

# WISBECH HIGH STREET PROJECT

We are delighted to confirm that Fenland District Council alongside groups such as the Wisbech Society is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to restore buildings in and around Wisbech High Street. Further information on this exciting project and information on how you can get involved is provided below.

## Why is Fenland District Council applying for funding?

Wisbech is known as the Capital of the Fens and is arguably the finest Georgian market town and port in the East of England. A large proportion of the town centre is listed with areas of particular importance and interest including the Crescent and the North and South Brink.

Unfortunately, due to a combination of factors the many historic buildings in Wisbech have suffered. Many may be 'at risk' or 'vulnerable' and indeed some buildings have already suffered fatal collapse. An area identified as being particularly important and in need of investment in the town is the historic High Street.

Fenland District Council working closely with local partners such as the Wisbech Society and other community groups is therefore planning to submit a funding application to the Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage programme in August 2014.



## Why is the bid focussed on the High Street?

The High Street contains a number of derelict and vacant buildings and a number that require restoration and improvement work. It is a vital part of the town centre linking the Brink to the Market Place and if restored will help to improve the look and feel of the town and have a knock on effect to other areas.

The amount of funding we can apply for is however limited and can only do so much. In order to increase our chances of success we need to design a project that is focussed and deliverable. This is why the project will focus on the High Street and not try to spread itself too thinly across a wider area.

We know that there are several other properties in the town centre outside of this area that are in very poor condition and of concern to the community. The council are focussing on the development of strategies for the key dilapidated sites outside of this area separately.

## High Street East



## High Street West



## What is the Townscape Heritage programme?

The Townscape Heritage programme is one of the funding pots managed by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The programme funds 'schemes which help communities to improve the built historic environment of conservation areas in need of investment' and 'schemes that make a lasting difference for heritage, people and communities'.

This means that the programme funds works to buildings that include:

- 'Carrying out structural and external repairs to buildings
- Repairing or reinstating elements of architectural detail, such as shop fronts
- Work to bring vacant buildings back in to use'

The funding can also be used to provide:

- 'Improvements to the public realm and authentic restoration of features
- Good quality and sympathetic development in gap sites, where these do not form the main focus of the scheme'

\*Text taken from: Townscape Heritage: Application Guidance, Heritage Lottery Fund, March 2013

## What will the funding do?

If we are successful the funding can be used to undertake structural and external repairs to buildings, bring vacant units back in to use and repair architectural detail.

Alongside the physical work the funding will also be used to engage the community in the project. We are creating an Activity Plan that will include a range of opportunities for local people and local businesses to get involved in heritage through education, training and leisure activities. The Activity Plan is very important because it will create projects that will educate a wide variety of people about heritage and in turn, hopefully ensure that the heritage is better understood and protected in the future. Projects within the plan can be extremely variable – the limit is our imagination!

The Activity Plan is being developed by local stakeholders. If you have an idea for a project or would like to be involved with developing the Activity Plan please contact Kate Pinnock to discuss it further (0797 436 3991 or [kate@inghampinnock.com](mailto:kate@inghampinnock.com)).



Photographs circa 1960s, courtesy of Fenland Archaeology

# WISBECH HIGH STREET PROJECT

## How long will it take?

If we are lucky enough to secure funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the programme will take time to deliver. Restoring important historic buildings correctly takes time and needs to be done carefully. There will be much behind the scenes to make sure all of the necessary consents are in place and that the right repairs are carried out before you see any changes. The application process also takes time. HLF operate a two stage application process that can take two years from start to finish.

An approximate programme for the application process and, if successful, the delivery of the project is provided below:

2014

- **January – June 2014:** Developing application, activities plan, undertaking research and community engagement
- **July- August 2014:** Finalising the stage one application to HLF
- **August 2014:** Deadline for submitting the stage one application

2015

- **January 2015:** Outcome of stage one application
- **January 2015 – January 2016:** Developing stage two application

2016

- **January 2016:** Stage two application submitted
- **January 2016 – March 2016:** HLF review stage two submissions
- **March 2016:** Final decision made by HLF on whether to award the funding

2017

- **March 2016 – Onwards:** Project delivery



As part of the work to prepare the application the project team will be engaging with the community in a variety of ways as follows:

**Consultative Group:** A Consultative Group has been set up with representatives from local groups and societies including: The Wisbech Society, Wisbech Town Council, Wisbech in Bloom, Wisbech Street Pride, Wisbech Area Development Group, Wisbech Tourism Group, Wisbech Grammar School, Wisbech Institute, Fenland 5 Museum Group, National Trust, Thomas Clarkson School, English Heritage, Cambridge Community Foundation and Fenland District Council. The Group meets every month and will be key in developing the Activity Plan mentioned above. New members representing local groups or societies are welcome and if you would like further information please contact Kate Pinnock (0797 436 3991 or [kate@inghampinnock.com](mailto:kate@inghampinnock.com))

**Public consultation:** The project team will be conducting public consultation events, such as this, throughout the process to ensure that the project is designed to reflect the needs of the local community, please keep an eye on Fenland District Council's website for further information on these events

**Key individuals/building owners:** Owners of all buildings have been contacted to encourage them to become part of the project and detailed discussions have been had with some key owners.

If you would like any further information on the project please do not hesitate to contact either Kate Pinnock (0797 436 3991/[kate@inghampinnock.com](mailto:kate@inghampinnock.com)) or Ross Ingham (07827 240 059/[ross@inghampinnock.com](mailto:ross@inghampinnock.com)).

## What if I am an owner or a tenant on the High Street?

This project is a fantastic opportunity for owners and long-leaseholders to work with Fenland District Council to restore and enhance their buildings. All owners should now have received a letter providing further information on the project and inviting them to take part. We would request that all interested parties contact Kate Pinnock for further information (0797 436 3991 or [kate@inghampinnock.com](mailto:kate@inghampinnock.com)).



## What is happening to The Belfast (Constantine House)?

Fenland District Council has issued a section 215 notice, which requires the owner to carry out works to the building. It is understood that the owner is currently gaining the necessary approvals and will be starting on site shortly.



## How can I get involved today?

You can get involved today in two ways:

- 1) The Consultative Group, made up of local groups such as the Wisbech Society and Wisbech In Bloom, and local students have developed a series of heritage related activities that they think the local community would like to get involved with. You can tell us whether the Consultative Group and the students have developed the right activities and let us know which activities you would like to be involved with.
- 2) The project team and Consultative Group have come up with a series of ideas for the Cook's Butchers site. We would like you to tell us which of the ideas you like.



## What is an Activity Plan?

An Activity Plan is required by the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of the application. The Heritage Lottery Fund believe that the Activity Plan is a very important part of the proposed project. An Activity Plan is a series of projects that try to involve local people and businesses with the heritage of the town through education, training and leisure activities. The Activity Plan is very important because it will create projects that will educate a wide variety of people about heritage and in turn, hopefully ensure that the heritage is better understood and protected in the future. Projects within the plan can be extremely variable – the limit is our imagination!

The Consultative Group and students from Thomas Clarkson Academy have been busy developing project ideas to include in the Activity Plan. We have set out below the project ideas and we would like to know if you think these are good ideas. We would also like you to tell us which of the projects you might be interesting in being a part of.

## EVENTS

### Activity 1: Create new events as part of the national Heritage Open Day programme such as:

- Tours of the cellars under the High Street
- Night at the Museum & related learning
- Give tours of special heritage buildings such as those on the High Street
- Make sure that as many interesting buildings in Wisbech are open to the public on Heritage Open Days

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



### Activity 2: Ask local groups to have a heritage theme for their events, such as the Rose Fair, this could include activities such as themed floats, heritage trades and international food.

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



## PRACTICAL PROJECTS

### Activity 3: Create time-lapse photography and/or film of the regeneration of the High Street. A competition could be run to discover ‘Who is the next Lilian Ream’? The videos/photography from the activity could form a new public archive for the town and create an online archive of historic photography

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe

### Activity 4: Community archaeology: Helping to uncover the secrets of the buildings on the High Street

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



### Activity 5: The Great Wisbech Gutter Clean: An annual event to help building owners maintain their property. As well as carrying out maintenance, guides for maintaining buildings for owners and occupiers, of all listed properties will be issued

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe

# ACTIVITY PLAN

## PRACTICAL PROJECTS

Activity 6: Interior and Shop Front Design: Students at the Academy told us they would like to work alongside architects and interior designers to learn how help design the scheme and gain work experience

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



## VOCATIONAL LEARNING

Activity 7: Interactive heritage building game for primary school children

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



Activity 9: Retail skills workshops for town centre retailers

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe

Activity 10: Accredited building maintenance courses for owners and occupiers of heritage buildings

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe

Activity 8: Formal post 16 / adult training in conservation construction at College of West Anglia with ‘taster’ / feeder modules at Thomas Clarkson Academy

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe

Activity 11: Builders involved in the project to work with local apprentices

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes

No

Maybe



## ENJOYMENT

Activity 12: Expand existing Wisbech tours and trails to include heritage buildings and create the ‘Wisbech Quiz’

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes	
No	
Maybe	

Activity 14: Create an Elgood’s Historic Wisbech Ale and/or provide information on Elgood’s labelling about Wisbech’s heritage

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes	
No	
Maybe	

Activity 13: Create an outdoor cinema and interactive exhibits to tell the story of Wisbech’s heritage

Would you like to take part in this activity? Please add a sticker below to either yes, no, or maybe

Yes	
No	
Maybe	

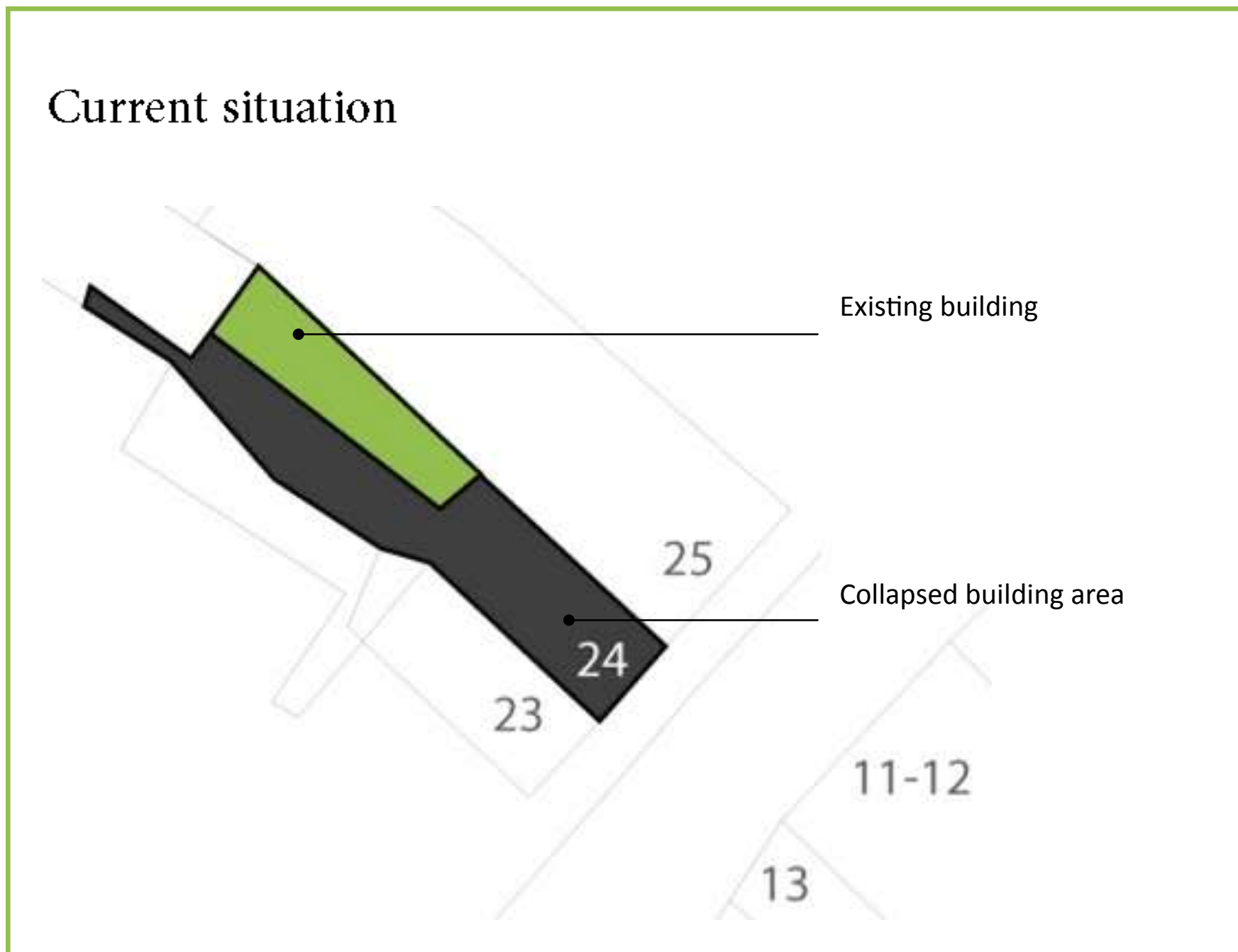
HAVE YOU GOT ANY IDEAS? PLEASE JOT THEM DOWN BELOW

# No. 24 High Street/Cook's Butchers

## INTRODUCTION

We would like you to tell us what you think the space at No. 24 could be used for. The following boards explain why there is no building on the site and a bit of background information on how we are proposing to bring the site back in to use.

## CURRENT SITUATION: What does no 24 look like at the moment?



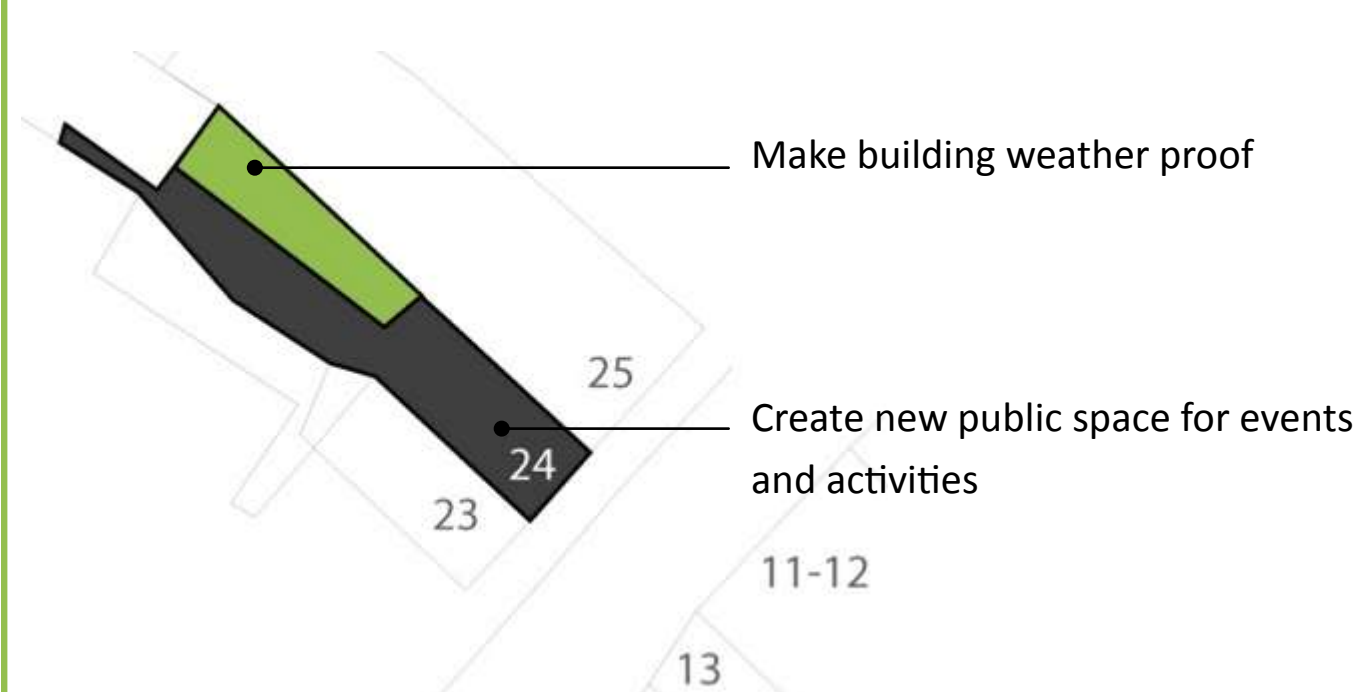
### Current situation

One of the buildings on the High Street that needs a lot of work is the Cook's Butchers/No 24 High Street. The site currently has no building at the front of it as it collapsed many years ago, but there is a building to the rear of the site which you cannot see from the street.

The funding we are applying for cannot be all concentrated on one building and therefore, we have to limit the amount of the funding allocated to this site. Alongside this, site has many legal complications which make it difficult to put a new building where the old building was. For these reasons we have come up with a two phased approach to No 24 High Street, please see the below diagrams for further information.

## INITIAL IDEAS

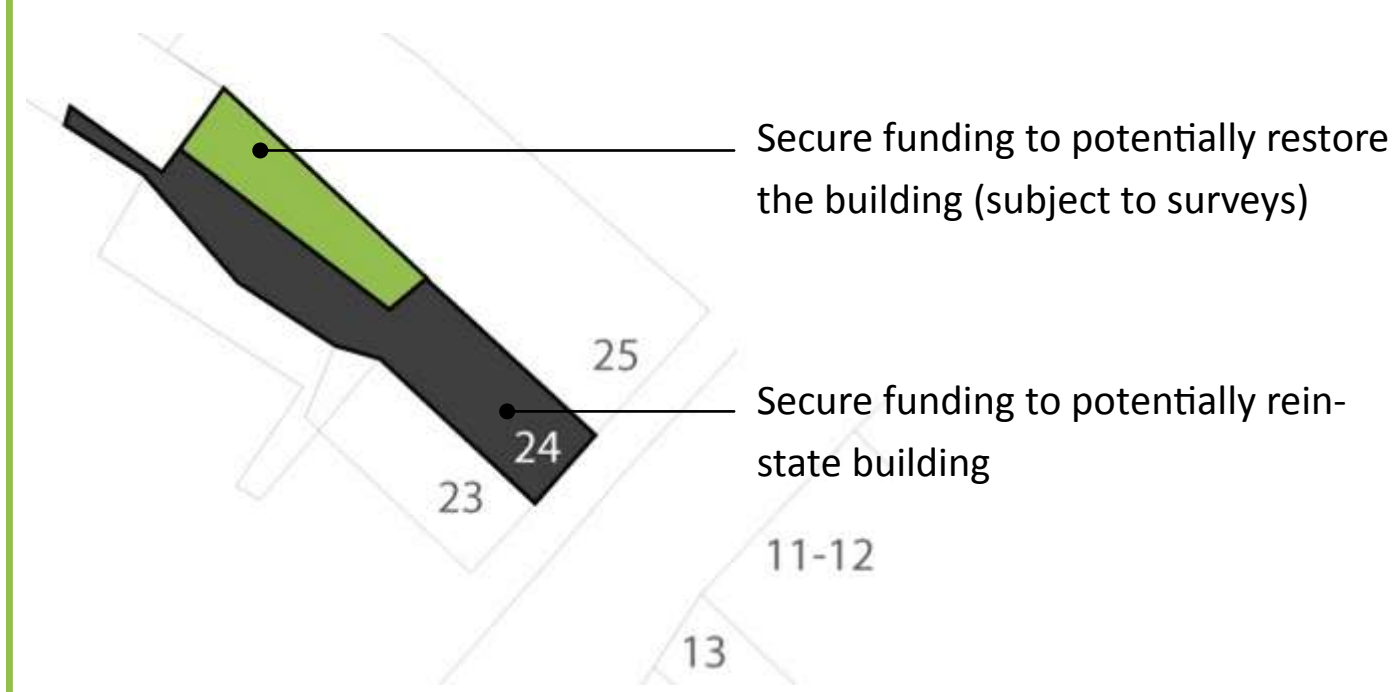
### Phase 1



### Phase 1

As part of the Heritage Lottery bid we are submitting this summer, we are proposing that the building to the rear of No 24 is made water tight and that the front of the site is made in to an area of public space. This area can then be used to host exciting events and activities and act as a base for exhibitions relating to the Heritage Lottery bid.

### Phase 2



### Phase 2

We identify other funding to bring the rear building back in to full use and potentially create a new building at the front of the site to replace the collapsed building



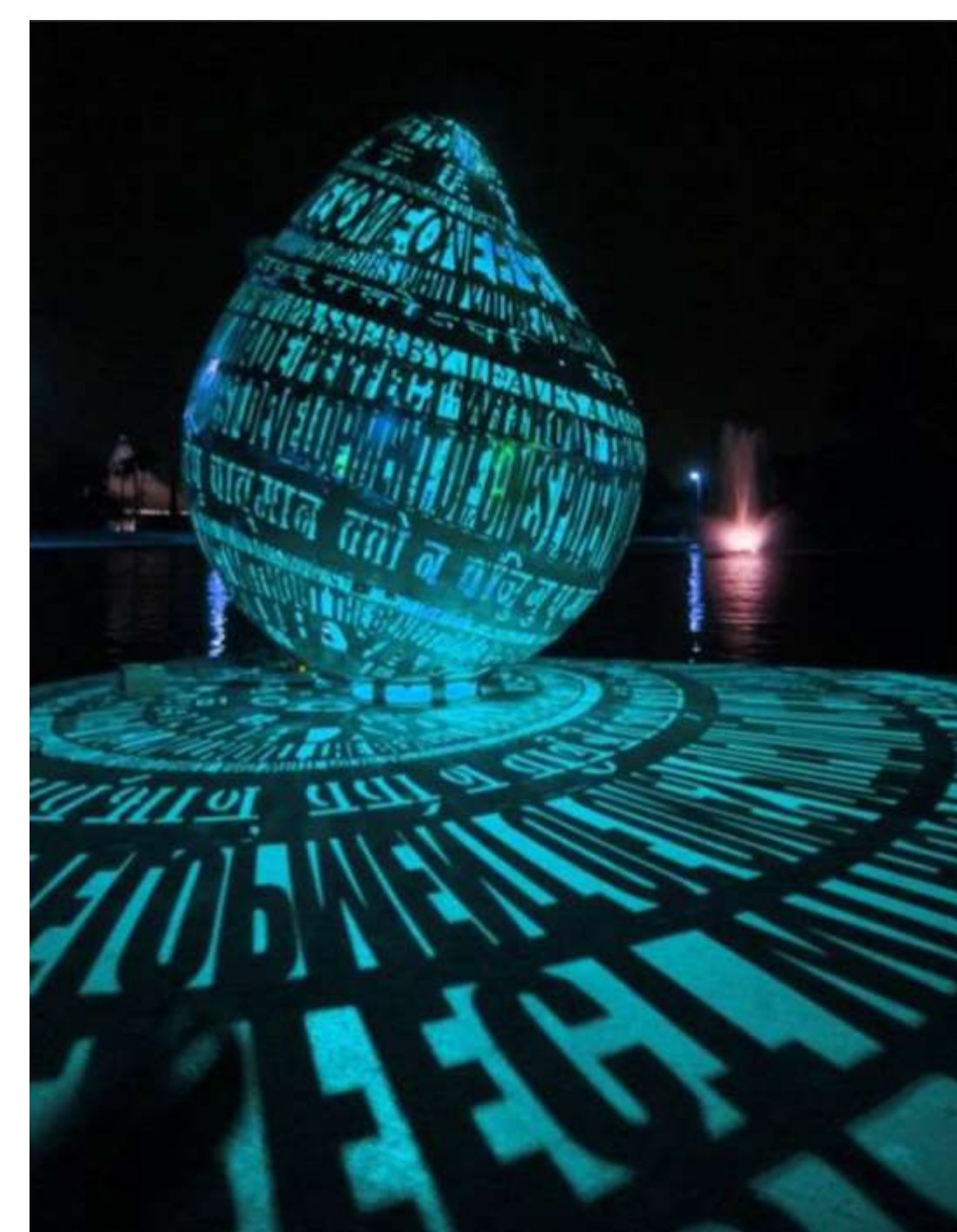
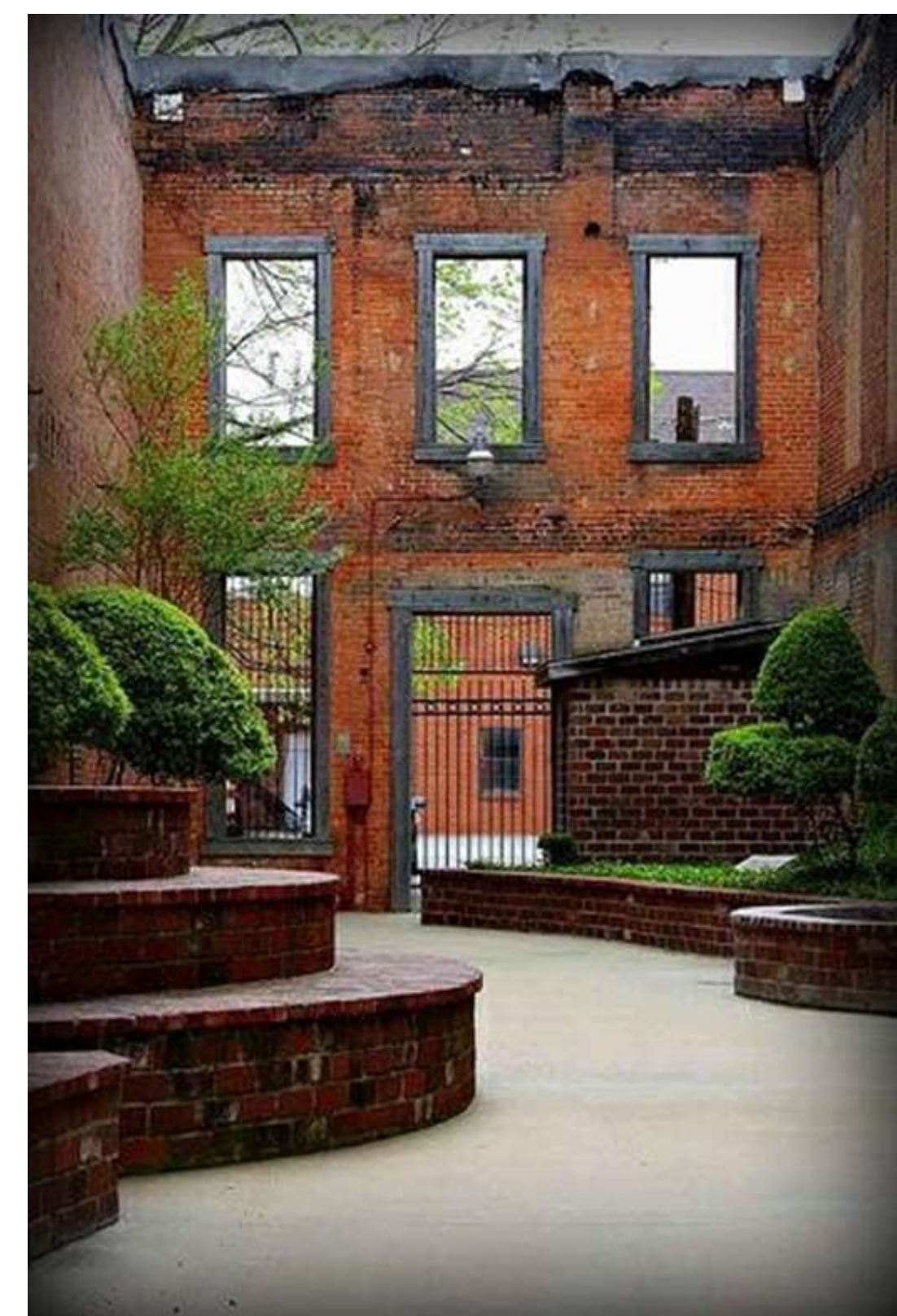
Photographs circa 1960s, courtesy of Fenland Archaeology



# No. 24 High Street/Cook's Butchers

## WE WOULD LIKE YOUR IDEAS PLEASE!

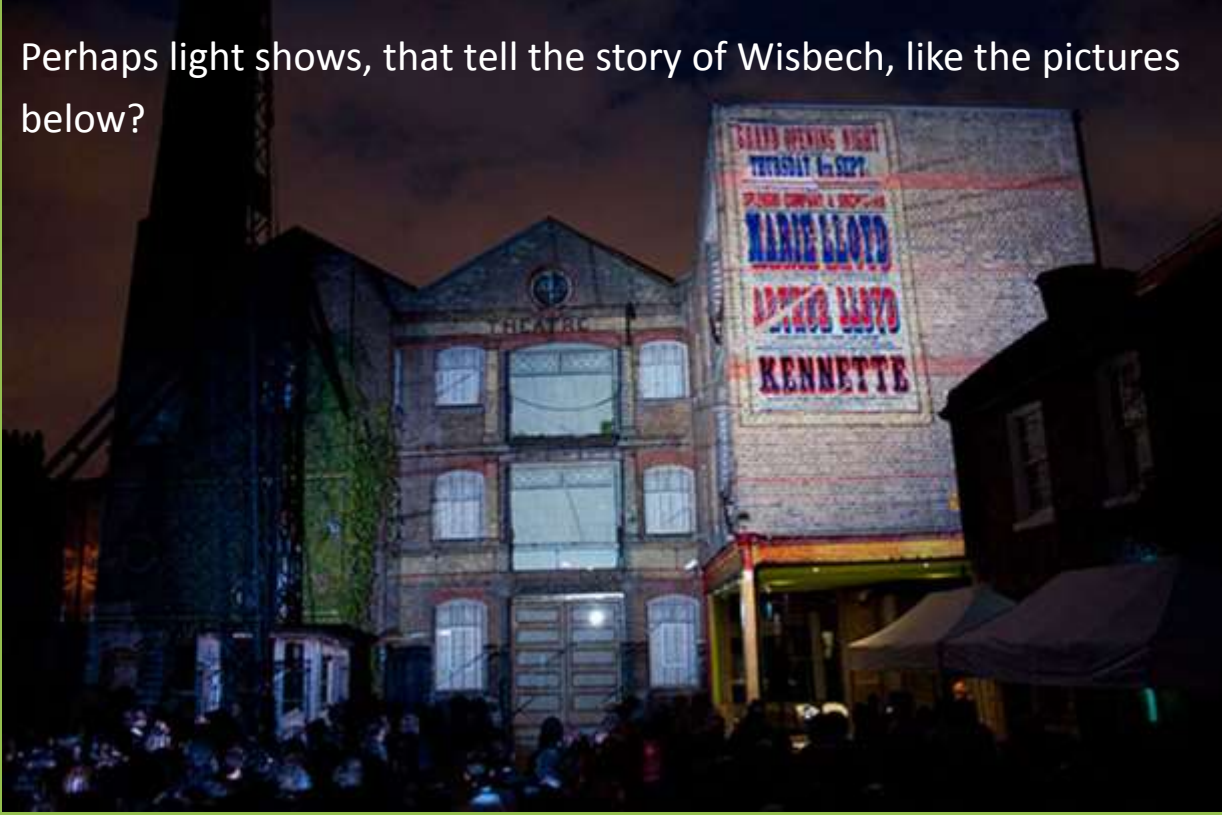
For phase 1, we have come up with a few ideas about how the new public space at no.24 could be used, we would like to know what you think of the ideas and tell us if you have any ideas of your own.



# No. 24 High Street/Cook's Butchers

Please put a sticker on the type of activity you like for no 24 or write down other activities you think the space could be used for.

Perhaps light shows, that tell the story of Wisbech, like the pictures below?



Exhibitions?



Interesting lighting?



Concerts?



Markets?



Climbing/sports?