

Henry Pankhurst,
Harrogate Civic Society,
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23rd July 2018

Wallace Sampson,
Chief Executive,
Harrogate Borough Council,
P.O. Box 787,
Harrogate.

Dear Sir,

Ex Harrogate Borough Council Offices, Crescent Gardens, Harrogate.

We would be pleased if you would answer a few questions about progress and procedure regarding our old 'Town Hall' and its re-use.

On 12th July, the Harrogate Advertiser published an article prompted by the apparent lack of progress on the development scheme by Adam Thorpe. There was very little input from 'a Council Spokesperson' about plans or progress. The Civic Society and no doubt the wider public are concerned - entitled even - to be given information about the most important building that the Council are selling in order to move to the new Civic Centre.

Has the building actually been sold?
Specifically is it fully paid for?
If not, when is this likely to happen?

If it is not yet in the ownership of Mr. Adam Thorpe or ownership other than Harrogate Borough Council, is rent being paid to Harrogate Borough Council?

Is Crescent Gardens, the road, a definite part of the sale?

If it is proposed that the road is sold with the building, will the road be included as part of a planning application?

How much roadway may be included?

Is it intended to keep the highway open from Crescent Road across to Ripon Road? Bear in mind that this road and the triangle of gardens to the east is Stray land.

Is it necessary to go through a highway stopping up process?

Will the tarmac 'apron' in front of the building that was at one time part of Crescent Gardens (the gardens) be lost to car parking?

Would the car parking area to the left of the 'ex Town Hall' be lost as car parking?

Is car parking to be provided for the Apartments development?

The intention to re-vamp the gardens has been well publicised. Who would bear the cost of this work?

Who would own the improved gardens?

Who would be responsible for maintenance of the gardens in terms of the cost and the manpower? If there is to be a fountain there is clearly a maintenance cost. Some years ago, the Civic Society tried negotiating with the Council to provide a fountain, at our expense, but maintenance by Harrogate Borough Council proved a stumbling block, due to such on-going costs.

Where would the current centrepiece of pavilion, statue and original lamp posts go?

If the current Crescent Gardens toilets are to be lost, where will the replacements be?

Finally, what public consultations will take place on this very important development apart from the standard planning application publicity?

Yours faithfully,

Henry Pankhurst
Chairman
Harrogate Civic Society