

MARTINGATE CENTRE LIMITED

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Question to Cabinet Capital Assets Committee

Tuesday 22nd July, 2014

Good afternoon. I am a Director of Martingate Centre Limited. My company purchased the Centre from North Wiltshire Council in 2002 and our track record of refurbishing and managing the Centre clearly demonstrates our long term support for the town.

The Mansion House and Library site is also important to the future vibrancy of Corsham town centre, given its potential role in retail, job creation and education. The Committee will recall that the Council no longer needs the site and has sought to sell it for some years. Most recently, it offered the site for sale with a deadline for bids of 27 November 2013, some eight months ago.

In 2011, this Committee was informed that the cost to the tax payer to retain the site would exceed £850,000 for the Mansion House alone with a risk of increased costs due to its Listed status. The site is now effectively empty and our consultants have told us that urgent work is needed to protect the site not only from significant weather damage this winter, but also from possible public liability costs from youths breaking in. We have previously advised the Council of specific incidents in this regard.

There is now significant local interest in seeing the building reinstated, particularly in light of the heavy cost and liability to the tax payer if delayed further.

As one of the bidders in the process in a position to proceed with the purchase with immediate effect, could the Committee please confirm to us when it expects to select its preferred bidder? We understand the Committee has all of the necessary information it needs to make an informed final decision, but we are very willing to provide any additional information the Committee requires to expedite the decision process and bring about the regeneration of this important asset to the town.

Thank you.

By email

Andrew Hall

Martingate Centre Ltd

16th July 2014