



Bridgwater Town Deal Board

30th September 2022

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Teams Meeting

MINUTES

1) Introduction and Apologies

Attendees:

- Paul Moore,
- Paul Edwards,
- Doug Bamsey,
- Geoff Sawyer,
- Cllr Mick Lerry,
- David Ralph,
- Julie Wooler,
- Ruth Lambert,
- Cllr Gill Slocombe,
- Cllr Bill Revans.
- Gavin Roberts

Supporting the board:

- Nathaniel Lucas,
- Keith Thomas,
- Erin Davey,
- Rob Semple,
- Michael Wright,
- Colin Batchelor,
- Stuart Martin,

Apologies:

- David Mears,
- Haf e Morris,
- Jonica Walkinshaw,

Introductions were made,

Welcome to

- Colin Batchelor – Senior Town Warden
- Rob Semple

- Erin Davey – Government contact.
- Michael Wright - Martin Property Group
- Stuart Martin

2) Submitted Projects – Progress & Updates

- Funding received for Town Wardens & Dunball Junction.
 - Update on Celebration Mile Business Case submitted.
 - Step-Up Enterprise Centre – Progressing with Government.
 - Cultural Venues (Arts Centre/Town Hall Theatre/Engine Room.
- Dunball Junction: - looking to finalising the grant agreement document between SDC and SCC. This is now with the Legal Team and waiting for SCC to review.
 - Have received the first year of funding for the Town Wardens and the Senior Town Warden/ Ambassador Colin Batchelor is now in post.
 - The Cultural Venues project has been submitted to Government. (Arts Centre/Town Hall Theatre/Engine Room) Met with Project Partners regarding the design/ planning process to move forward as quickly as possible.
 - Funding for Celebration Mile has been received - looking to start the recruitment of the Events Co-Ordinator for Animating the Town Centre, Julie, is working with partners to develop the role profile which will be shared with the Board when it is finalised.
- Step Up –
- Nathaniel: - We have received Step Up funding. We did make an offer on the building in Angel Crescent, but we lost it as the offer was turned down. This has been discussed with Erin and we are looking for other alternative properties and will update the Board on progress at the next meeting.
 - River Barrier Contribution has been agreed in the Business Case and approved by Government.
 - Cllr Mick Leery: - enquired if the accommodation for Step Up had to be in one area could there be several units in the town?
 - Nathaniel replied that it did need to be in one place, because of the shared environment, and limited funding.
 - Paul M added that we are in a stronger position now, as we are a cash buyer and understand what SCC require and can move forward more quickly.
 - Doug added that Nathaniel and team are looking at all options including Local Government space and the Town Hall.
 - The Boards role next year will change to monitoring delivery and achievement this is starting to be prepared as a delivery programme.
 - Nathaniel stated that the Marketing/ Comms and PR procurement spec has been finalised; this will link with Animating the Town Centre.
 - Cllr Mick Leery enquired is there funding for marketing?
 - NL explained that the drawdown is a mixture of Capital and Revenue Grant, the Revenue Grant can be used for the Events Manager and PR and Marketing and other elements.
 - Cllr Mick Leery asked if there was a drawdown available for marketing?
 - Nathaniel replied that there was a revenue grant which can be used for a mixture of uses.

3) Northgate Commercial Quarter Progress

Stuart Martin (Regeneration Project Manager)

- Lots of Barriers and hurdles throughout this project.
 - Northgate will be opening in the middle of October.
 - The Cinema has been fitted out and handed over to the operator.
 - Bowling Alley - All Stars start date October 10th
 - 2x Restaurant operators have Heads of Terms in place, one national, one local they will start their fit out early next year. Another operator is looking at remaining 2 units.
 - Brewery Field is now landscaped with a pond and a swale system and a well-equipped Play area.
- Doug Explained there will be a series of launches and he looked forward to showing people around. Many local businesses involved in the build and there is a Local contractor involved in the fit out of the Bowling Alley. Credit to Stuart.

4) Angel Place Shopping Centre Update

Michael Wright (Martin Property Group Asset Management Director)

- The Angel Place shopping Centre was purchased 2 months ago, presently trying to understand the asset. and to build a relationship with the Tennents.
- We are not looking to make any changes at the moment.
- Looking to work with the Council. / Stakeholders
- The street scape and security are important.
- We are based in Belfast.
- Angel Crescent will be a priority.
- Important that the Town Centre survives.

5) Bridgwater Town Wardens & Ambassadors

Senior Warden Appointed

Colin Batchelor

- Currently the Chair and safeguarding lead for Burnham/Highbridge Together Team.
 - A retired Avon and Somerset Police Sargent with 30 years Policing experience.
 - Start date 03/10/2022
 - There are 5 applicants to be processed.
 - The role is seen as an ambassadorial role rather than an enforcement role, and will involve spending time talking with Local businesses to find out what the businesses want, and with the local community to find out what the issues are?
 - There are Wardens in North Somerset they will be contacted to find out how they operate, their policies, procedures and uniforms etc.
- Ruth commented that it was a great explanation of the role and pleased to hear that it will include giving advice and help to visitors. The need to be recognisable and approachable
- Cllr Gill Slocombe commented that it will be a difficult role. The presence of the Town Wardens will do a lot of good in the Town.
- Cllr Mick asked what the designated area was and commented that there will be pressure to move into an enforcement role as the public will be concerned with the Anti- Social Behaviour. We do have events on at weekends. Will there be coverage from the team?
- Rob Semple replied that the Town Centre is the priority, but we will look at the whole of Bridgwater. The role will be a visible presence at Schools and be an

opportunity to get to know young people. They will be working Evenings, weekends and night times.

- Gavin Roberts stated that he was looking forward to working with Colin and offered support from the Bridgwater Chamber.
- Paul Moore wished Colin success in the Role.

6) Animating the Town Centre – Bridgwater Cultural Partnership/Community Events Keith Thomas

- The Allocation of Revenue Funding for the Celebration Mile Funding has been Received and the Co -Ordinator role is being recruited. Julie Cooper is leading this and will update the Board at the next meeting.
 - Bridgwater Cultural partnership are defining and strengthening their role. The Board will be kept informed of projects.
- Nathaniel commented that the wider Somerset Cultural strategy is being developed and that they will link together.

7) Bridgwater Docks – Progress & Update Keith Thomas

- The Engineering cost proposals are nearly finalised. Working through the details to develop the options to combine the Cycling links. WSP Framework Consultants undertaking technical design looking at site capacity and feasibility, waiting for the costs, to include a cycling link across the North of the Docks and a new cycle bridge. It meets the aspirations of the Docks being fully restored and the Docks becoming a destination venue. A briefing to the Town Councillors has taken place and the Town Council are considering the options. There should be a Council decision at the end of October.
- Cllr Mick Leery explained that the Town Council had met with the Inland Waterways regarding the opening of the docks to the river, the number of Residential barges has to be considered along with the Leisure venue. A meeting is to be held towards the end of October regarding the priorities within the budget.
- Keith explained that an interim report will be brought to the Board after the Town Council Meeting in October.

8) Carnival sheds - Progress and Update

- A meeting was held with Carnival yesterday (29th September) on the design proposals. This work has been paid for by the Community Renewal Fund.
- A design has been agreed, although not all the sheds can be accommodated on the site because of the land constraints and drainage issues, Retention ponds are needed.

- The scheme is over budget and needs refining. May only be able to deliver Phase 1. This may mean future funding proposals will be needed by Carnival.
- The Business Case may not be ready for October meeting.
- Government has said that January is the latest the Summary Business Case can be submitted.
 - Cllr Mick Leery asked how many sheds have been affected by the drainage? Will Phase 1 and Phase 2 effect the number of sheds on site.
 - Keith explained that 13 sheds will be provided. Carnival wanted 16/17. This results of a loss of 3 or 4 sheds. Phase 1 can be delivered without demolishing the existing sheds. The retention ponds take up more space.
 - Cllr Gill Slocombe explained that the Carnival Clubs will sort out the sheds.

AOB

Thank you all for your attendance,

Next meeting dates 21st October, and 21st November 19th December

Actions Log:

Action item	Date Created	Action Owner	Progress	Completed?
Invite new owners of Angel Place Shopping Centre	24/08/2022	SDC		
Consider presentation on Northgate imminent opening	24/08/2022	SDC		
Design proposals for Carnival and floorspace changes	24/08/2022	KT		
Mission & Vision Statement to inform role of Wardens	24/08/2022	Board		
Consider Rob Semple attending update on recruitment and Senior Warden to attend a Board meeting when in post.	24/08/2022	SDC		