

Bridgwater Town Deal Board

29th March 2022

1:30pm-3pm

Teams Meeting

Minutes

1) Introduction and Apologies

In Attendance:

- Paul Moore,
- Councillor Christine Lawrence,
- Ian Liddell-Granger,
- Paul Edwards,
- David Ralph,
- Erin Davey,
- Councillor Gill Slocombe,
- David Mears,
- Councillor Mick Lerry,
- David Northey,
- Haf E Morris,
- Stephanie Parsons.

Supporting the board:

- Keith Thomas,
- Nathaniel Lucas,
- Katherine Schollar
- Jackie Gill

Apologies:

- Doug Bamsey,
- Jaycee Ellis,
- Jonica Walkinshaw,
- Julie Wooler,
- Justin Sargent,
- Paul Hickson,
- Ruth Lambert.

The board was welcomed, and apologies were given.

Apologies were given for the lateness of the agenda.

2) SDC Assurance & Exec Approval – Project Updates

- Tidal Barrier
- The Summary Business Case had been submitted, follow up questions were asked from the Government seeking more clarification.

- An online meeting took place with Town Deal Representatives and talked them through the assumptions and the background.
- Flagged up that it had been through other assurance processes.
 - Dunball Junction
- Part of the Levelling up application that the County had made, and the Business Case had been previously approved by Government.
- More information provided on the evidence base supporting the BCR.
- In response to Board member questions about budget, confirmed the Dunball Junction has been contracted on a Design and Build basis so cost estimates are robust.
- The Town Deal award to Bridgwater from Government and to individual projects are fixed sums and any increase in costs will need to be addressed by project partners.
 - Town Wardens / Ambassadors
- Following previous Board meeting – more information was added around the ambassadorial role in the Job Specification and in the Business case itself.
- Following comments from the SDC Assurance Group alternative approach to management overhead costs was agreed by SDC's Senior Management Team.
- Scheme costed within £1m, this has been agreed by Senior Management Team and Exec.
- Ready to submit next week.
- If it is submitted by the 14th April, it will be ready for draw down in the next Quarter.
- The roles won't be formally advertised until we have funding agreement from Government.
- There is cash flow phasing of expenditure confirmed for all projects at the time of Summary submission.
- That will be the basis of the release of funding.
- Sedgemoor will have funds for the financial year and will release funds on project progress.
- The Town Deal is capped at £23.3m any overspend, or increased costs will have to be funded by the project partners.

3) Local Engagement & Communications

- Looking at ways to take communications forward, a bigger task than SDC communications team can manage at the present time.
 - This will be going out to Tender to a PR and Marketing company.
 - SDC investigated the possibility of using the Capacity Funding for the PR and Marketing of the board. There is a small amount left in the budget, so SDC are currently exploring new/different funding streams in order to get this actioned.
 - Possibility to utilise some of the Celebration Mile revenue funding.
- Bridgwater Town Centre Marketing Strategy will be finalised at the end of the month.
- Cllr ML queried if the Celebration Mile funding included marketing costs as some of the funding is used for consultation.
Consultation costs have been taken from a separate revenue funding pot, which is linked to the Celebration Mile.
- KT and NL are engaging with lots of local businesses to coordinate an approach to communications.
- Communication will make sure Bridgwater benefits from investment, building civic pride, Tourism and Business perspective.

Logos's

- Four versions of a potential logo were presented to Board in February. These were narrowed down to two with modifications now shown to the Board.
- The board had to consider whether they wanted "Bridgwater Town Board" or "Bridgwater Town Deal".
- Comments were received from the members; consensus was for Town Deal.
- PM to address board comments and provide an alternative logo which will be circulated by email or presented at the next meeting.

4) Project Presentations

Docks

- 2 Contracts underway.
- Hollis Engineering are examining the capital costs of restoration work .
 - Have recently had divers in the water investigating under the water line.
 - Report due the end of this week.
- Appointed Consultancy Blue Sail working with Planning Solutions Consulting to produce the design and feasibility works for the future usage of the Docks following restoration.
- 4 options
 - 1) Enhance the structures, reinstate the lock gates, go back to what we had before.
 - 2) Enlarge the capacity introduce community facilities, largely residential.
 - 3) More recreation activities, residential moorings, visitor moorings, enhancing the slip way.
 - 4) More facilities and land side development, floating facilities.
- SP highlighted potential interest from YMCA in providing water based activities at the Docks .
- Cllr GS stated that the vision is fantastic but has concerns about the operation of the docks and future maintenance costs.
- DM has advised that the Town Council will not be taking ownership of the docks and a limited company will own the docks.
 - Town Council will oversee the Limited company.
- Cllr ML added that they have looked at the options and are considering the liability regarding governance.
 - Waiting to see how much money will be spent on the basin and the lock gates.
 - If funding can be secured from residential barges, the works can start, and development and commercial interest will come in.

Celebration Mile

- Celebration Mile was taken from the Bridgwater 2008 vision, which has plans for the next 50 years.
- Celebration Mile is from the Railway Station right up to the Docks.
 - As per the plans in the Bridgwater Vision plans, the Railway Station works were completed in 2019/2020.
- Fore St works were completed in 2021.
- Research on Clare Street has taken place, the area was called Orlove place and could potentially look to rename the area.
- Start-up business are proposed to be put into Angel Crescent.
- Northgate works is ongoing and due to complete by October 2022.

Next Steps for the Celebration Mile:

- To focus on the planning submissions for the project.
- Eastover June2022, with completion May 2024.

- Clare Street planning April 2022, with completion Feb 2023.
- Angel Crescent October 2022, with completion July 2023.
- DM highlighted that it is important for SDC to engage with the businesses in the area.
 - Town Team have received animosity towards the scheme proposals
 - Need to ensure that businesses are not adversely affected.
 - SDC assured that businesses within Eastover will be engaged with.
- DM queried: "what is the rationale to changing the name to Orlove Place as the area is the other side of town?"
 - NL to share historical evidence at the next meeting for this.
- Cllr ML queried if the Bridgwater Step Up facility is a separate identity to Angel Crescent?
 - Bridgwater Step Up is an individual project.
 - It will look to provide support for businesses, taking them through each process of becoming an operational business.
 - Currently in the process of continuing to look for a suitable premises for the project to move forward.
- The purpose of the pop-up shop space within Angel Crescent are directed towards businesses that have started up at home, for them to explore the opportunity of operating from a business unit.
- M.L. Discussed with the Town Team we would be interested to help with programmes of support

5) Forward Meeting Plan – Progress Review

- Further Board meetings will be required to approve the Business Cases.
- We will be looking to delay the June meeting later in the month and set up further monthly meetings to the end of 2022.

6) AOB

- This is David Northey's last meeting as he is leaving the Rail industry. On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank him for his contribution.
 - This will leave a vacancy on the Board.
- At the board meeting in April, will look to be putting forward ideas for animating the Town Centre.
 - A revenue allocation was made within the Celebration Mile to run different events relating to the Town Deal Projects.
 - Currently looking to put an outline programme for the business case.
 - More information will be brought to the next board meeting.
- Looking to introduce additional meetings in July and August.
 - JE to make a Doodle Poll with dates/times.
 - August board meeting will run through the Docks business case for sign off. This will then go to the September Executive, ahead of the October deadline.
- Stephanie Parsons has notified SDC of her departure to Bridgwater Town Board, which will leave a space on the board for a YMCA representative.
 - SDC are currently in contact with YMCA and have plans in place for a representative to join the board, once the member of staff has been recruited.
- Next board meeting will take place on the 26th April at 12pm, please notify JE of attendance.
- Paul thanked everyone for their contributions.