

A TOTALLY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER • UNCONNECTED WITH ANY GROUP OR ORGANISATION

## THE ST IVES MASTERPLAN

# A work of fiction or radical proposals?

Following publication of the Prospectus For Growth documents in 2020, HDC has now published draft masterplans for Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives. We take a look at what these plans mean for St Ives.

Before we go into detail it must be noted that this is only a stage in a process and as yet nothing is, or should have been, decided. Having said that, it is an important document and the next stage could determine how St Ives develops over the next few years. One cannot but commend these proposals for their attempt to disregard the obvious and to suggest wide ranging and potentially progressive ideas. However it does seem to be a flight of fancy that has been allowed to go wherever it wants without the slightest caution based on what is actually achievable or desirable.

The plan identifies five project areas namely:

1. Addition of a pontoon and mixed use space by The Quay.
2. Refurbishment of Market Hill.
3. Creation of an Innovation Centre and Incubator Hub in the Cattle Market area.
4. Additional residential provision. 48 apartments, 11 live/work units and 3 town houses also in the Cattle Market area.
5. A multi-storey car park and enhanced retail provision in the Cattle Market area.

### 1. Pontoon by The Quay

This proposal (see below) has already caused much concern from residents and boaters largely because it would prevent narrowboats from going through the bridge.

The assumption that the provision of additional space will encourage more 'leisure activities' here must be challenged as Hemingford Meadow, just across the river, and Noble's Field, off the Thicket near Berman Park, could offer much better leisure facilities.

How many people will want to swim by The Quay while boaters are manoeuvring or the quality of the water remains poor.

### 2. Refurbishment of Market Hill

One of the aims of this area is to give priority for pedestrians, which seems reasonable. Over twenty years ago similar proposals were dropped when a design couldn't be agreed. A notable suggestion is to allow traffic (presumably buses from Huntingdon) to pass through from The Broadway and, as a bonus, it would stop illegal parking in Crown Street.

The other aim mentioned is to use the empty Barclay Bank building as managed workspace and café, which might prove difficult as it is privately owned and destined to become flats. The success of this will depend on whether a design can be agreed that will improve the market provision without creating a dead area.

### 3. Creation of an innovation centre and incubator hub

This is proposal relies on the provision of the accommodation in project 4 and the building of a multi-storey car park in project 5.

### 4. Additional residential provision

At the heart of these plans is the priority to attract young skilled workers to counteract the problems of an aging population. It sounds a laudable aim and the plan suggests this will help improve the nightlife, even though it admits the nightlife in St Ives is far better than neighbouring towns.

Many questions need answering such as is this achievable in the current economic climate?

To categorise the town from suffering because of its elderly population, fails to recognise that one of St Ives strengths is that the community benefits from many, relatively fit and healthy, elderly residents who have time to get 'involved'. The 'Grey' pound is very important, could an influx of young people adversely affect this? **Continued on Page 2.**

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN

## The Old Riverport Sailors Club

St Ives Corn Exchange, 7.30pm on Thursday 8th September

It promises to be an evening to remember and all profits go to the Bandstand.

To see a video of a performance go to: [www.facebook.com/theoldriverportjazzandbluesfestival](http://www.facebook.com/theoldriverportjazzandbluesfestival)  
Tickets £10 from: [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from the Riverport Café.



## Calendar of events 2022

This is a busy time in St Ives with lots of events planned over the next few weeks. If you know of other events in the pipeline or are a member of a community group that wants to let us know what you are planning, please email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

### SEPTEMBER

**Saturday 3rd - The St Ives Show.** A traditional town competition from 12.15 to 3pm in St Ives Corn Exchange, involving flower arranging, baking, crafts, photography, home brewing, produce and children's sections. To enter go to [www.stivesshow.org.uk](http://www.stivesshow.org.uk)

**Thursday 8th - The Old Riverport Sailors Club** see above

**Friday 9th and Saturday 10th - The Centre Players presents On Your feet.** A charity cabaret in The Burgess Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £10.84 from [ticketsource.co.uk](http://ticketsource.co.uk)

**Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th - The Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival.** 21 FREE concerts throughout the town. Go to [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk) for details.

**Sunday 18th - Civic Sunday Parade and Service.** Leaves the Town Hall at 10.30 am, service at the Parish Church at 11am.

**Saturday 17th - Heritage Open Day** - A chance to visit some of St Ives' historic buildings (see article on page 3).

**Friday 30th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** Featuring Harpist Ruth Holden. Tickets cost £10 from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from The Riverport Café Bar.

### OCTOBER

**Monday 10th, 11th and 12th - Michaelmas Fair** - The Old Riverport is full of fairground rides.

**Saturday 15th - Strum Like a Viking** - The Old Riverport Ukulele Festival at the Corn Exchange. Tickets are £10 at: [ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives). Details: [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

**Friday 28th - Chapel Arts @ The Corn Exchange** Featuring the amazing guitarists Johnny 'Magic Boy' Wright and Chris Newman. Tickets cost £10 and can be obtained at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/eventsstives) or from The Riverport Café Bar.

### NOVEMBER

**Monday 14th - The Snowman Festival** - Snowman start to appear in the shops.



Read on-line at [www.theriverporter.uk](http://www.theriverporter.uk) or see our Facebook page. Email: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)

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**THE ST IVES MASTERPLAN CONTINUED**

There are concerns that some of the data used is not always up-to-date. The comment that bus use was below the national average was based on data collected before the Guided Busway was open, which indicates that the effect of the Busway is not known. The plan (68 pages) can be found at: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/market-towns-programme/draft-masterplans/>

It is difficult to read on-line but the Town Team has produced a large printed copy which can be read in the Riverport Café Bar at the Corn Exchange.

*Please do not take it away.*

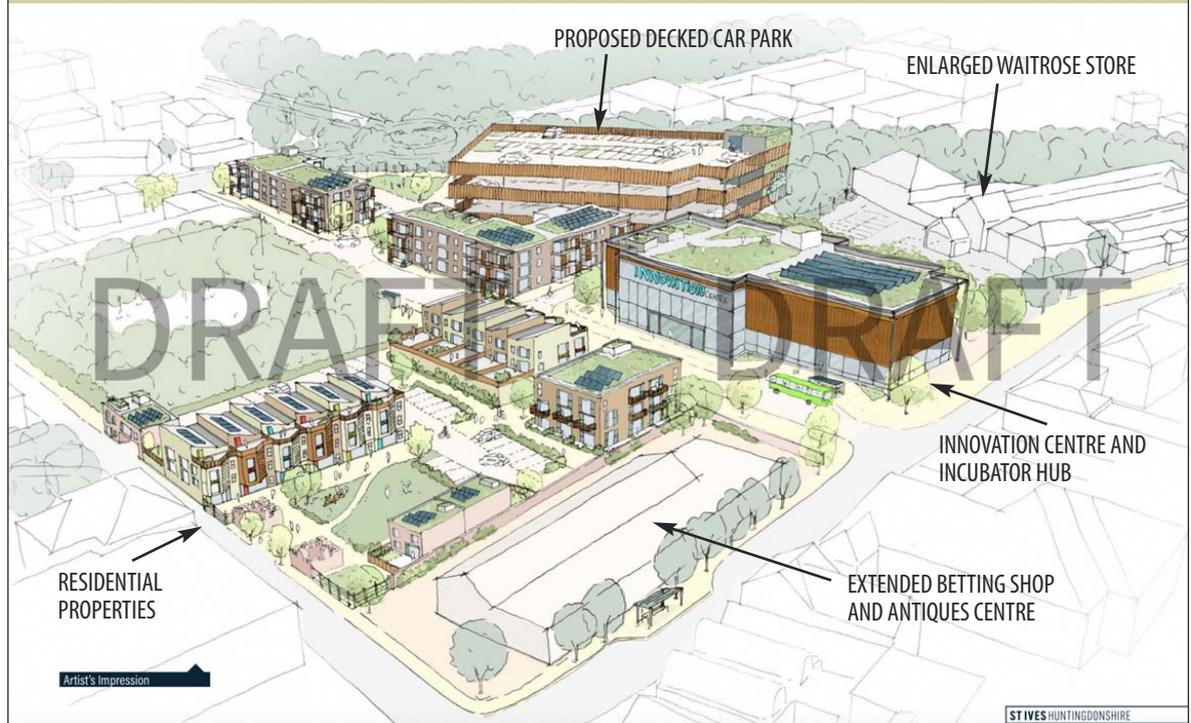
According to the authorities there will be an online form to enable feedback by the deadline of 28th October 2022.

Ward District Councillors have been invited to a virtual consultation on 13 September and HDC will be holding another virtual meeting with Town Councillors on 26 September. Both meetings will be in private.

Several councillors have told *The Riverporter* that they hope a public meeting will be arranged, but as we go to press this has not been agreed.

If you wish to make comment, and hear other views, then you can attend a meeting about these plans organised by the Town Team at 7pm on Tuesday 18th October which will be held in the Corn Exchange.

*A visual of the proposals for the Cattle Market area*



**St Ives Rotary Club fund a day for extraordinary youngsters**



**St Ives Rotary Club arranged a day at Grafham Water for a group of youngsters who, despite their young ages, assume large responsibilities at home.**

Rotarian Simon Townend organised the day and said that to see the beaming smiles on the children's faces during the day was very rewarding.

19 Young Carers between the ages of seven and fifteen years with four staff from 'Caring Together' enjoyed a fun day out at the Grafham Water Centre on Tuesday 16th August.

The day's programme was planned by the Grafham Water Centre staff, and instructors were on hand to supervise

all the activities which included Dinghy Sailing, Archery, and climbing the 10 metre wall with varying levels of difficulty.

*Pictured above, with some of the group, are St Ives Rotary Club President, Sally Heffer-Martin, and Simon Townend.*

The Rotary Club would like to thank 'Caring Together' for bringing all the Young Carers together, and the Instructors at the Centre who made it a great day out for the youngsters.

**21 FREE events at this year's Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival**

**Thursday 15th September sees the start of this years Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, which looks set to be another four days of great concerts to suit most musical tastes, with 10 new acts and an evening for dance enthusiasts.**

Now in its eighth year the Festival remains fresh with a range of new acts and a wide range of musical styles. The full programme can be seen at [www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk](http://www.stivescambridgeshire.co.uk)

Here we list some of the great acts you can see. It starts in The Oliver Cromwell pub at 7pm on Thursday 15th with the Fenland Troubadour **Phil Crawford**. Although new to the Festival, Phil is an old hand with over 30 years experience playing his brand

of Country, Folk and Blues.

Friday could be dubbed 'Dance Night' with three new acts. At 6pm in The Haywain is **The 29th Funktion**. Don't be fooled by their young age this band can really play and are destined to be big in the future.

At 7pm **The Umbrella Big Band** (below) appear in the Corn Exchange and with 17 members it is a BIG BAND playing some of those big band numbers that ballroom dancers will love. So if you like 'Strictly' then

this is for you. Later in the Corn Exchange at 10pm is a chance to hear some great Soul music with a session of **Northern Soul and Motown** with DJs Marco and David Hayden.

Saturday will be a busy day in town with a Farmers' Market, Heritage Open Day visits and music starting on The Quay from 11am with the Trad Jazz band **Stamford Stompers**.

At 2pm the popular **Barefoot Doctors** will grace The Quay and at 3pm in All Saints Parish Church you can enjoy a gin and tonic while listening to the stunning **Four Winds Sax Quartet**.

Also performing for the first time at the Festival, at 5pm in Floods Tavern, is **Mr Griff** (right) for those of you into Funk and Jazz they should not be missed.

Sunday sees three new bands for the Festival and one old favourite when the brilliant **Split Whiskers** will offer their version of Chicago Blues on The Quay at 2pm. The day will also see Fusion, Jazz and Funk from the **Spiral G's** (Noon in the Golden Lion), Rockabilly from **The Kopy Katz** (Nelson's Head 4pm) and Blues, Soul and Ska from **The Reavey Brothers** who close the Festival at 6pm in The Lounge.





having your say ...

Get it off your chest,  
email Erik at:  
editor@theriverporter.uk

# The Riverporter

Voted Best local newspaper of the year 2019/20 in the Cambridge Building Society's Community Magazine Awards

## OTHER NEWS

### Heritage Open Day 2022

Saturday 17th September will be a busy day in St Ives - the Old Riverport Jazz & Blues Festival, Farmers Market and the annual Heritage Open Day, something for everyone. Be sure to visit the Town Hall open from 10 am to 4 pm; in the Council Chamber the Civic Regalia will be on display, tricorne hat, jabot, gloves and robes; with the Mace bearer attending to explain the significance and history. The fun part of this visit is the opportunity to try on some of the items; you could be trying on the Mayor's robe! A great photo opportunity and maybe inspire the wearer to consider becoming a Councillor or Mayor. St Leger Chapel on the bridge is now open; Step inside to see and hear its history. The Norris Museum has special activities for children from 11am and Holt Island, opening at 10.00 has a Family Quiz plus the joy of the wildlife and basket making history. Both Mosques are open for visitors, at the Faizan Medina Mosque on Needingworth Road there are guides to show you around and answer questions. Also on Needingworth Road, Sacred Heart Catholic Church is open until 3pm, if you don't know the history and Augustus Pugin connection, it is definitely worth a visit. Pick up a flyer from the person in the bright pink sash, you can't miss them, and follow the walk through town visiting all the HOD locations.

**Dear Erik,**  
Would it be possible for you to find room in your next edition to draw people's attention to my efforts to raise funds for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. I have been walking since June 15th and will continue until 31st Dec. My name is Gary, I am a proud grandfather to 5 grandchildren. Two of whom are supported by EACH through access to their respite care, family support network and social gatherings such as fun days and Christmas parties.

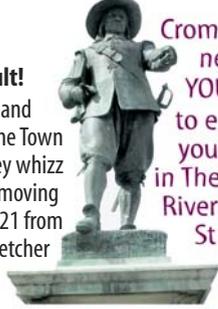
I wanted to take on a challenge to raise funds and awareness for this admirable charity whose beneficial impact I have personally witnessed. So over the final 200 days of the year I am walking 2000 miles. This will take 5 million steps! An average 10 miles each day.

**Gary Baker**  
N.B. You can donate through JustGiving at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walk5million](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/walk5million).



Gary Baker with grandchildren Freya and Gracie.

**Dear Erik,**  
**Subject: Superb result!**  
Huge thanks and congrats to the Town Team (and key whizz Geoff!) for removing Christmas 2021 from the Poundstretcher building and replacing it with a brilliant display of posters promoting St Ives at its very best with all its many and diverse attractions.



Cromwell needs YOU ... to enjoy yourself in The Old Riverport St Ives

What a great first impression to welcome our visitors. Superb result Town Team. Love the Ollie Cromwell poster especially!  
**Stewart Denham**

**Dear Erik,**  
**Subject: Draft Masterplan for St Ives**  
I have just listened to a programme on BBC Radio 4 about how hard it is to believe what one hears and sees in this digital world. According to the programme, deepfakes and synthetic media are getting harder to detect and it is difficult for us mortals to believe what we see these days. Funnily enough I had the same feeling when looking at the on-line Masterplan proposals for St Ives. Can I believe what I am seeing or is it deepfake? **Walter Butt**

### Bird Flu centred on Great River Ouse

Defra has confirmed a number of cases of avian influenza (bird flu) in the wild bird population of Huntingdonshire are centred on the River Great Ouse. Bird flu is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low.

**However if you are visiting our open spaces, please consider:**

- Keeping to footpaths
- Keeping dogs on leads
- Do not feed wild waterfowl
- Do not pick up or touch dead or sick wild birds
- Do not touch wild bird feathers or surfaces contaminated with wild bird droppings.

For further information and advice, visit - <https://orlo.uk/lauxV>

**Oh No!**  
**Not again . . .**  
Another driver caught in the trap.



### St Ives Draft Town Plan invites controversy

**RIVERPORTER SPECIAL EDITION**  
We are producing a book, which will contain a copy of every issue from January 2018 until the December 2022. If you wish to have a copy of this unusual publication, a record of St Ives over the past 5 tumultuous years, please order your copy by emailing your details to: [editor@theriverporter.uk](mailto:editor@theriverporter.uk)  
Copies will cost £15 and will be available from 16 December.

**THE CENTRE THEATRE PLAYERS PRESENT**  
**A CHARITY CABARET**  
This years nominated charity -  
**HCCN THE HUNTS COMMUNITY CANCER SERVICE**

**ON YOUR FEET**

**AN AUTUMN SPECTACULAR!**  
THE BURGESS HALL | ONE LEISURE | ST. IVES  
9TH & 10TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | 7.30PM  
(doors open 6.45pm)

Tickets £10 | Book online [www.ticketsource.co.uk/starlitroadshow](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/starlitroadshow)  
or TELEPHONE 07555 394697 between 6pm and 9pm weekdays.

TABLE SETTING | LICENCED FACILITIES | GRAND RAFFLE

HYPERION

Entries Invited for Our Next  
Antiques & Interiors Sale  
on Saturday 17th  
September



Sold In Our Last Antiques & Interiors Sale

Rolex Oyster Perpetual date Sky Dweller Stainless  
Steel Automatic Wristwatch  
Sold £10,000



Ladies Platinum Diamond Solitaire ring 0.50ct  
G Vs2 with HRD Certificate  
Sold £500

Mappin & Webb Large Silver  
engraved tea tray on stepped feet  
1800g total weight Sheffield 1934  
Sold £730



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HUNTINGDONSHIRE CONCERT BAND PRESENTS

# An Evening of Patriotic & Popular Music



In aid of the RAF  
Association's  
"Wings Appeal"



Musical Director: David McClintock

Making music accessible to everyone  
as our members are Dementia Friends



ROYAL  
AIR FORCES  
Association  
The charity that supports the RAF family



## 7:30PM SAT 17TH SEPTEMBER ST IVES FREE CHURCH

TICKETS, £10 AVAILABLE FROM 8TH OF AUGUST  
FROM "JUST SHARING", FREE CHURCH ST IVES  
PHONE: 01480 496570 - DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM  
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT 07772 968847

www.hcband.co.uk

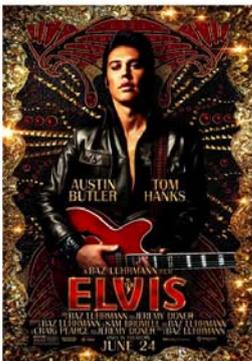
CUT OUT AND KEEP

# SSII Screen St Ives Community Cinema

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Peterborough PE1 5UA, Tel: 01733 344344



## ELVIS

7:30pm Thursday  
6 October 2022

Director: Baz Luhrmann  
2h 39m, Cert: 12



## THE PHANTOM OF THE OPEN

7:30pm Thursday  
3 November 2022

Director: Craig Roberts  
1h 46m, Cert: 12



## THE ROAD DANCE

7:30pm Thursday  
20 October 2022

Director: Richie Adams  
1h 56m, Cert: 15



## TOP GUN: MAVERICK

7:30pm Thursday  
17 November 2022

Director: Joseph Kosinski  
2h 10m, Cert: 12

Ticket £5: [screenstives.org.uk](http://screenstives.org.uk) or in the Corn Exchange. All screenings start at 7:30pm. Doors open at 6:30pm