Burton upon Trent Town Deal Board Minutes

20th December 2019

Present		In Attendance		Apologies	
Ben Robinson	Chair	Andy O'Brien	East Staffordshire BC	Kate Griffiths	Member of Parliament
Cllr Duncan Goodfellow	East Staffordshire BC	Thomas Deery	East Staffordshire BC	Chris Plant	Burton & District
Cllr George Allen	East Staffordshire BC	Simon Humble	East Staffordshire BC		Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Philip Atkins	Staffordshire CC	Wayne Mortiboys	Staffordshire CC		
Cllr Philip White	Staffordshire CC	Jonathan Turner	Cushman & Wakefield		
Valerie Burton	Burton Civic Society				
Mick Clifford	Burton Civic Society	External Speakers			
Dennis Fletcher	Parish Council Representative				
John McKiernan	Parish Council Representative	Clive Jessup	Jessups		
David Chadfield	Coopers Square Shopping Centre	Dean Shaw	BPN Architects		
Peter Hardingham	Octagon Shopping Centre	Ursula Bennion	Trent & Dove Housing		
Shaid Hussain	Business and Community		_		
	Representative	Louise Driver	The National Forest		

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Decision / Discussion / Recommendation	Action Points	Date Action Required
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Chair welcomed the Board to the meeting and noted apologies from Kate Griffiths and Chris Plant. Apologies for lateness were also noted for Simon Humble.	N/a	
2	Minutes of Monday 18 th November Shadow Town Deal Board meeting	It was confirmed by AOB that a draft terms of reference document for the Board, or similar, will be brought forward following further guidance from Government, expected in January 2020. The minutes of the meeting were approved.	N/a	
3	Bargates update from Jessups, BPN Architects and Trent & Dove Housing		N/a	

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4	Cushman and Wakefield review of the Burton Regeneration Strategy	The Chair invited JT to present an update on Cushman & Wakefield's review of the Burton Regeneration Strategy. It was confirmed that: • The Regeneration Strategy still stands, however it did not look at any big property interventions due to the lack of identified funding at the time. Therefore, it was appropriate to consider whether a property intervention would be possible and JT was looking at the Andressey Passage area. • Some key factors for that area include access to the library, links to Market Place and what connectivity to the Washlands could look like. • Listed buildings in the area are not ideally placed for a project to open up Andressey Passage, but there are opportunities. Some of the existing buildings around Andressey Passage are in an awkward place. • The nightclub building is not particularly significant, but it does occupy a lot of land. As such, the land around the library with Andressey Passage could make for a large development site. • This will become the first study of the new year, looking at an 'Andressey Passage Plus' project that considers how to better open up the area and improve access to the river. This could include a consideration of residential development near the riverside and further improving the public realm. • There will be a more detailed feasibility study for the area to see what could be achieved, taking into account the historic nature of the site.	JT to begin a detailed feasibility study of the Andressey Passage/Washlands area.	tbc

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		 Separately to this piece of work, there are challenges to the retail market that will affect the long term survivability of Burton Place, but this will probably need to be a medium- long term project. 		
		 Given the scale of intervention, an Andressey Passage Plus project might need to be delivered in 2021/22, rather than 2020/21. There is a risk that intervening in one area could take from another, but there is a need 		
		 to do something to try and improve the town. Burton Library is one of the most successful ones in the County, but there is an option to relocate it within the town centre in order to free up space on the Washlands for development. The library provision would not be removed from the town. 		
5	Washlands Enhancement Project update	The Chair invited TD to provide an update on the Washlands Enhancement Project. It was confirmed that: • The concept drawings show that the area being enhanced is the land between Bargates and the Market Place, which demonstrates a greatly expanded play area and new water swales with boardwalks to improve the accessibility of the area. • There will also be significant planting and greening of the area as well as better connecting Bargates to the town centre. • The LEP funding for the project is now secured and the Council contribution is conditionally approved subject to the approval of the final designs. The designs are being worked on currently and have been out to consultation, but a report will be taken to Members around March 2020. • Since the approval of the initial vision for the Washlands, some items have been taken out of the project. Specifically, this is another pedestrian bridge connecting the Washlands to Stapenhill Gardens/Hollows and improvements to the library frontage. • The project also includes improvements to the Garden of Remembrance, which comprises improved lighting, street furniture and paving. • There is an option to use STF for the footbridge and/or the improvements to the library and also to hold back on the Garden of Remembrance works until a clearer vision for Andressey Passage Plus is established. • There will be information boards installed that will help children learn about the Washlands. • There is a Member Working Group at ESBC that is supporting the development of this project. • There could be opportunities to improve the provision of toilets and ice cream for children, which is something that the working group have considered.	N/a	

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		 This project could drive footfall in the town centre by creating a tourism attraction, which could be enhanced if a new footbridge is introduced, which was generally supported by the Board. There could be an option to introduce food venders in the area as part of the wider Andressey Passage Plus project. The library steps are included as part of the project and the intention is that they will double as seating for the public. 		
6	National Forest 25 Year Vision	 This item was brought forward to before item 5. The Chair welcomed LD from the National Forest and invited her to present an overview of the National Forest's 25 year vision. It was confirmed that: The population of Burton is about a third of the whole of the National Forest, which is significant. In the last 25 years, the National Forest has grown from 6% forest cover to 21%, which is largely down to partnership working. 22% of this is through S106 obligations. There are 9 priority actions in the 25 year vision that are currently out for consultation and 15 outcomes to measure success. The target for 2045 is to have 33% forest cover. There are industries that complement the vision of the National Forest, such as food and drink, which will support the creation of jobs under the economy theme. The culture of a 'forest town' or society could come forward more in the Towns Fund for Burton. Existing projects, such as Station Street, try to ensure more trees are going in than coming out. The National Forest are keen to be more engaged in the regeneration projects being delivered in the area and there is a potential of accessing match funding, such as through the Urban Tree Challenge. 	N/a	
7	Any other business	WM raised that there is a transport model for Burton and so there is a need to model some of the projects proposed by C&W and the regeneration strategy. This includes a proposal to allow traffic as far as the station, but not permitting vehicles from the station to the town centre itself. The previous improvement project that closed the road outside of the train station provides a good starting point for the modelling. The rational for closing this area of road would be to improve access for buses and greener methods of transportation. Other potential traffic pinch points in the town were discussed by the Board, such as the lights at Horninglow Street and Hawkins Lane, and Branston Road. A Park and Ride scheme was suggested, but this isn't something that is being looked at currently. It was also suggested that there is a need to consider the economic impact on businesses from closing roads to cars, but sometimes this can be a short term pain to be a long term gain. It was also suggested that the model in Stretton underestimated the number of vehicles by 50% so there is a need to get it right.	ESBC to circulate information on the outcome of the recent events at the Market Place.	tbc

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		PH raised a question about whether there is any feedback on the successes of the events at the Market Place and Hall. AOB agreed that information on this would be circulated. The Christmas light switch on was very well attended.		
		PH raised a question about when the Station Street project would commence, AOB confirmed that it would begin in the new year.		
		PH raised a question about whether a Business Improvement District was being considered. TD confirmed that a BID has been reviewed but it is likely that it will be on the backburner until after the implementation of Towns Fund interventions in order to support their longer term sustainability.		