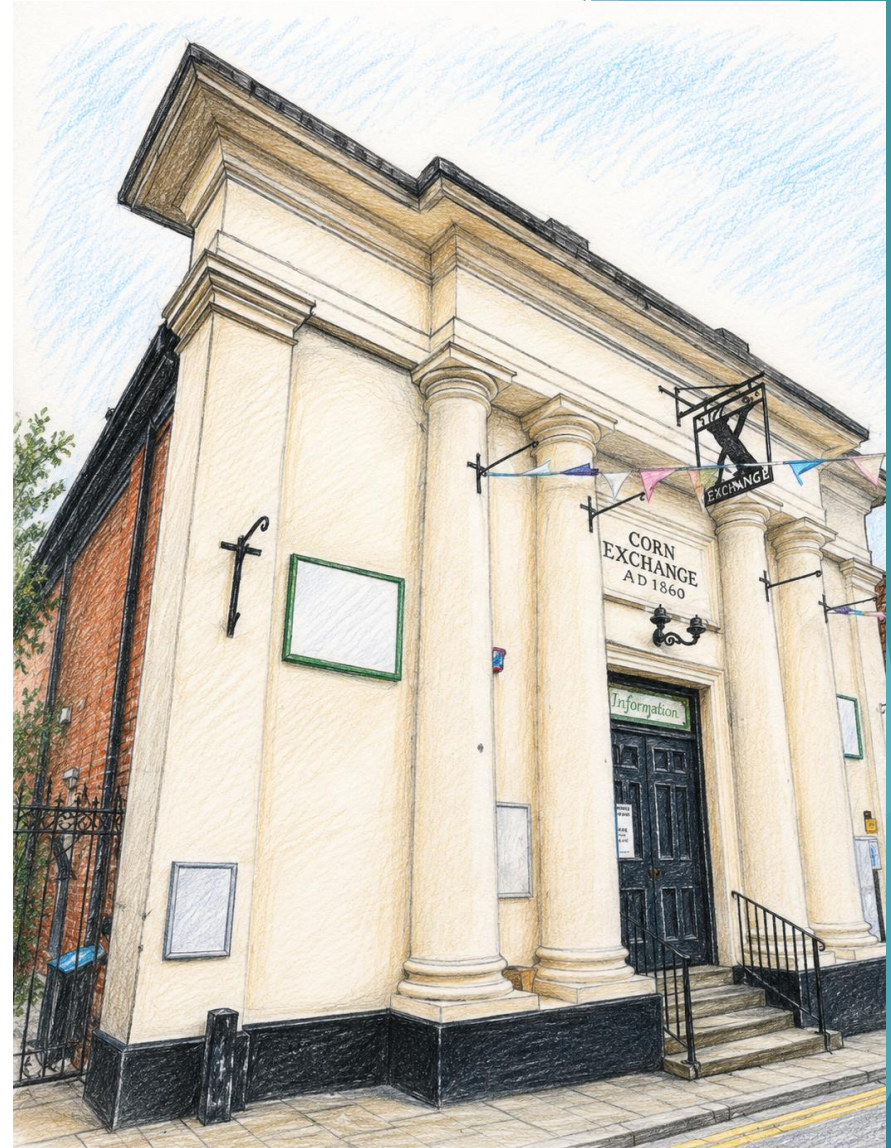


A community vision for restoring
the Corn Exchange in Harleston
Public Meeting Presentation
Led by Harleston Information Plus

Harleston
Information *plus*

Bringing the
Corn Exchange
back into
community use



Corn Exchange Community Vision - Harleston Information Plus

The History & Importance of the Corn Exchange

- ▶ Historic landmark at the heart of Harleston
- ▶ Traditionally a centre for trade, commerce, events and community life
- ▶ A building with strong emotional and cultural value to local residents
- ▶ Part of Harleston's heritage and identity

Why This Building Matters Today

- ▶ Currently vacant and not in use
- ▶ Limited community spaces in Harleston
- ▶ Need for accessible venues for local groups, training and events
- ▶ Opportunity to preserve heritage while creating something sustainable for future generations

Our Vision for the Future

- ▶ Transform the Corn Exchange into a vibrant multi-functional community hub
- ▶ A welcoming and inclusive space for all ages
- ▶ A centre for support, learning, volunteering and social connection
- ▶ A shared asset shaped by the community

Possible Facilities & Uses

- ▶ Flexible community space and meeting rooms
 - ▶ Venue hire for groups, clubs, organisations and the general public
 - ▶ Cultural events, talks, workshops and exhibitions
 - ▶ Training and learning opportunities
 - ▶ Health and wellbeing services
 - ▶ Youth activities and intergenerational projects
 - ▶ Private advice and support spaces
 - ▶ Home for local clubs and groups including Harleston Information Plus
 - ▶ Accessible facilities for all users

Benefits for Harleston

- ▶ Increased town centre footfall
- ▶ Support for local businesses and events
- ▶ Reduced social isolation and improved wellbeing
- ▶ Expanded volunteering and skills opportunities
- ▶ Greater access to employment and digital support services
- ▶ Opportunity to access cultural events in Harleston
- ▶ Accessible space to hire
- ▶ A stronger sense of community ownership and pride

How Could We Make This Happen?

- ▶ Potential purchase of the building could include:
- ▶ Creation of a Community Interest Company (CIC) or charitable partnership
- ▶ Community share offers or fundraising campaigns
- ▶ Partnerships with local organisations and trusts
- ▶ Exploring community asset transfer or blended funding approaches

Funding Opportunities

- ▶ National Lottery Heritage Fund
- ▶ Community Ownership Fund (if reopened or similar schemes emerge)
- ▶ Architectural Heritage Fund
- ▶ Local authority grants
- ▶ Charitable trusts and foundations
- ▶ Corporate sponsorship and community fundraising

Refurbishing the Corn Exchange

- ▶ Restoration of heritage features
- ▶ Modern, flexible and energy-efficient interiors
- ▶ Improved accessibility and inclusive design
- ▶ Digital infrastructure and training facilities
- ▶ Creating a multi-functional venue suitable for both daytime and evening use

Community Consultation

- ▶ This public meeting is the first step
- ▶ Listening to residents, groups and organisations is essential
- ▶ Feasibility study
- ▶ Future consultation could include surveys, workshops and drop-in sessions
- ▶ Co-designing the future use of the building with the community
- ▶ Ensuring the venue reflects local needs and aspirations

How Can People Support the Project?

- ▶ Would you use the venue?
- ▶ What activities or services would you like to see there?
- ▶ Would you or your group hire the venue?
- ▶ Would you partner with HIP and other potential organisations to purchase and run the venue?
- ▶ Would you be interested in being part of a CIC or steering group to drive this project forward?
- ▶ Could you volunteer skills, expertise or time to help fundraise, write funding applications, anything else?

Proposed Next Steps

- ▶ Gather feedback from the public meeting
- ▶ Establish a steering group or working party
- ▶ Undertake feasibility studies and building surveys
- ▶ Explore ownership and governance models
- ▶ Begin wider fundraising and funding applications
- ▶ Develop a detailed community-led business plan

A Shared Opportunity for Harleston

- ▶ This is about more than saving a building
- ▶ It is an opportunity to strengthen community life for future generations
- ▶ Together we can create a welcoming and sustainable space at the heart of the town
- ▶ Thank you for your support and ideas
- ▶ Comments, questions and sign-ups