

St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 28th March 2023 at 9.45am – Cornwall College/TEAMS

Attendees:

Democratic: Malcolm Brown (TC), Crystal Pearce (TC) (TEAMS), Richard Pears (CC) (TEAMS).

Voluntary/Community: Sandra Heyward (Market House), Chris Sampson (Community), David Atkinson-Beaumont (Cornwall College).

Business: Peter Moody (St Austell Print), Neil Woodward (South West Financial Services), Miles Lovegrove (Fluid Branding), Mark Lewis (TEAMS).

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (TC), Bill McCardle (TC), David Pooley (TC), Helen Nicholson (CC) (TEAMS), Annette Miller (St Austell BID).

Welcome

Councillor Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the college for providing the venue and refreshments. He advised that a tour of the college and demonstration of a virtual app developed by the students would take place at 10.45am.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Democratic: Steve Double (MP), Jordan Rowse (CC), Anne Double (CC), Deborah George (TC).

Voluntary/Community: Rev Howard Flint (Holy Trinity), Jonathan Aberdeen (St Austell Arts Centre), Dr Stewart Smith (NHS).

Business: John Watkins (White River Place) and Dale Lovatt (Business Improvement District).

Advisors: Mark Ellis (CC), Louise Wood (CC)

Mike Hawes, Mei Loci sent his apologies for his absence.

Minutes of the meeting dated 21st February 2023

The minutes of the meeting dated 21st February 2023 were accepted as a correct record.

Partnership Advisors

MB explained that he had met with Annette Miller, Manager of St Austell BID and expressed a view that it would be helpful if the Manager of the BID could be appointed to the partnership as an advisor to represent the town centre

businesses. He confirmed that this position would be in addition to the position held by the BID (Dale Lovatt) within the Business Sector.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Annette Miller, Manager of St Austell BID to the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership as a Business Advisor.

Peter Moody arrived at the meeting

At the request of the Chair, Helen Nicholson updated the partnership on the departure of Caitlin Lord from Cornwall Council, the recruitment process for her replacement and the new Community Area Partnerships which will supersede the Community Networks.

The partnership welcomed Helen's temporary return as Community Link Officer and expressed their thanks for Caitlin's contribution to the partnership.

Good Growth Funding Bids

The Clerk advised that four Good Growth Funding Bids have been submitted to Cornwall Council. Two have been declined, further information has been requested for another and the outcome of the fourth bid is still awaited. The two bids that have been declined are being re-worked for re-submission.

The Clerk outlined the details of the four bids submitted and explained the procurement processes required by Cornwall Council and the Town Council. The group expressed a view that the Chair and two Vice Chairs should be involved in the tendering and procurement process to appoint architects/consultants to undertake the feasibility studies and that the Clerk should bring a progress report back to the next meeting.

It was **AGREED** that if the funding bids are successful, the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Partnership would be consulted with regard to the procurement, tendering and evaluation process to appoint suitable architects/consultants for the feasibility studies.

During discussion, the group expressed concern with regard to the poor condition of the banner on the side of the Poundland building and the need for it to be assessed for safety by a professional person.

The Clerk advised that he would contact John Watkin to try to ascertain who is responsible for the banner under the current lease arrangements and Cornwall Council for health and safety advice.

Annette Miller advised that she would send a video of the banner to the Clerk to send on to Cornwall Council.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would ask Cornwall Council's Building Control to inspect the banner.

Levelling Up Fund

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council's Levelling Up Fund Working Group had met recently but so far a single project suitable for Levelling Up Funding for Newquay and St Austell has not been identified. Further discussions with Matthew Vowels are due to take place shortly. Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that Councillor French is the Town Council's representative on the Working Group.

Town Council update

The Clerk advised that at a recent Town Council meeting Mr McCardle's contract was renewed for a further six months and a presentation was received from Mr Sampson on the work of the Education Work Stream. As a result of the presentation, the Town Council has asked the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership to consider the recommendations and agree who should be responsible for taking each recommendation forward.

Councillor Brown and Mr Sampson reiterated the importance of keeping the recommendations contained within the Education report under review.

Councillor Brown further advised that he had offered to go through the Masterplan to try to identify non spatial projects/actions which it might be possible to progress.

ACTION: Town Clerk to provide the partnership with an opportunity to discuss the Education Report recommendations and actions necessary to implement some or all of them as appropriate.

ACTION: Councillor Brown to review the Masterplan for spatial projects/actions and report back to the partnership as appropriate.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has agreed to pump prime the roof top garden proposal in the sum of £25,000 and that this has been communicated to Cornwall Council which will hopefully put the bid in a stronger position.

Cornwall Council update

Helen Nicholson advised that Cornwall Council has now purchased buildings in White River Place for conversion into office space and Mark Ellis is still working on a visioning document for Carlyon Road.

Financial Update

The Clerk advised that £25,000 remains out of the original £140,000 and Cornwall Council has agreed that this can be used to match fund the roof top garden proposal. Cornwall Council has also earmarked a further £80,000 for St Austell which they would prefer to be used for capital works.

Any Other Business

The Clerk advised that 50 e-bikes will be delivered into the town during the week commencing 3rd April and 3 EV charging points (2 x fast and 1 x rapid) should be installed in Priory Car Park by the end of May.

Action: SG to send the partnership the map of locations of the Beryl Bikes.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th April 2023, 9.45am. Stable Block.