

Burton upon Trent Town Deal Board Minutes

25th June 2021

Board Members Present

Ben Robinson	Chair
Cllr Duncan Goodfellow	East Staffordshire BC
Cllr Bev Ashcroft	East Staffordshire BC
Cllr Philip White	Staffordshire CC
Cllr Victoria Wilson	Staffordshire CC
Dennis Fletcher	Parish Council Representative
Chris Plant	Chamber of Commerce
Kate Griffiths	Member of Parliament
Valerie Burton	Burton Civic Society
David Chadfield	Coopers Square Shopping Centre
Shaid Hussain	Business and Community Representative

In Attendance

Andy O'Brien	East Staffordshire BC
James Abbott	East Staffordshire BC
Simon Hall	East Staffordshire BC
Thomas Deery	East Staffordshire BC
Wayne Mortiboy	Staffordshire CC

Apologies

Cllr George Allen	East Staffordshire BC
Mick Clifford	Burton Civic Society
John McKiernan	Parish Council Representative

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 that there were apologies from John McKiernan, George Allen, and Mick Clifford.		
2	Minutes of Friday 14 th May 2021 Town Deal Board meeting and Matters Arising	The minutes of the meeting were approved. The Chair also confirmed that replies had been sent to the eight questions received by the Board, discussed at the previous meeting.		
3	Town Deal Board Membership	The Chair stated that names had been submitted to the Board for a suitable business representative to replace Peter Hardingham, following his resignation. Of the names submitted, the one that received the most support was Nik Hardy, who owns a business in the town and was recently President of the Chamber of Commerce. The Board agreed that Nik would be contacted about possibly joining the Town Deal Board. Cllr Victoria Wilson was also welcomed to the Board as a replacement for Cllr Julia Jessel, as a		

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		Staffordshire County Council representative.		
4	Reflections on visit to Lichfield Library	<p>The Chair opened the discussion on reflections about the recent visit to Lichfield Library.</p> <p>The Board discussed the merits of the visit and thoughts on the way in which the facility at Lichfield had been transformed into a library facility.</p>		
5	Project Updates	<p>The Chair invited Project Leads to provide an update on each of the seven projects on the Towns Fund Programme, where a Project Lead was not in attendance, James Abbott was invited to provide an update.</p> <p><u>Regional Learning Centre</u> PW provided a summary of the University of Wolverhampton’s commitment to this project and to growing their existing presence and offer in Burton upon Trent. The discussions to date have focused on the condition of the building itself in terms of maintenance requirements and the conditions on which the University would want to occupy a space within the Brewhouse.</p> <p>AOB added that there will be paperwork supporting these updates at future meetings for all Members.</p> <p><u>High Street Linkages</u> VB provided an update on the meetings of the project team between the Project Leads and ESBC and the steps that were being taken to sound out what the public would want from this project. To date, the Council has established a small Sounding Board to help inform this process, but this would now be expanded to up to 20 representatives of the town and there would be an open call for members to join the Sounding Board. The role of the Sounding Board will then be help inform how the consultation for this project can be developed over the coming months and so it will likely result in a more longer and slower process overall than some of the other projects because there are so many options on the table.</p> <p><u>Library and Enterprise Hub</u> In the absence of MC, JA provided an update on this project. JA confirmed that a property project manager had been appointed by SCC to lead on the development of the commercial aspects of the next stages for this project. A monthly multi-disciplinary working group has also been set up to take this forward. Funding has also been secured to undertake the conditions surveys at the library and Market Hall and to help prepare the public exhibitions, engagement and business case. A draft communications strategy for the summer engagement has also been created, looking at launching in July alongside the latest thinking on the easing of restrictions.</p>		

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		<p>The Chair asked the Board whether they would still like a co-ordinated visit to the Market Hall and Burton library, which was agreed for 7th July.</p> <p><u>New Pedestrian & Cycling Crossing over the River Trent</u> SH provided an update on this project and the initial meetings that have taken place for the project team between SH, MC and SCC. Amey have been appointed to look at the design for the bridge and there is a structural engineer from Amey involved in this project, who worked on a similar project in Stafford. Funding has been secured to undertake the ground investigation work and preparation of the business case. Ideas for illuminating the bridge have also been discussed and costs for doing this would be looked into. There is also a need to work with the Local Planning Authority and EA regarding ownership and leases around the river. Similarly, there may be a need to engage ESBC regarding the availability of car parking spaces at the Stapenhill side.</p> <p>VB asked whether the regular river users would be consulted as part of this project, such as the angling people who do have licenses for using the river. WM confirmed that this could be added into the plan.</p> <p><u>Trent and Mersey Canal Towpath Improvements</u> The Chair invited JA to provide a summary update on this project. JA confirmed that in-house engineers and design leaders at CRT have walked the site with their project lead from the contractors in order to familiarise themselves with the particular stretch and to identify any potential issues. Initial conversations have also taken place with SCC about potentially delivering the works via a joint arrangement with Amey to deliver economies of scale, but it will come down to achieving the best value for the project. CRT are also looking at pushing the budget as much as possible to see if the second phase of work can be completed as well. A potential risk at this stage is the presence of Fibre broadband covers along the route, which adds a layer of complexity in terms of the works, but this will be reviewed as the project is taken forward.</p> <p><u>Cycle Network Enhancements</u> The Chair invited BA to provide an update on this project, BA confirmed that there hasn't been a lot of progress over this month, however it's important to remember that this project builds on the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which has been in development for some time. Currently looking at preliminary routes at the moment and using as much of the existing cycle network as necessary to make it easy access. Amey have been appointed to look at the prelim designs and prepare the business case, so it will start to move forward quite quickly.</p>		

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		<p><u>College Specialist Education Offer</u></p> <p>The Chair invited JA to provide an update on this in the absence of JM. JA confirmed that the college have started looking at populating the business case template, which will continue over the next few weeks/month. A project team meeting has taken place between the Project Lead and BSDC. Plans are being looked at for consultation over the summer, which will build on existing consultation and answer any questions raised previously. BSDC will be looking to target local residents, but also other education providers, employers, learners and parents, so focusing on particular stakeholder groups as well. This will include online and physical engagement and a mixture of qualitative and quantitative feedback.</p>		
6	Next meeting	A provisional date of 30 th July 2021 was confirmed and a programme of dates for the rest of the year would be established, taking place monthly. A hybrid approach to meetings (physical and Zoom) may be appropriate for the rest of the year.		
7	Any Other Business	<p>The visit to the Market Hall and Burton library was confirmed under Any Other Business.</p> <p>AOB also asked for nominations to become the Project Lead for the Towpath project, now that Julia Jessel is no longer a Board Member. Board Members were asked to pick this up by email outside of the meeting.</p> <p>BR also provided an update on the recent ESBC Member briefings.</p>	Board Members interested in becoming a Project Lead to nominate themselves via email.	By the next meeting