

Sutton on Sea Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens

Report of Community Consultation

prepared for East Lindsey District Council by

**community
Lincs**
www.communitylincs.com

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Background

History

Standing alongside the Pleasure Gardens, with their large paddling pool; bowling green; other sports and recreation facilities and ornamental garden areas, the Colonnade has been a defining landmark in Sutton on Sea since the 1930s.



Like many other buildings and structures in Sutton on Sea, the Colonnade was damaged by the severe storm and flooding that hit the East Coast in January 1953, during which 43 people were reported to have lost their lives on the Lincolnshire coast.

The Colonnade was largely reconstructed, and the Pleasure Gardens were restored. They have continued to be a focus for visitors and residents alike, helping to define Sutton on Sea as a particularly family-oriented, child-friendly resort.

A distinctive feature of the Colonnade has been the line of beach huts that, until recently sat atop it, producing a skyline silhouette unique to Sutton on Sea. The Colonnade also housed a café, ice cream kiosk and spaces used in connection with activities in the Pleasure Gardens.

Structural Problems

The structural condition of the Colonnade started to give cause for concern in 2017, when some concrete sections fell off. Initially, inspection suggested that the problem was probably superficial, but when a full structural examination was carried out in May 2018 it became evident that there were severe structural problems. The structural engineers advised that:

“The ageing structure is exhibiting common defects for a reinforced concrete design constructed in the 1950s and 1960s and exposed to an aggressive marine environment. For the structure to be continued to be used for the benefit of the public a number of defects will need to be remediated. Some of these defects are serious and are currently affecting the safe use of the structure as there is a high risk of small sections of concrete cover to the I reinforcement being jacked off, by ferrous oxide expansion, from the high sections of the structure and falling and potentially injuring persons moving close to and/or within the structure. This safety risk is expected to increase with time unless robust remedial measures are undertaken, or parts of the structure



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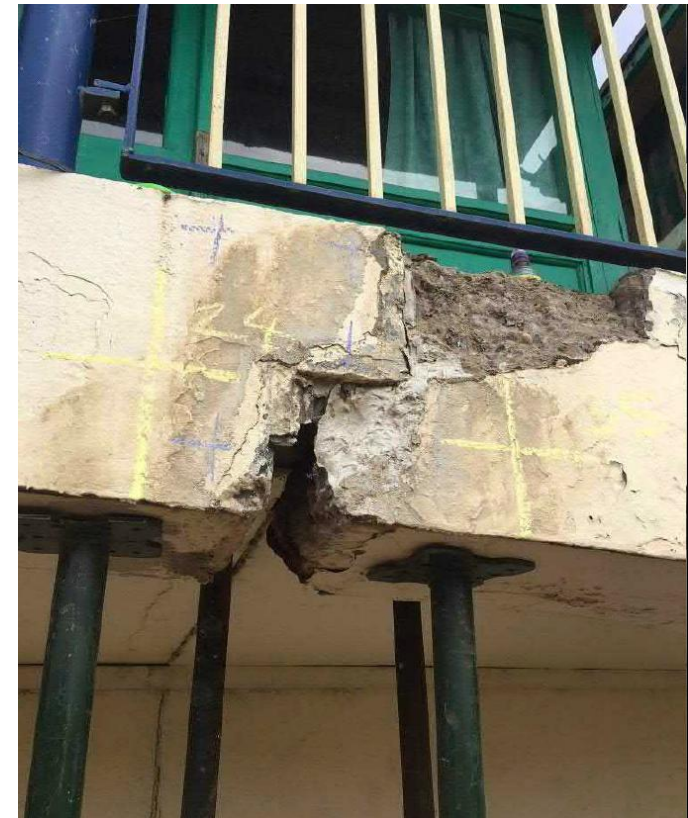
decommissioned from its present usage. The temporary safety provisions that have already been implemented on site in the form of a barrier fence and structural props to the enclosed area under the first floor, thereby separating sections of the structure from public access. These works will need to be enhanced for robustness and maintained until a remedial proposal is implemented. Since the fascia and transfer beams which span over the public access to the North stairs to the promenade are not currently closed off to the public are showing advanced signs of degradation, we would recommend that these are inspected for safety by an engineer with appropriate structural experience, at least every 10 weeks starting from 1st June 2018”.

Subsequent inspections found continuing structural deterioration, leading to a decision to remove the beach huts from the Colonnade to minimise structural loading. It became clear that repair would be very costly and that all options should, therefore, be considered, including full repair, reconstruction, replacement with a replica structure, and replacement with a new and different structure.

ELDC has sought to make updating reports publicly available through a dedicated page on the Council’s website.

Community Concerns

There has been substantial public concern about both the condition and the future of the Colonnade, including - but by no means limited to - owners of the beach huts affected by the need to remove them from the structure. A petition expressing widespread concern was submitted to ELDC in December 2018, and a public meeting was arranged by Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Town Council to discuss the Colonnade, Beach Huts and Pleasure Gardens on 10th December 2018. Held at the Meridale Centre, the meeting attracted a large audience of concerned residents and business people who sought information and assurances from members and officers of ELDC. It had been decided that two “visioning workshops” would be run in January 2019, so that residents and business people could engage directly in the consideration and generation of options for the future of the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens. Those workshops were announced at the meeting on 10th December (and then publicised more widely) and people were invited to book their places if they would like to attend.



Brief for The Workshops

ELDC appointed Community Lincs and OpenPlan to:

- facilitate two workshops to understand the views of the community in regard to the redevelopment of Sutton on Sea Colonnade and Pleasure Garden area; and,
- provide a report back to the Council on the findings, in order to shape future proposals for the area, including prioritisation of ideas.


The workshops were held in the Meridale Centre on the evening of Friday 18th January (6pm – 8.30pm) and the morning of Saturday 19th February (10am – 12.30pm). They were publicised via posters, press coverage and Social media, including Facebook and websites, and bookings could be made via Eventbrite, email or telephone. 31 people attended the Friday evening workshop, and 32 attended the Saturday morning workshop.

The facilitators were:

- from Community Lincs, Janet Clark and Jenny Stone;
- from OpenPlan, Steve Kemp, Rob Thompson (Rob Thompson Urbanism) and Simone Landucci.

The format of the workshops, and the main outcomes / recommendations that emerged are outlined in the remainder of this report. They are reported in a way that tries to capture the spirit of the events as well as the ideas and recommendations that were generated by the 63 participants in the two highly productive workshops.

Community Lincs and OpenPlan would like to record their appreciation of the enthusiastic and positive way in which the participants contributed their ideas and suggestions, and their determination to seize the opportunity to make Sutton on Sea an even better place.



Sutton on Sea - A Vision

Public Engagement Workshops





Friday 18th January 2019 @ 6pm - 8.30pm
Saturday 19th January 2019 @ 10am - 12.30pm
at the
Meridale Youth and Community Centre
1 High Street, Sutton on Sea, Mablethorpe LN12 2ET

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

You are invited to take part in an interactive engagement workshop to help us shape proposals for the future of the Sutton on Sea Colonnade and a redesign of the Pleasure Gardens.

This is an opportunity to take part and help develop a vision for the sea front at Sutton on Sea, which benefits both the local community and visitors.

Spaces are limited so booking is essential to secure your place
call 01529 301971
email office@communitylincs.com
Eventbrite <https://suttononseaworkshop.eventbrite.co.uk>

Phase 2 Stakeholder Consultation

Following on from the January community workshops, on 28th February, Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Town Council hosted a “Phase 2” consultation meeting, to which key stakeholders were invited. The meeting was held at Mablethorpe Library and Community Access Point.

The purpose was for those stakeholders to receive a verbal report of the community workshops and their outcomes, so that the views and recommendations expressed could be considered in formulating a vision for the future of the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens, for ELDC to take forward as the basis of a brief for architects to start producing designs and costings.

This report concentrates mostly on the community workshops held on 18th and 19th January 2019, but it also picks up on some of the outcomes of the 28th February stakeholder consultation meeting, particularly with regard to consideration of the ideas from the workshops reported to that meeting, and the emerging vision.

The overall outcomes of the stakeholders’ consultation meeting were endorsement of the core ideas and suggestions that emerged from the two community workshops, and a recommendation that ELDC should proceed to commission architectural drawings and costings to inform decisions about the Colonnade’s replacement.

INFORMAL SUTTON COLONNADE AND PLEASURE GARDENS PHASE 2 CONSULTATION MEETING

Thursday 28th February
5.00 p.m. – 7.30 p.m.

Mablethorpe Library and Community Access Point,
Stanley Avenue, Mablethorpe LN12 1DP

A G E N D A

Please note that each agenda item is time limited in order to ensure all business can be considered during the meeting.

1. **Welcome by the Town Mayor and introduction of attendees**

2. **Report back from ‘Sutton on Sea – A Vision’ public engagement Workshops held on Friday 18th/Saturday 19th January 2019 (45mins)**

Presentation by Community Lincs and Open Plan who led the workshops, with a chance to ask questions and seek clarification.

3. **Vision for the Future (1hr 15mins)**

To decide upon the ‘Vision for the Future’ for the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens to allow plans to progress to the next stage of artist visualisation, architect input and exploration of funding opportunities.

4. **Interim Arrangements (30mins)**

To consider and decide upon ideas for interim arrangements for the Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens area to maintain interest and preserve as a tourist attraction for local residents and visitors alike.

The Community Workshops: What happened and what ideas emerged

The same format was used for both workshop sessions:

- Workshop Part 1 “Setting the Scene”
- Workshop Part 2 “The Colonnade and Pleasure Garden”
- Workshop Part 3 “Creating the Vision”
- Workshop Part 4 “What happens next”

All sessions were facilitated by the Community Lincs / OpenPlan team.

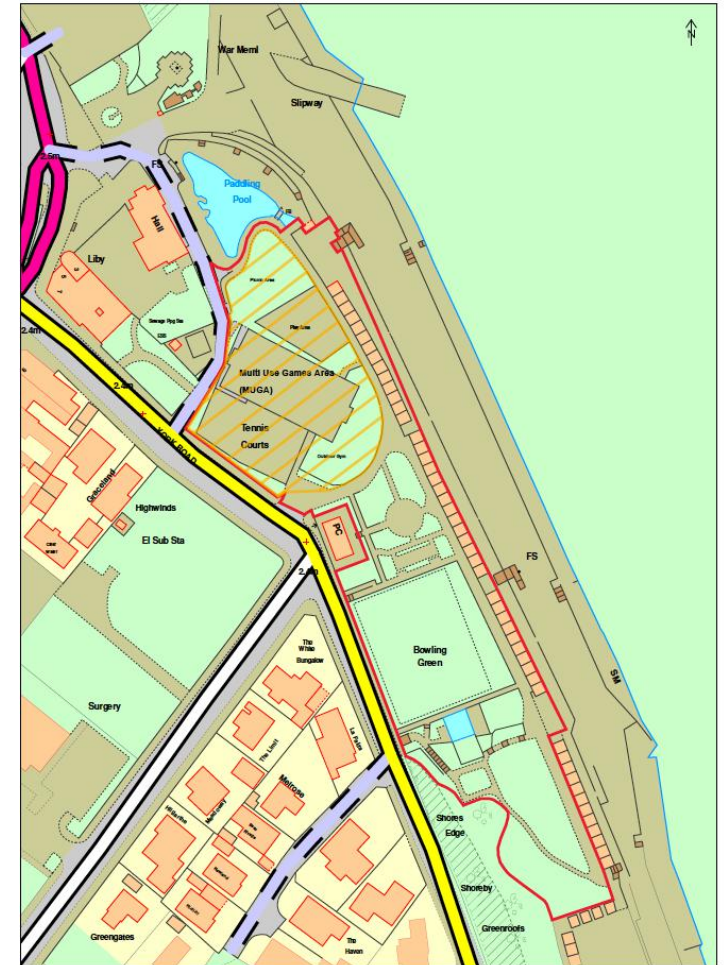
Following the introductory “Setting the Scene” session, participants then mostly worked in table groups.

The area on which discussion focussed is defined by the red line on the map opposite. It comprises the **Colonnade** and **Pleasure Gardens**, but excludes:

- the paddling pool; and,
- the public conveniences building.

No changes are proposed for those amenities.

Although the Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) has been included within the focus area (it’s the area hatched orange/brown on the map), it was explained to the participants that there is little scope for change in this area due to restrictions connected with the grant through which it was funded.



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Workshop Part 1 “Setting the Scene”



Postcards from the Past

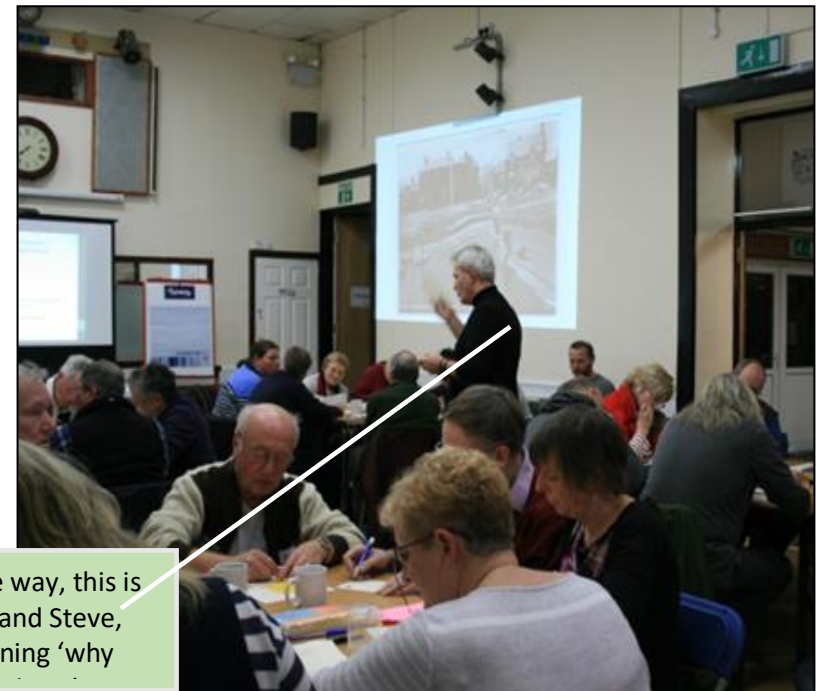
Throughout the workshop, a selection of historic postcards of Sutton on Sea were projected on to the wall, for two reasons:

- to show participants how the town and its beach have changed and evolved – that it hasn't always been as it is now; and,
- to provide food for thought – inspiration might come from thinking back as well as looking forward.

Some of the postcards have been reproduced on the next page.

To set the scene for the workshop, the facilitators gave a brief explanation of:

- the structural engineers' findings regarding the condition of the Colonnade, and why this had led to it being boarded up and the beach huts being removed;
- the possible options for either repairing or replacing the Colonnade;
- the likelihood that whatever option may eventually be chosen, it will be dependent on attracting outside funding;
- the importance of the choice - and any bid for funding – being grounded in a clear vision for Sutton on Sea, and the role of the Colonnade or its replacement within that wider vision.



By the way, this is Janet and Steve, explaining 'why



Postcards From Our Past

Pointers To Our Future ?

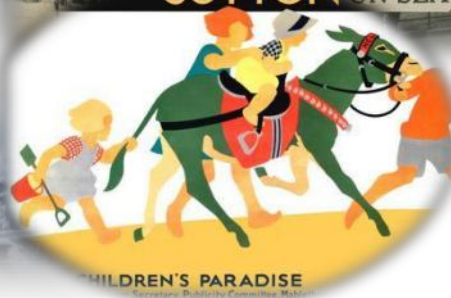
1930s



c. 1907



SUTTON ON-SEA



31st January
1953



1950s

Workshop Part 2 “The Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens”

Focusing on the Challenge

Working in table-groups, participants were next invited to “brain storm” ideas about the type of building that could go back in place of the existing Colonnade, if it is demolished, the uses it might accommodate, and any changes that might be made to improve the Pleasure Gardens too.

The boundary for changes was identified, and it was re-emphasised that the paddling pool has to stay and the Multi-Purpose Games Area (MUGA) should probably stay too, as there would be significant problems and complications in getting rid of it or moving it, due to it having been grant-funded.

Participants used “post-it” stickers to show and locate their ideas.



All the groups’ annotated maps were then put up around the walls and, during the break, everyone was invited to place sticky dots against the notes to show which ideas they liked most.



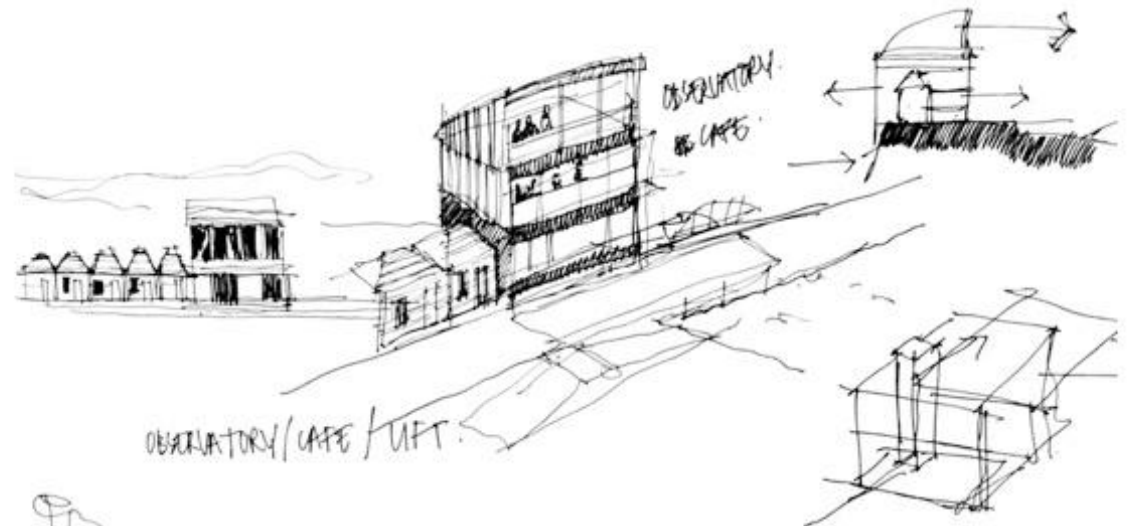
A Picture Paints a Thousand Words...

This is Rob, the facilitating team's designer. Whilst the other facilitators had a cup of tea and then kept everyone busy on the next task, Rob's work kicked in to overdrive! His challenge was to turn the words people had used to describe the buildings and changes they'd like to see, in to pictures – quick sketches showing what might be.



This is a sneak preview of one of Rob's sketches, but we'll leave him to get on whilst explaining what the workshop participants did in the meantime.

We will look properly at Rob's sketches, and talk about them, in a few pages' time.



Wish you were here...Postcards from the Future

Whilst Rob busily worked up the sketches, everyone else took time out to write postcards!

Participants were asked to transport themselves in to the future - perhaps 10 or 20 years from now - and to write the postcards they would hope to be able to send from a day – or a week – enjoying Sutton on Sea. Here are some of the cards we received...



Come to beautiful Sutton on Sea, plenty to do with the children's paddling pool, ball courts, adults sat chilling in the observatory on the sea front with a G and T! A truly relaxing and happy place to spend a few days! The walks and bike rides along the prom are SUPERB!



Having a wonderful time here in sunny Sutton on Sea. Spent yesterday in the wonderful Victorian style Colonnade and gardens. Got lift up to promenade and took hovercraft to Norfolk coast across the water from the Wash. When we returned we listened to a band playing all the old 2000's music in the bandstand.



Walk, cycle, play - create family memories. Enjoy the Colonnade beach huts in any weather. Build sandcastles, eat fish and chips and play in the paddling pool.



Wish you were here. Sutton on Sea has an amazing colonnade with beach huts on top, together with an amazing café area looking out to sea. The character of the village has remained unspoilt and takes me back to a traditional seaside town. Family friendly.



Postcards from the Future and a few more...

Dear all.

You should see the new colonnade you would not recognise the place. It is so splendid with glass doors and windows and lovely café serving tasty food. The best bit is the viewing points on top. You can see in all directions - and the dog comes too. There is also a new theatre with lots of different shows for all the family to enjoy. Must go running out of space.

Love you



Having a wonderful break in Sutton. As usual it has made us feel much calmer and relaxed. Enjoying playing tennis and crazy golf and had a lovely meal overlooking the sea. Was able to take granny to the viewing platform in the lift. In the evening we were treated to a lovely concert in the bandstand. Tomorrow we are going to hire some bikes and cycle to Huttoft along the prom then back for an ice cream.

Hi. We have had a brilliant time enjoying all that Sutton has to offer. The sea front and colonnade are stunning with a lovely observatory from which to view 360 degrees out to sea or over to the beautiful Wolds to the west. It's raining today, after a lovely sunny few days but no problem. I am sitting in the lovely orangery and keeping dry with the benefits of views of the sea and parks whilst enjoying a cuppa. There are tropical trees and butterflies in here. Wow! Have fun see you soon.
Mick.



Hello all. Just to let you know how much we are all enjoying our stay here. There is something for all age groups. Local people living here are friendly and helpful. Our days are spent on this lovely beach, or in the local cafes or restaurants. We hired some bikes and took the coastal bike path for some miles. the observatory was a good place to sit and relax and watch the sea when it was raining yesterday. The (enclosed) orangery was lovely to see also. In the evening we sat on concrete tiered seating (bring your own cushion) and saw a performance with local players and tomorrow night they have a band playing. We hired a chalet for the day and where able to use the showers, very tidy and wi fi available too! The young ones really enjoyed the little pool, had a lot of fun and safe! We all have it here. Best wishes
Lynn



There is wonderful colonnade observatory with an art gallery of local artists and coffee lounge with a viewing area. It is so pretty. The market stalls below are great for local produce and the events area is fab. We watched a play this afternoon. Next week there is a rock band on. The lift to the top was a great advantage and the bike and beach hut hire is working well. The area for teenagers is a great idea.



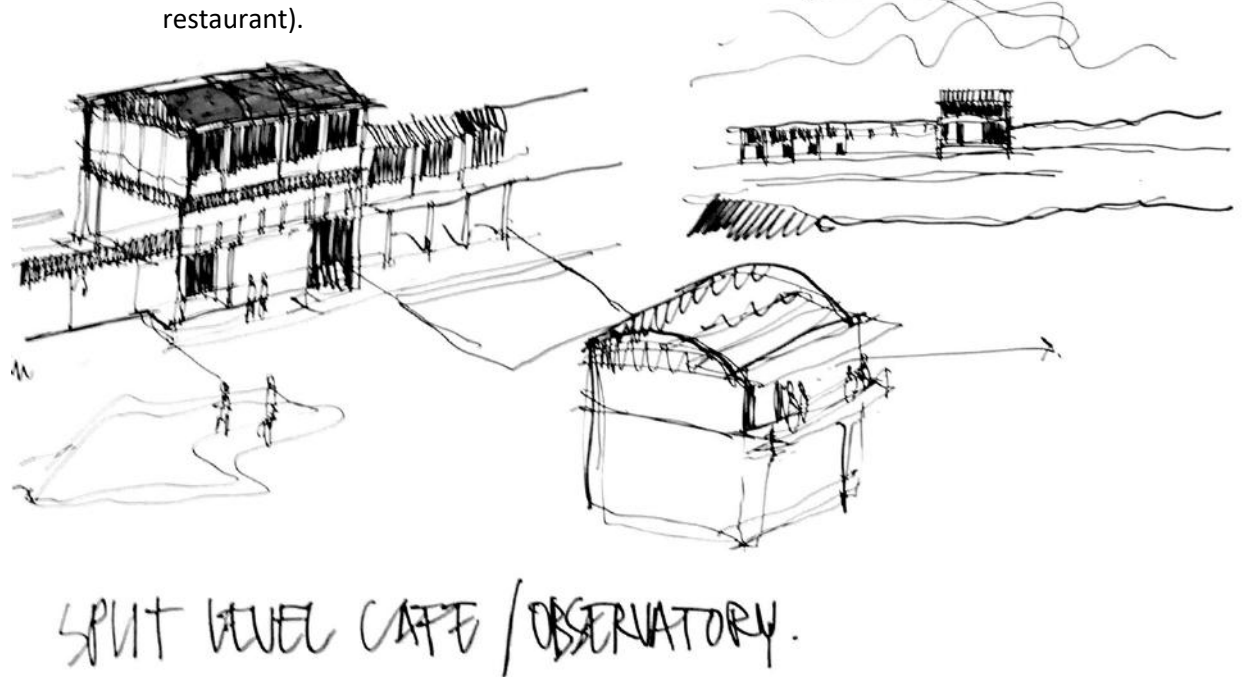
Back to the pictures: The Ideas



Whilst the postcards were being written back from the future, Rob had been having his own race against time to bring to life – at least on paper - the ideas that had been put forward earlier. The sketches on the next few pages are the results.

There was almost universal support, at both the workshops, for seizing the opportunity to replace (rather than repair) the Colonnade with a new and improved structure, creating a two-storey building to achieve several objectives:

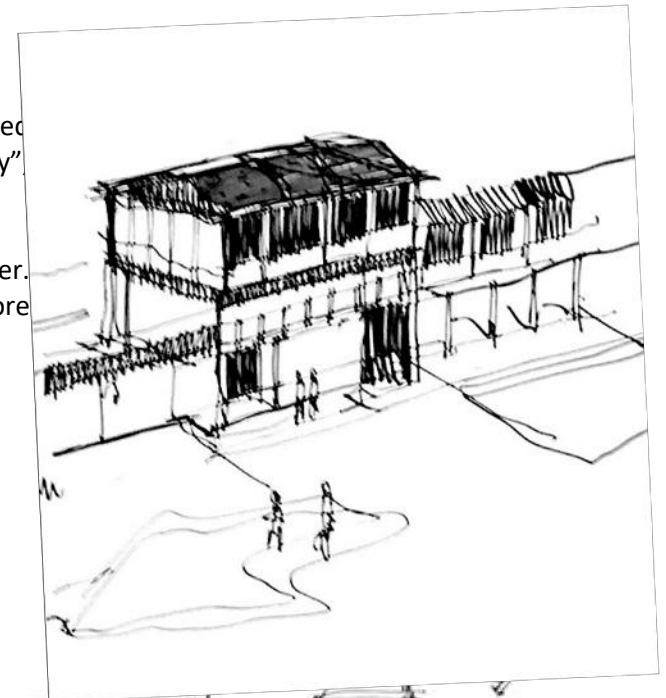
- provide a “bridge” between the garden level and the promenade level, incorporating a lift as well as stairs, so that it will work for everyone;
- creating a “look-out” or “observatory” to take advantage of the sea view and easily accessed from the gardens – and vice-versa;
- potentially, creating an interesting and attractive new sea-facing venue (café, bar, restaurant).





The building could be whatever style may be considered most appropriate - "classical", "30's", "contemporary" "eco" each had their fans at the workshops.

It wouldn't have to be restricted to two storeys either. Perhaps something a bit taller would provide a more interesting and viable mixture of uses.



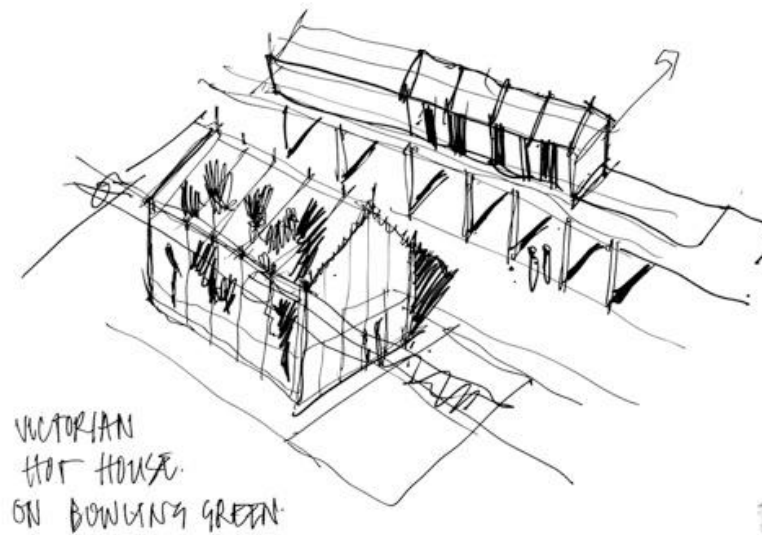
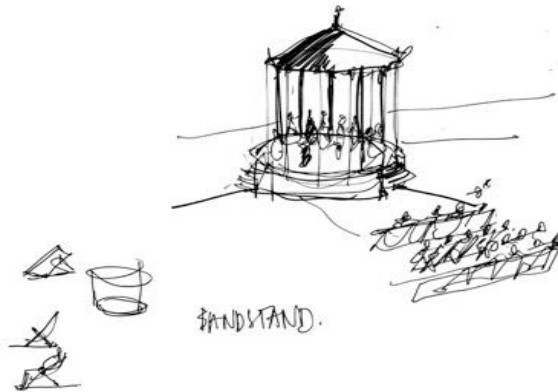


At garden level, the new Colonnade could offer space for interesting new uses and features.

One idea is a gallery for a constantly changing series of exhibitions; something to keep bringing people back to see what's on this week.

Another suggestion is an "orangery", an indoor or covered garden acting as a green – and perhaps productive - edge to the garden.

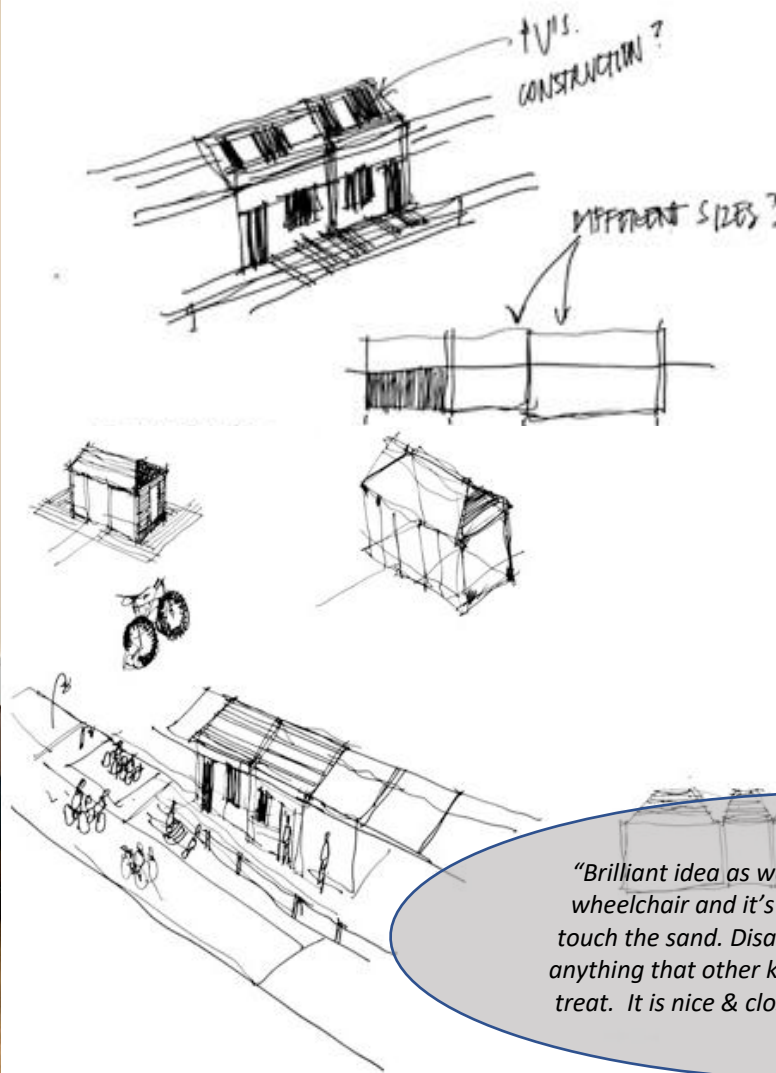




The general feeling at both workshops was that the bowling green is no longer the best use of the space it occupies in the garden. With better facilities available elsewhere in Sutton on Sea, and challenges in keeping the green up to a playable standard, many participants, on both days, suggested alternative uses for this part of the gardens.

A performance area and structure is one popular idea. A bandstand was suggested – and illustrated – but people also suggested an outdoor stage area that could be open or covered, depending on the weather. Or, perhaps, something similar incorporated into the new Colonnade structure, with the bowling green area as the auditorium.

Another suggestion is a different type of indoor garden – a tropical house. Mention was made of the Joseph Banks connection and possible reference to his work and findings.



There was universal agreement that the beach huts should be replaced. They are regarded as a treasure and iconic of Sutton on Sea as a family resort.

Replacement huts could be built with versatility in mind – both in use and location/re-location out of season. Some could be dual purpose to allow them to be used as mini-shops for events (such as Christmas Market) and to have the type of power supply necessary to allow this type of use as well.

Sensitive placement of beach huts along the colonnade could allow people on the promenade to more easily look down onto the gardens. Perhaps seating arrangements which look out to sea and also onto the gardens.

It was suggested that there should be some huts designed and equipped to enable disabled people to use them.

"Brilliant idea as we have a severely disabled son in a wheelchair and it's lovely to get sun, vitamin D, see & touch the sand. Disabled kids rarely get play schemes or anything that other kids have so a disabled beach hut is a treat. It is nice & close to the shops & hotel & food too."

In The Meantime...

Finally, everyone was asked to turn their minds to issues that would need to be addressed in the period between the Colonnade being boarded up and it being either repaired or replaced. They were asked to voice any concerns and also think about interim uses and activities that could be pursued whilst the big changes are taking place.

On the following pages, the concerns and suggestions are summarised. These were also shared with other stakeholders at the meeting hosted by the Town Council on 28th February.

A consensus from both workshops was that replacement of the Colonnade with a new structure would be preferable to repairing it. This was, however, accompanied by concern that if the existing Colonnade structure were to be demolished without a replacement having been designed, approved and funded, ready to start, the site might remain an empty gap forever - perhaps becoming just another car park at some time. This concern was widely shared.

When this particular point was discussed at the Phase 2, Stakeholders Consultation Meeting, on 28th February, it was agreed that the Colonnade structure should stay in place until such time as demolition and replacement can proceed seamlessly, unless the condition of the structure deteriorates to the point that earlier demolition becomes essential for reasons of public safety.



By the way, this is Janet and this is Simone, helping people think about interim uses and activities.

Following on directly from the concern that it will be better to have a boarded-up Colonnade than a gap site, thoughts and discussion turned to ways of making sure that visitors are not put-off from coming to Sutton on Sea in the interim period. There was a shared concern that whilst it would be easy to lose visitors it would be much more difficult to bring them back!

The remainder of this session, therefore, focused largely on interim or “meanwhile” uses for the decommissioned Colonnade and the adjacent gardens.



Use the boards as an art gallery. Local artists and art groups could put on exhibitions. Keep it fresh and people will come back to see what's new

Could it be part of an art and craft festival – a carnival of seaside art?

Might there be grants available? Arts Council, Lottery...?

How about hut-shape cut-outs on top of the boards?

Some of the boards need to tell people the story – the Vision.

What the plans are; what's going to happen next.

One participant left the Saturday workshop before the end to emphasise his concern that views of teenagers and young adults were not being explored or considered





Next Steps

The overall outcomes from the stakeholders' consultation meeting hosted by Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Town Council were:

- endorsement of the core ideas and suggestions that emerged from the two community workshops; and,
- recommendation that ELDC should proceed to commission architectural drawings and costings to inform decisions about the Colonnade's replacement.

A timeframe for action has been outlined by ELDC

Phase	Detail	Timeframe
Phase 1	<p>Phase 1 will be facilitated by Community Lincs. ✓</p> <p>2 engagement workshops at the Meridale Centre. ✓</p> <p>Invitations will be sent to known local stakeholder groups (1 or 2 reps per group to attend) by Community Lincs with the wider community also invited to sign up to attend. ✓</p> <p>One event will be evening and one will be weekend. ✓</p> <p>This phase is known as 'co-production' and will look at the community's ideas for the Colonnade/Pleasure Gardens areas and the rationale and evidence to support those ideas. ✓</p>	January 2019
Phase 2	<p>Phase 2 will be facilitated by Community Lincs.</p> <p>The ideas from the Phase 1 workshops will be appraised by a group formed by Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Town Council. Recognising that many ideas are likely to come forward, the purpose of Phase 2 is to further shape the Phase 1 ideas to inform formal proposals that can be costed. ✓</p>	February 2019
Phase 3	<p>The Phase 2 appraisal will enable the development of a scheme/or schemes for the Colonnade/Pleasure Gardens area. This time will be used to work with architects to produce costs plans.</p>	March, April and May 2019
Phase 4	<p>The Scheme(s) will be made available for a final round of public consultation. Once completed the final scheme will be published and the Council and partners will begin the process of fund raising.</p>	June/July 2019

Appendix A: *Wish you were here...* Postcards from the Future

Here are all the messages people sent back in their postcards from the future.

Friday Visioning
We have been transported back in time to the childhood delights of days by the sea. Clean air, days full of laughter, games on the sands, paddling, sand castle building and memories rekindled. How every seaside town must wish they had what Sutton on Sea has. Paddy P.
Sutton - where sea meets the sky, where families find fun.
Sutton on Sea simply a place where families return for a perfect seaside experience.
Sutton on Sea where your time stands still.
Come to a place where you and your children can play, paddle and picnic - without the distraction of amusements. Hire a beach hut and take in the sea view. Enjoy an iconic British seaside town. Not Mablethorpe or Skegness.
Sutton on Sea colonnade beach huts and clean sand. Free parking and an uncommercial day with your family. Sand, sandwiches and surf! Iconic Sutton skyline.
Walk, cycle, play - create family memories. Enjoy the Colonnade beach huts in any weather. Build sandcastles, eat fish and chips and play in the paddling pool.
Come to beautiful Sutton on Sea, plenty to do with the children's paddling pool, ball courts, adults sat chilling in the observatory on the sea front with a G and T! A truly relaxing and happy place to spend a few days! The walks and bike rides along the prom are SUPERB!
Having a wonderful time here in sunny Sutton on Sea. Spent yesterday in the wonderful Victorian style colonnade and gardens. Got lift up to promenade and took hovercraft to Norfolk coast across the water from the Wash. When we returned, we listened a band playing all the old 2000's music in the bandstand.

What a super day in Sutton on Sea! Spent the morning away from the wind looking over the gardens and seeing the play areas being happily used. Wandered up through the sculpture gardens onto the prom this afternoon when the sun came out and sat looking at the sea wondering what was out there. Going for a cycle ride all the way along the prom later then back to listen to the band.
For a family friendly holiday Sutton on Sea is the place to be!!
For a quiet relaxing holiday like we used to dream of come to Sutton on Sea!
If you have never experienced peace and tranquillity, then try Sutton on Sea.
Come and see our new state of the art Victorian style colonnade with two storey café and visit the upstairs observatory with truly staggering views out to sea and count the increasing number of offshore wind turbines.
To be the best seaside holiday destination all year round for people of all ages.
Wish you were here. Sutton on Sea has an amazing colonnade with beach huts on top, together with an amazing café area looking out to sea. The character of the village has remained unspoilt and takes me back to a traditional seaside town. Family friendly.
Wish you were here. Sutton on Sea enjoying the best colonnade and family friendly resort and best beach in England.
Sutton on Sea. Safe, friendly, for all the family. You wish you had booked an extra week.
Admired the beautiful colonnade and jolly beach huts. Interesting exhibition at the small gallery under the colonnade featuring a local artist. Had a picnic around the bandstand and in the evening watched an open air am dram production in the natural amphitheatre.
It is so peaceful and restful. I can forget all the troubles of the modern living but there is still plenty to do without spending loads of money! Sand, sea, cycling and beautiful views from the café and observatory and our lovely beach hut.

Dear Flo, I am having a marvellous time here in Sutton on Sea. I am now in the conservatory restaurant after having completed a cycle ride along the coast. Incidentally I hired a bicycle from the colonnade. I cannot extol the virtues of Sutton on Sea enough. Yours etc Fred
It is hard to imagine that this lovely place nearly lost its beach huts and colonnade due to neglect. Thank goodness they had the vision to push through plans to rebuild for the future. It's a family seaside holiday destination.
I came here 60 years ago I loved the place that much I came back again year on year until ELDC came to destruct. If they put it all back again I will visit all the more. Let's have our colonnade and beach huts, the café and bar plus a few more attractions.
You can never say too much about Sutton on Sea. Sutton on Sea the place to be.
Had a great day at Sutton on Sea today. I hired a bike for 2 hours as it looked like rain then returned to the café where I hired the bike from and had a walk around the tropical plants there then a bite to eat and coffee watching the tide come in. Tomorrow I am off to see a battle of the bands at the bandstand. Wish you were here.
What a fabulous place. Thank goodness the folk of Sutton on Sea 50 years ago learnt to value what they had and the vision to take it into the future. This place is the future. This place is alive with tradition. I recommend you visit soon.
Once a rather old-fashioned seaside resort has been transformed, yet still manages to maintain a safe family place to relax. The revamped colonnade topped by bright beach huts continues to remind tourists why they come.
Wishing you were here sitting under our now traditional colonnade looking onto café area and enjoying sitting outside our beach huts like our parents and grandparents used to do. Love Phil, Jakki and family.
Please come to our beautiful village with lovely beach huts, colonnade and all-year-round café with lift and look out level to watch the sea. Children's play area where they can play safe and their parents can watch.

Come and make a splash in our paddling pool or clean sea and beach then relax under the colonnade and listen to the band and have refreshments in the café. It is a lovely place to be it's traditional and peaceful with lovely gardens and friendly people. Will come here again.
Nationally recognised epitome of the traditional seaside.
Beach huts, colonnade REPLACE THEM!!
Sun, sea, sand, ice-cream and beach huts - quintessential coastal village holiday. Sutton on Sea always has been always will be.
Having a beautiful time, the beaches are the best on the east coast and are excellent for children. The town is very good plenty of shops and cafes. There are plenty of things to see and visit and they are very clean and well maintained. Plenty of chip shops in town.
Dear Nan, Wish you were here! You would love walking under the iconic colonnade with the sun blazing down on us. Our beach hut has had so much use this week, with the back doors open and having Pimms on the balcony. See you soon. Love you loads xx
We are having a lovely time in our beach hut watching the sea and the children playing on the sands. Having fun splashing in the paddling pool. This is what they used to look like.
Beach huts and colonnade! 'Just how it was.'
The colonnade glistens and the sun is out and it is great to see 'GOOD COMPANY' playing their 100th gig in the new bandstand. Missing you!
Saturday Visioning
Loving it here in sunny Sutton on Sea. Oh how much better it would be if there were a railway to get us here easier. Quite a nice traditional family friendly place, lovely people and safe to walk around. 'Simply the best.'
Quiet and peaceful resort. Very attractive colonnade. Beach huts for hire. Safe environment. Suitable for ALL the family. Clean and beautiful beaches. Ideal for dog walking and cycling.

<p>you would love it here! It is a quiet safe place, but best of all there is a lovely colonnade dating from the 1950's which was lovingly restored. All along the top are beautiful beach huts which you can buy or hire. It's great for cyclists, dog walkers and disabled access too.</p>
<p>What a fab place Sutton on Sea is. It is traditional, no slot machines! Kids were playing in the paddling pool and there were traditional beach huts. At night time the colonnade was lit up with changing colours and the gardens were a pleasure to walk around. we enjoyed the sculptures in the gardens most evenings before going to a restaurant to eat. This place has been really well thought out! We even biked back using the community bike scheme. It really is a shining jewel and I don't know of such a well-kept place, where tradition really matters. 'Sutton on Sea is a fab place to visit.'</p>
<p>Dear I can assure you that the coast remains as beautiful as ever. We took a lovely walk along the coastal path to the viewing terrace and overlooked the fountains and garden area. Watching the children playing in the interactive fountain and watching the water jets and colour changing. The sculptures are looking lovely and really bringing heritage of the area to life. As the sun set we sat under the colonnade and enjoyed the colourful sky.</p>
<p>DearSutton on Sea is a quiet, friendly and safe charming town. The beach huts and colonnade are a fine example of a well maintained, clean visitor attraction, providing opportunities for all to enjoy the beach.</p>
<p>I have found a beautiful beach which is clean, dog friendly with excellent access for pushchairs, cyclists, wheelchairs and walkers. There is a wonderful ecology established in the mahram grass and birds flying around. The grandchildren are playing happily engaged in all sorts of activity such as flying kites, building sandcastles with no 'can I have's' or catching of arcades. They are taking part in Beach Schools activity. a peaceful day.</p>
<p>Having a great time in this lovely traditional seaside village. The people are friendly. The village well-kept and clean. The sea front has a colourful and well-designed beach huts, a fantastic colonnade and pleasure gardens. Think I shall move here when I retire. (Can't wait). Tony</p>

Dear Grandson. This place is fantastic!! It is just like being in the 1950's but with all the modern facilities. A colonnade that has been totally refurbished with traditional beach huts on the top. The colonnade is so iconic and the restoration is superb you and your future children will love it.

We are having a great time. Sutton on Sea is lovely still very much like it was 20 years ago with just a few modern changes. The colonnade looks lovely although not much difference other than modern materials are used and there is a covered area made of glass which is great when it rains. We are playing crazy golf later which is where the bowling green used to be.

Had a lovely time as Sutton on Sea is such a lovely, quiet and restful place. The sands are beautiful and there are a few quaint shops, tearooms and some nice little play areas for the kiddies. They love the paddling pool and ice cream afterwards. The nice thing about here is it hasn't changed since we came as kids - still peaceful and restful.

Lovely family holiday. Children loved playing in the paddling pool and play area. Great fun with crazy golf as well. Good cycling along the prom. We rented a lovely beach hut where we sat and relaxed and kept our belongings. Dog loved dips in sea as well. Everywhere was clean and grass was kept tidy. Had bad weather some days. Sheltered in the new orangery cafe area under colonnade and still cycled. Viewing area was educational and nice area as well where I learnt about local nature.

Hello all. Just to let you know how much we are all enjoying our stay here. There is something for all age groups. Local people living here are friendly and helpful. Our days are spent on this lovely beach, or in the local cafes or restaurants. We hired some bikes and took the coastal bike path for some miles. the observatory was a good place to sit and relax and watch the sea when it was raining yesterday. The enclosed (orangery) was lovely to see also. In the evening we sat on concrete tiered seating (bring your own cushion) and saw a performance with local players and tomorrow night they have a band playing. We hired a chalet for the day and were able to use the showers, very tidy and wi-fi available too! The young ones really enjoyed the little pool, had a lot of fun and safe! We all have it here. Best wishes Lynn Crooks

<p>Dear Stan and Nell,</p> <p>Having a great time in Sutton on Sea. We hired a beach hut and found it easy to get to the sea front by using the lift to the beautiful glass fronted café that gave a panoramic view from Mablethorpe to Skegness. I think you would enjoy bringing your children here as great fun is to be had at the paddling pool and ice creams are plentiful and you could get hot drinks from the garden cafe. Enjoying a peaceful holiday with everything at hand. Love Grandma.</p>
<p>Just back from a super afternoon in Mablethorpe in the new mall there. Glad to be back in the peace and quiet of Sutton. Tonight though we are going to the concert in the pleasure gardens after a good meal in the sea front restaurant. With love Ben.</p>
<p>Having a wonderful break in Sutton. As usual it has made us feel much calmer and relaxed. Enjoying playing tennis and crazy golf and had a lovely meal overlooking the sea. Was able to take granny to the viewing platform in the lift. In the evening we were treated to a lovely concert in the bandstand. Tomorrow we are going to hire some bikes and cycle to Huttoft along the prom then back for an ice cream.</p>
<p>We are here holidaying in Sutton on Sea we know you would love it here. There is a lovely colonnade where you can hire beach huts and there is also a paddling pool and the beach has a blue flag. There are plenty of cafes, restaurants and shops with lovely walks along the prom.</p>
<p>Hi my darlings. Lovely to be back in Sutton on Sea after 25 years. It has changed but still the sea and promenade are here and granny is enjoying her daily bracing walks. The sun has graced us for many days - hot and bright which has increased the visitors but unfortunately there are not enough beach huts, parking areas and seating to accommodate them. The beach is lovely and it is a pleasure to watch the families enjoying themselves. Dogs are still allowed on certain areas of the beach - very good. The place is not as neat and tidy as I remember it, but I am still having a good time. Granny.</p>
<p>Sutton on Sea an attractive seaside village sun sand and views. Walking and dog walker's heaven and shops in the village. A happy seaside village!</p>

Didn't think little seaside villages like this still existed. Beautiful beaches, endless views and big skies. So much space! Ideal for the children. Love the shore front focal point with its little arty stalls and cafes. Very civilised here, no arcade or bingo halls . Yesterday hired bikes for the family and went for long rides. Beautiful scenery and plenty of wildlife. It rained a bit this afternoon and we went to the little cinema so comfy and showing the latest film. Tonight, catching the light railway to Louth to see a musical! So wish you were here!

There is wonderful colonnade observatory with an art gallery of local artists and coffee lounge with a viewing area. It is so pretty. The market stalls below are great for local produce and the events area is fab. We watched a play this afternoon. Next week there is a rock band on. The lift to the top was a great advantage and the bike and beach hut hire is working well. The area for teenagers is a great idea.

Wish you were here to see the fantastic visitor attractions, amazing beach huts on the seafront and the new colonnade is fantastic!? We took the dog and kids up, got a coffee and a pizza and watched the waves. We then came downstairs and watched the sunset and the gardens.

Dear all. You should see the new colonnade you would not recognise the place. It is so splendid with glass doors and windows and lovely café serving tasty food. The best bit is the viewing points on top. You can see in all directions and the dog comes too. There is also a new theatre with lots of different shows for all the family to enjoy. Must go running out of space. Love you. Sara xxx

My hope and vision for the next 10 - 15 years for Sutton on Sea. A colonnade that has been updated and can work on 2 levels which included the promenade as well. A bandstand with rose garden surrounding it. Beach huts updated available on both levels. Better sea defences to keep all secure.

Hi. We have had a brilliant time enjoying all that Sutton has to offer. The sea front and colonnade are stunning with a lovely observatory from which to view 360 degrees out to sea or over to the beautiful Wolds to the west. It's raining today, after a lovely sunny few days but no problem. I am sitting in the lovely orangery and keeping dry with the benefits of views of the sea and parks whilst enjoying a cuppa. There are tropical trees and butterflies in here. Wow! Have fun see you soon Mick.

Hi. Come to Sutton on Sea they have a beautiful colonnade with an orangery open all year and amenities for the children, play area and pool. We can hire a beach chalet that looks out to sea and down into play area. Steve

Come see our new all weather, all year, two storey multi-purpose building with sea views and catering. Large enough to host shows and concerts with lifts to the prom. Wish you were here! P.S It is part of the new colonnade and built on the old bowling green and its design echoes the sea. P.P.S. Dog friendly.

Appendix B: Round-up of Comments and Suggestions

Here are all the other comments and suggestions that participants wrote down during the workshops.

What is Sutton on Sea? (comments from each group) Friday workshop

1. Unique colonnade with numerous uses. Friendly and safe, compact, low crime rate, clean beach - Blue Flag. Proud to live here and volunteer.
2. Traditional holiday - lovely beach huts.
3. Community Spirit. History is important. Colonnade has numerous uses. Family/children friendly.

1. Pleasant family atmosphere, safe environment, no amusement arcades, need a good footfall for businesses.
2. Beach huts and beaches and paddling pool are paramount.
3. Residents keep businesses ticking over but need visitors to maintain viability. Loyalty to local businesses.

1. Colonnade and beach huts iconic! Represent Sutton skyline. Paddling pool historical links 1953.
2. Beach - Blue Flag seascape clean.
3. Physically based activities - family orientated will come back. Economically accessible to family life and no arcades.

Other comments on this sheet as below but not first three choices:

Gardens, café, friendly, tranquil, low crime rate - safe, keep out amusements, all-year-round charm, windfarm - sustainable energy, special, Millennium - flat cycle route ideal for older people - accessible for all.

1. Non-Commercial and family friendly
2. Blue Flag beach, colonnade and beach huts
3. Thriving High Street, strong community and predominantly independent shops.

Other comments on this sheet as below but not first three choices

Largely untouched, safe, low crime rate, quintessentially British, peace and tranquillity.

What would make Sutton on Sea better? Friday workshop

1. Repair colonnade and put chalets back. Colonnade with a lift for mobility issues.
2. A licensed café with outside seating.

3. Bandstand, paved card park, a land train, tuk tuks, crazy golf, big chess set.

1. We need something iconic, short- and long-term Post Office and Bank back.

2. Employment opportunities. Save the golf course, transport links, railway along the promenade and develop bowling green.

3. Indoor visitor attractions (provision for bad weather conditions). Crazy golf and beach huts are essential.

1. Better bus routes. Free parking. Transport - car parks - pollution.

2. Areas which are under "Development" - eyesore.

3. Cycle racks and cycle hire.

Other comments on this sheet as below but not first three choices:

Golf course, Grange and Links, constant sand cleaning from the promenade, free parking voucher, doctors and dentists, accommodation, better roads - potholes.

1. Transport Links

2. Better consistency in maintaining facilities

3. Keep Character of Village

Other comments on this sheet as below but not first three choices:

Road maintenance, supplying education opportunities, bring back the Post Office, swimming pool.

Damage Control

Concerns if demolished and won't be replaced

Damage Limitation in the interim

Concerned about the timescale for the demolition of the colonnade without successful funding to refurb or new build –
do not demolish without secure plan in place

Pressure to 'move' quickly (Plan - funding - build)

What can we do about the top of the colonnade - without beach huts it is ugly

Maintenance in the interim is very important

We need to provide a solution to the missing beach huts to keep people coming

Keep colonnade until funding is secured

LCC have vision - this development is fundamental and is a critical part of this vision

Beach Huts

Beach huts are an essential part of Sutton on Sea - Beach missions happen every year and concerned that will go

Seating

Picnic area requires more seating

More seating in front of boardway would improve area in the interim

Covered seating area - nowhere at the moment

Art Theme

Art Groups - Pictures on the boards

Hut shape statue on top of the boards

Art exhibits across the area

Cheeky but not rude postcards

Attractive board illustrating what is happening and when

Boards need to be attractive - art interpretations - Garden group maybe looking at this. Some plans in place?

Boards need to provide illustrations of the vision - what is planned (able to follow development both visitors and residents)

Community grants could support interim activities e.g. arts

Craft Festival, carnival, furlong festival to supported

Bathing beauties historically and iconically could be a short-term solution

Specialist markets - some support but some concerns

Surrounding area

Pleasure garden work - risk of trashing any improvements due to access to rebuild

Temporary building for café and ice cream parlour to serve the paddling pod is essential - owners out of business (families may go elsewhere)

Paddling Pool is a sun trap and safe for children - keeping the families here

Garden, café and ice-cream parlour - we need a facility funded by ELDC to keep these retail outlets

Extend the season of the paddling pool (First Bank Holiday in May)

Ball area - multi-use open space

Weather-proof area (all-year-round attractions)

Other

Who can apply for funding?

Long white screen with a scene of Sutton on Sea on front of beach huts - was taken down due to wind

Firm commitment to a timetable for improvement

Important that an attractive series of events ensure continued visitors

Ask visitors what they want - are their views taken into consideration

Better use of bowling green there is a second Group in Sutton on Sea

We need a vision now

About Community Lincs and OpenPlan

Community Lincs <https://communitylincs.com>

Community Lincs is a Lincolnshire charity working to sustain and improve the quality of life for individuals and communities across the county. Established in 1927, Community Lincs has used its extensive knowledge of Lincolnshire's communities to develop a range of projects and support services. This support helps local groups and volunteers to provide services and facilities within their communities. In addition to our general advice services, we offer targeted consultancy and business support.

OpenPlan www.thinkopenplan.com

OpenPlan is an independent placemaking and plan-making studio based in Lincoln and working throughout Lincolnshire, the Midlands and the Caribbean. It is a private limited company. OpenPlan focuses on supporting public sector authorities and agencies, parish councils and local communities in the delivery of a range of services, including:

- Urban Design
- Placemaking Strategies
- Neighbourhood Plans
- Local Plans
- Vision development
- Concept designs

For this project, OpenPlan associate, Rob Thompson, provided the design input.

Rob is the Creative Director of Rob Thompson Urbanism www.robthompsonurbanism.com , an urbanist, urban designer and town planner with close to 25 years experience. Rob has worked on a range of complex urban design, regeneration, visioning and masterplanning projects. www.robthompsonurbanism.com