

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS**

Attendees:

Democratic: Malcolm Brown (MB), Anne Double (AD)

Voluntary/Community: Sandra Heyward (SH), Heather Batho (HB), Chris Sampson (CS), David Atkinson-Beaumont (DAB).

Business: Peter Moody (St Austell Print), Miles Lovegrove (Fluid Branding) (TEAMS).

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (TC), David Pooley (TC), Annette Miller (St Austell BID), Mark Ellis (CC) (TEAMS), and Sarah Scoltock (CC) (TEAMS), Bill McCardle (TC).

Consultants: Mr Jonathan Nicholls, Director of Hayhurst and Co Architects

Welcome

MB thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Democratic: Steve Double (MP), Tom French (TF), Crystal Pearce (CP)

Voluntary/Community: Dr Stewart Smith (NHS)

Business: Dale Lovatt (St Austell BID), Neil Woodward (South West Financial Services).

Advisors: Louise Wood (CC)

Minutes of the meeting dated 16th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting dated 16th September 2023 were approved.

Rooftop Garden Project

Councillor Brown welcomed Mr Nicholls to the meeting and invited him to provide a presentation on the work so far.

Mr Nichols advised that their work on RIBA Stage 1 was nearly complete and that a draft report will be issued next week. He advised that a number of people have been consulted during this first stage and that the land owner is supportive of the work so far and the access strategies proposed.

Mr Nicholls provided a comprehensive presentation depicting the location of the site, the consultation to date, the approach to the site and access strategies and the next steps of the project.

Members were particularly interested in the comprehensive access strategies outlined and favoured strategy five (Old Vicarage Stair and Vicarage Hill Square).

During the presentation the following was raised:

- The desire from partnership members to visit the site
- The importance of involving young people
- Who the end users of the space would be
- When the Stage 2 work will be completed

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had given him permission, in consultation with Councillor Brown, to allow Stage 2 of the project to proceed on condition that a satisfactory Stage 1 report is received.

ACTION: DP to ask Neil Woodward if he would be prepared to allow the partnership to visit the site and, if so, arrange a suitable date for this to take place.

ACTION: SG to send Mr Nicholls the video made by school children.

ACTION: DP to circulate the Stage 1 report to all partnership members when available.

Mr Nicholls advised that he was due to provide the Town Council with the same presentation later that evening.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the progress to date and based on the information provided so far, support access strategy 5 as outlined in the presentation.

Vacancy on the Partnership (Voluntary/Community Sector)

SH advised that so far, she has been unable to find a volunteer to sit on the partnership but will continue to make enquiries.

ACTION: SH to identify a voluntary/community sector volunteer to sit on the partnership.

Carlyon Road Working Group

ME provided an update on the master planning work taking place in connection with the area of land at Carlyon Road incorporating Trevarna Nursing Home, Polkyth Leisure Centre, The House, Mount Charles Band Room, Carlyon House, the Registrar's Office and the St Austell Healthcare surgery. An initial meeting had been well attended by stakeholders and a good level of contributions received. Mei Loci has been appointed by Cornwall Council to lead on the work and it is hoped that a vision or planning statement will be produced by Christmas. He added that topographical surveys of the site have been undertaken and the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 22nd November.

Arising from a question ME stressed that the timescales for development of the site depends on large scale funding and is further complicated by the expiry of the Health Centre lease in the short/medium term and the minimal years left in the leisure centre due to its age.

During discussion, Members welcomed the masterplanning project for Carlyon Road and its location in the town which would compliment the other proposed developments at Cornwall College and the Football Club.

Arising from a request at the first meeting of the Carlyon Road Working Group, it was **AGREED** to nominate Chris Sampson as a voluntary sector representative of the partnership on the Carlyon Road Working Group.

Action: SG to send ME Mr Sampson's contact details.

High Street Task Force

The Town Clerk (DP) advised that the report of the High Street Taskforce representative was still awaited.

In order to allow Mr Atkinson-Beaumont to leave the meeting, the Education Agenda item was brough forward.

Education Actions

Cornwall Education Learning Trust (CELT) to continue improving links with the St Austell Business Improvement District (BID) to further develop the school, skills, work strategy.

MB advised that he had written to Geoff Brown, Chair of CELT, and had received a positive reply. He had also talked with the CELT office and intended to speak to CS in more detail following the meeting.

ACTION: MB to liaise with CS and CELT about links to St Austell BID.

Establish a St Austell Skills and Education Group to bring together the key local players to better share knowledge and expertise. Also to better communicate training and educational opportunities that meet the needs of the town centre, businesses and the local community.

DAB advised that the College supported the creation of an education and skills forum for St Austell Bay (not just St Austell Town) to improve links between local businesses and schools/colleges. It was hoped to better understand the needs of businesses and to develop employment, apprenticeships and work experience placements and to help businesses to understand what education establishments are doing. It is anticipated that there will be 2-3 meetings per year and an early focus on industries which promote sustainability/green agenda and emerging industries such as Cornish Lithium.

MB asked for an update at the next meeting on youth councils. AD advised that she had information about the Cornwall Council Youth Council.

ACTION: AD to circulate information relating to the Cornwall Council Youth Council.

ACTION: DP to provide an update at the next meeting on the work by Young People Cornwall to develop a local youth council.

Levelling Up Fund

The Town Clerk advised that there was no news with regard to the next round of the Government's Levelling Up Fund.

Town Council update

DP advised that the Town Council is working on its budget for next year and would include a provision for the continuation of the regeneration officer post and a small amount to help progress the town centre projects. He stressed that the Town Council has limited funds for match funding or capital investment.

DP advised that a bid for funding for improvements to the Holy Trinity Church grounds was almost ready to submit and he is due to have a discussion with Cornwall Council officers shortly about the further tranche of Town Vitality Funding recently announced.

MB advised that the Town Council's Planning and Regeneration Committee had received a presentation on plans for improving the football club at Poltair which was very well received by councillors.

In response to a question, DAB advised that construction work at the College would take approximately 18 months to complete and it was hoped to break ground soon after Christmas.

Cornwall Council update (Mark Ellis)

SS advised that she had to leave for another meeting but confirmed that:

- Adult Education would move into White River Place in due course
- Some funds had been allocated from the Community Capacity Fund and limited funds remain
- The Community Levelling Up Fund still has funds available
- Additional Town Vitality Funds were being made available and administered by Vicky Hall
- There are no funds available from the A30 Link Road project to improve signage into Bodmin Road

PM stressed the need for suitable signage to be placed on the White River Valley road to discourage HGV's entering Bodmin Road/General Wolfe Corner. The need to allow lorries as far as Contec etc was acknowledged.

Action: SS to liaise with Highways to stress the partnership's strong desire that signage is put in place at the earliest opportunity to prevent HGV's entering Bodmin Road/General Wolfe Corner.

ME advised that Corserv had been asked to investigate traffic calming measures around the General Wolfe area. In response to a question, he advised that he did not have an update on the WRP office project.

Action: ME to provide the partnership with an update on the White River Place office project at the next meeting.

MB/DP outlined concerns expressed by Treverbyn Parish Council regarding traffic on the road from Stenalees roundabout to Bodmin Road following a number of fatal accidents and the potential to instal average speed cameras.

AD advised that a meeting has been set up in 2 weeks' time with the Police, Highways, David Stephens (Clerk to Treverbyn Parish Council), David Pooley and the MP to discuss the issues on this stretch of road.

ME advised that the Beryl Bikes scheme had been expanded to include St Austell Print and the ESAM building.

Financial Update

The Town Clerk advised that there was little change from the last update and that there would be more to report at the next meeting.

Any Other Business

None.

Date of Next Meeting

9.45am Tuesday 5th December 2023 at the Stable Block. A TEAMS link will be available.

Meeting closed at 11.45am