



Cabinet

29 January 2020

Item
13(ii)

Report of	Assistant Director of Communities	Author	Lucie Breadman ☎ 282726
Title	Claudius Gateway		
Wards affected	Castle		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report relates to a recommendation from the Heritage and Tourism Task and Finish Group in respect of issues relating to Claudius Gateway.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 To consider the following recommendation from the Heritage and Tourism Task and Finish Group:-

RESOLVED that the group recommend that the Council's Cabinet team review the situation and engage in further talks with Surya Foods to help look at options and find a way to ensure that the historic site remains open to the public and consider involving the Business Improvement District in those discussions.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

3.1 The Heritage and Tourism Task and Finish Group were keen that the Cabinet ensured continued public access to the ruins of the Claudius Gateway.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 No alternative options are proposed, but it is open to Cabinet not to agree to the recommendation from the Task and Finish group.

5. Background Information

5.1 At its meeting of 9 December 2010 the Heritage and Tourism Task and Finish Group considered an item on issues relating to the ruins of the Claudius Gateway, which are located near to the High Street entrance to the Castle Park.

5.2 Sarah Head-Anderson, of Flying Trade Group, attended the meeting of the Group for this item to provide an update on the latest position on Claudius Gateway. The Group discussed the history of the site and the attempts that had been made to find a viable way of ensuring public access to the ruins. It noted that the most recent tenant of the cafe on the site had given notice that they would be closing. The Group considered that it was important the public access to the site was maintained and that more discussions and options should be considered by Cabinet members on how to work with Surya Foods, who owned the site, to keep the building available to the public. There could be potential opportunities by involving Colchester Business Improvement District in the future discussions.

5.3 At the conclusion of its discussions the Task and Finish group made the following recommendation to Cabinet:-

RESOLVED that the group recommend that the Council's Cabinet team review the situation and engage in further talks with Surya Foods to help look at options and find a way to ensure that the historic site remains open to the public and consider involving the Business Improvement District in those discussions.

6. Standard References

6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety or risk management or environmental and sustainability implications.

7. Strategic Plan References

7.1 This report relates to the Opportunity priority of the Strategic Plan 2018-21 and to the following theme in particular:-

Promote and enhance Colchester borough's heritage and visitor attractions to increase visitor numbers and to support job creation