



Bridgwater Town Deal Board

23rd March 2023

2:00pm – 3:30pm

Teams Meeting

MINUTES

1) Introduction and Apologies

Attendees:

- Paul Moore,
- Cllr Bill Revans,
- Cllr Gill Slocombe,
- Cllr Mick Lerry,
- Paul Edwards,
- David Mears,
- Ruth Lambert,
- Gavin Roberts,
- Julie Wooler,
- David Ralph,
- Justin Sargent,
- Doug Bamsey,

Supporting the board:

- Jaycee Ellis,
- Jenna Hunt,
- Katherine Schollar,
- Rob Semple,
- Jackie Gill.

Apologies:

- Nathaniel Lucas,
- Haf E Morris,

Welcome to Cllr Bill Revans, Jenna Hunt and Rob Semple.

Previous minutes agreed as correct.

2) Progress and Updates – Jaycee Ellis

- The Tidal Barrier full business case will be submitted to DEFRA and a decision to be made late Spring.
- Celebration Mile Procurement for the construction will be going out end by the end of April/beginning of May.
- The Funding for the Docks, Walking, Cycling and Carnival has been approved.
 - Funding is anticipated to be drawn down in late April.
 - PM informed the Board that the Docks Scheme was not in the public realm and is confidential.
- A Project Manager has been appointed to deliver phase 1 for the Carnival development project and that we are still awaiting planning decision for the scheme.
 - JS confirmed that the match funding for the scheme is awarded/confirmed.
- Phase 1 funding has been transferred to Bridgwater Town Council for the Town Hall Theatre and Arts Centre projects.
- Engine Room phase 1 and phase 2 funding has been transferred.
 - The building has been purchased.
- The Step-Up Project Operational Plan is being reviewed by Somerset County Council, there will need to be discussions with Government regarding the change of location to Bridgwater House.
- DR asked if all business cases had been approved?
 - PM confirmed that all 11 Town Deal projects have been approved by government and can now all move into delivery stages.
 - Cllr ML congratulated the team on getting the Town Deal Funding secured for Bridgwater.
- Cllr ML enquired, now that the funding has been agreed, how is the funding drawn down?
 - JE addressed that the draw down for each project is dependent on each projects' financial profile. Funding that has been drawn down in the full amount, will stay with the lead local authority and will be released to project partners as stated in the terms and conditions in the grant funding agreement.
- Cllr ML asked why conversations with Government were needed regarding the new location for Bridgwater Step-Up.
 - JE replied that Government needs to be happy with the new approach we are taking for Step-Up, as it was going to be at the Angel Place premises, and to make sure Government is updated with project development.
- Paul Moore reviewed and shared the preview of the new Town Deal Website.
 - PM asked Board members to review their Bio's/Images on the Town Deal Website and send updated bios/images to Jaycee as soon as possible so it can be updated.
 - DM stated that Bridgwater Town Council will also promote Bridgwater Town Deal on their social pages.
- Cllr ML asked if there would be a link to the Town Deal Website on Somerset Council Website?
 - DB addresses that there would be a link on the new Somerset Council website.

3) Town Wardens Project Update – Rob Semple

- RS reported that the Senior Town Warden, Colin, has been signed off work recently but is looking to return within the next couple of weeks.
- The team are currently looking to recruit two Town Wardens.
- The New Cinema complex is a gathering area for youngsters and the Town Wardens are regularly visiting the area.
- The Town Wardens are engaging with the people who are gathering around Binford Place who are causing anti-social behaviour and are engaging with shop owners to find out more information on the incidents arising.
- Closely monitoring other areas that are being targeted with anti-social behaviour/activity.
- Have been actively engaging in the local Pub Watch Meetings.
- RS reported that, from the Town Deal funding, £77,300 has been spent to day (exclusive of staff salaries for March).
- DM commented that he had witnessed the interaction of the Town Wardens with young people and how they provided very active and engaging presence with them.
- Cllr GS enquired why the Town Wardens are currently out engaging with the public in threes.
 - RS address that this was due to the Senior Town Warden being off for an extended period, and it being much safer to send the Town Wardens out in threes rather than solo.
- Cllr BR asked what the Town Warden area boundaries were.
 - RS replied that they are working with the Town Deal boundary but are focusing mainly on the Town Centre.
 - Any Issues can be reported to the Town Wardens email address Town.Wardens@sedgemoor.gov.uk
- Cllr ML asked if the role is seen as an Enforcement or Ambassadorial Role?
 - RS responded that the main part of the role was helping and engaging with the public.
- Cllr ML asked about the importance of getting the information about the Wardens on social media.
 - RS replied that this is one of the goals for the Wardens.
 - DM said the Town Deal does have Dome Marketing as a Partner. Could Cllr BR take the question back to his Communications team and enquire if the Town Wardens are able to have individual social medias.
- RS stated that the Town Wardens will be taking part in VORG Event. The Mavis Community Bus along with The Nelson Trust, Police, Diverse Communities, MIND, Homes in Sedgemoor on 31st March from 5 – 10pm.
 - JE said that the details regarding the event can be put on social media. And hoped that the Website will drive the social media content.

PM thanked Rob and the Town Wardens for the work they are doing.

4) Transition to Somerset Council – Doug Bamsey

- Officers at the lead authority have introduced the new Councillors and senior officers/colleagues about the regeneration that is set to be delivered to Bridgwater within the next couple of years – including Town Deal and the Levelling Up Fund.
- There will be continuity for the board as many colleagues are transferring to the new Council.
 - Cllr BR added that a Forum of Parishes would make a good addition to the governance Town Deal Board.
 - Somerset Council to look into adding a parish forum into the governance of the board as it moves into the delivery stages.
- PE stated that as we are approaching the delivery stage, he feels momentum of the Town Deal Board has dropped. He would like a target of when the projects will be delivered.
 - Cllr BR replied that we are currently recruiting for Service Director posts, existing staff will carry on doing what they are doing now and move to the new council.

5) Regularity of Board Meetings

- PM asked if everyone was happy to continue on the Town Deal Board and meet monthly?
- DB suggested that the next meeting date should be the end of April and give the opportunity to bring in new members of Somerset Council.
- DM The Town Council are delivering 3 Town Deal projects and the people who are dealt with daily are transitioning to the new Council. There shouldn't be any disruption.
- Cllr ML asked if the frequency of meeting should be reduced?
 - Cllr BR recommended carrying on with monthly meetings to keep the confidence of the board whilst it is in the early stages of the new council – the regularity of the meetings can be reviewed at an appropriate time.
- Cllr GS advised she was happy to stay on the board.
- PM said that the Board does have requirements to meet Government guidelines and PM suggestion if board meetings should be in person meetings to check on progress of projects?
 - DM proposed that the Town Council can host a meeting on 25th May and will showcase the design plans for the Town Hall Theatre and the Arts Centre with an update from Beccy Armory.
 - Cllr GS advised that Fridays appear to be a better meeting day for the local MP.
- JE to set up a doodle poll for board meetings for several months in advance.
- Cllr ML asked if the board are to expect any changes?
 - PM responded that there will be changes as Doug won't be on the Board and there will be new Council members. The non-attendance of the Board members will also be reviewed.
- JE to look into the original sub-groups that were discussed at the beginning of the Town Deal board and explore the requirements and structure of each group and report back to board with findings.

6) AOB

- JE advised that an updated Terms of Reference will need to be put together NL is aware and will action accordingly.
- PM Wished DB well in his next venture and thanked him for his support on the Board.

Meeting closed 3.30pm