strongly proposed strict monitoring and adherence of Wetherspoons policies of responsible management, as well as reduced late

Sign up for membership

The new Friends of the Abbey Gardens group would like new members to take an interest in this exceptional green space and exciting new plans being proposed.



Please see Page 3 for details of who to contact and an outline of future developments.

night licensing hours.

The Society will be attending the future planning and licensing committee meetings and we expect a planning decision could be made by the end of April.

I have suggested to the Borough that they consider seeking 'Purple Flag' status, a national scheme which aims to provide a careful and balanced approach to creating a successful 'evening economy' to benefit the whole community.

Sarah Green

