

# *Crescent Gardens*

## *The Cultural Quarter*

### *for Harrogate*

*“a place that pays respect to our town’s past, energises discussions in the present and inspires ideas and creativity for the future so that we can appreciate, shape and look after our town for ourselves and for future generations”*



*Culture = Art, Music, Performance, Crafts, Heritage, Learning, Discussion and Taking Part*

## A Concept

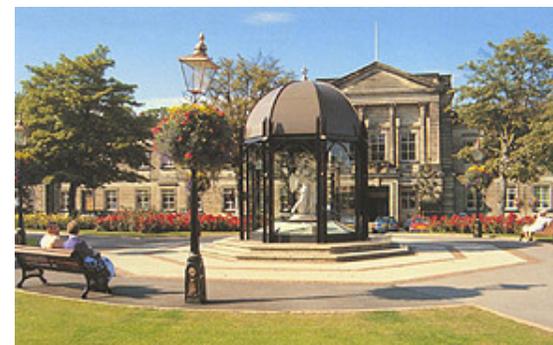
developed by Harrogate Civic Society with reference to the Town Centre Masterplan which illustrates public realm improvements proposed by Harrogate Borough Council for the Town in the period to 2025.

The **Mission** for the future of Crescent Gardens is:

- To **create a Cultural Quarter** centred on Crescent Gardens, an area rich in landmark buildings (the Mercer Art Gallery, the Royal Pump Room Museum, the Royal Hall and the Royal Baths), to **showcase and celebrate** all that Harrogate has to offer including Valley Gardens
- To **generate a sustained interest**, support and funding to ensure **Crescent Gardens**, both open space and part of the old Council “Offices”, are established and secured **for posterity** as a centre for public benefit and enjoyment
- To develop a **Hub** within Crescent Gardens “Offices” that **contributes** to the rich and varied cultural scene through an understanding of our past and creates an ongoing legacy for the **long term benefit** of the community and visitors

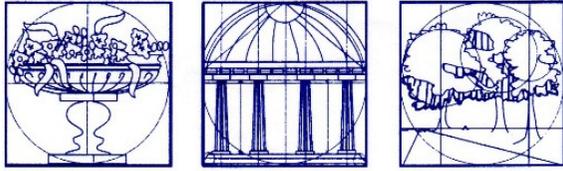
The **Vision** for the **Hub** is:

- To develop ongoing opportunities for new and existing audiences to **Engage** with and **Celebrate** the rich heritage, and cultural life of Harrogate and to inspire an exciting future through ongoing programmes of events, inclusive to and available for **people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities**
- To establish a **Learning Centre** which actively involves young people in the study and discussion of the ongoing activities of the Cultural Quarter with a **vision to inspire** the creativity of future generations
- To **work closely with** interested local organisations and groups to ensure cultural activities **realise their full potential** through the creation of additional space, and provide other opportunities for visitors **in all weathers**



*“places only come to life when people bring life to them”*

- To provide in **partnership** with other local cultural organisations the opportunity to stage exhibitions of **Harrogate’s extensive and rich collection** of artwork and artefacts in addition to displaying exhibitions on loan from **local and national collections**
- To **showcase prominent collections** such as the **Egyptology Collection** donated by Benjamin Kent and James Robert Ogden and tell the fascinating story as to how this came to be in Harrogate
- To **celebrate prominent local people** such as Frederick Belmont, George Dawson, Richard Ellis, Samson Fox, William Powell Frith, and those with vision who helped to shape the history of Harrogate, and its development as a spa town
- To promote the **unique space** of the **Council Chamber** as a community focus for talks and topical discussions to encourage people to contribute to and influence the future prosperity of our town
- To establish **small performance and rehearsal spaces** available for use by professional and amateur groups, schools and community organisations
- To inspire **opportunities** for others through workshops and exhibitions by **local, national and emerging artists** and **craftsmen** in addition to talks by **entrepreneurs** to pass on their unique knowledge



# HARROGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

[www.harrogatecivicsociety.org](http://www.harrogatecivicsociety.org) Registered Charity No. 501055

*The Harrogate Civic Society is a voluntary and completely independent organisation that exists to enhance the character and amenities of the town while protecting, preserving and conserving its valuable heritage*

A Concept for Crescent Gardens, The **Cultural Quarter** for Harrogate, has been developed with support from:

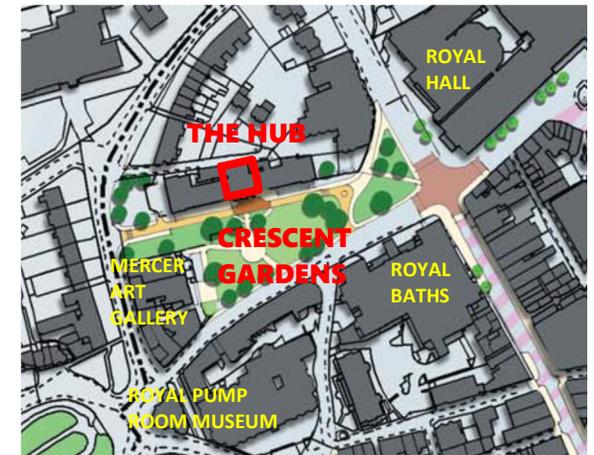
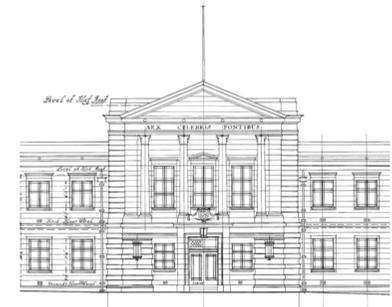
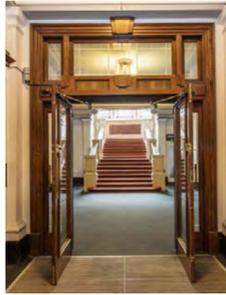


**FRIENDS OF THE MERCER ART GALLERY**



**FRIENDS OF VALLEY GARDENS HARROGATE**

*Friends of Valley Gardens*



Map courtesy of HBC 2016 Town Centre Master Plan