

St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership

Tuesday 9th July 2024 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS

Attendees:

Democratic: Councillor Malcolm Brown (MB) (St Austell Town Council), Councillor Anne Double (AD (Cornwall Councillor), (TEAMS).

Voluntary/Community: Heather Batho (HB), Sandra Heyward (SH), Chris Sampson (CS), David Hendry (DH).

Business: Peter Moody (PM) (St Austell Print).

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

Welcome

The Chair (PM) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies

Dale Lovatt, Neil Woodward, Tom French, Crystal Pearce, Jordan Rowse, David Atkinson-Beaumont, Miles Lovegrove, and Louise Wood.

Election of Vice-Chairs

It was **RESOLVED** to elect Councillor Malcolm Brown as the Vice-Chair (Democratic Sector) and Chris Sampson as the Vice-Chair (Voluntary Sector).

ACTION: It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the out-going MP for his support in recent years and to invite the newly elected MP to future meetings of the Partnership and to a meeting with the Chair and Town Clerk.

Minutes of the meeting dated 14th May 2024

The Clerk advised that in June the first Treveth Penwinnick Road Stakeholder meeting had taken place at the Stable Block and a "meet the developer" public event at the Cornwall Hotel.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting dated 14th May 2024 be approved.

Rooftop Garden Project

The Clerk advised that a report had been produced and submitted to Cornwall Council planners for Pre-Planning Application Advice. He undertook to circulate the report to partnership members. He emphasised that the designs were still a work in progress.

He advised that it is hoped that structural testing can be completed in August. In response to a question the Clerk confirmed that wooden decking was still preferred on large parts of the site.

PM explained that he had had a very productive meeting with the property owner who expressed support for the project.

The groups expressed a view that in order to gain public support a public consultation event outlining the proposals needs to take place.

ACTION: DP to circulate the report produced by Hayhurst Architects for Cornwall Council planners.

Town Centre Revitalisation

The Clerk advised as follows:

Poundland Banners – work is progressing and indicative designs are expected shortly. A photographic exhibition will be held in the town centre to help choose photographs for the banners.

Church Piazza – design work is nearing completion and there is a good degree of consensus with just one issue identified by the Royal British Legion around options for the war memorial area. The design will depict a complete refurbishment, but the funding available will only complete the piazza area.

HB expressed the church's support for the project and their hope that further funding can be found in due course to refurbish other areas of the church grounds. She highlighted a need to fence off the eastern side of the grounds where there is frequent anti-social behaviour.

Arising from a question, BM advised that bollards would be installed around the piazza area to discourage unauthorised parking.

High Cross Street – Due to capacity issues within the Town Council, Matthew Vowels from Cornwall Council has been appointed to project manage this feasibility study. Good owner interest.

Highways Review – Final specification and procurement details to be resolved with Cornwall Council but work should start soon. The main two areas to be reviewed is the road network around the Holy Trinity Church and General Wolfe.

Gateways Project – funding approved to redesign Duke Street public realm and look at feasibility of uplifting the viaduct as suggested in the High Street Task Force Report.

The group expressed their general support for the viaduct uplifting project although a concern was expressed that the viaduct uplifting might not meet with public approval amongst residents living nearby or increase footfall in the town centre. The Chair expressed a view that the project was not necessarily about increasing footfall rather than increasing pride in place and highlighting an historic area of the town.

The Town Council is due to hold an informal meeting this evening to discuss the High Street Task Force report and other potential projects contained in the Masterplan. Any recommendations from this meeting will be reported to a future Partnership meeting.

During discussion, the following was raised:

- The potential for Mencap and young people to be consulted on future projects;
- The need to identify future projects at an early stage
- The potential for more funding with a new Government in place

ACTION: DP to arrange a meeting with the Chair and Noah Law MP

ACTION: SG to circulate copies of the Church Piazza designs for Partnership members to review and send any comments/views to BMC.

Town Council update

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has recently approved acceptance of the grant for the Gateways project and a £25,000 grant has been secured from the OPCC for extra town centre security patrols. The Council has approved the acquisition of additional CCTV cameras for the town centre and increased monitoring hours.

He added that Nick Smith, Chief Executive of Young People Cornwall when speaking to the Town Council at a recent meeting advised that over 60 staff were now employed at the House.

The Clerk advised that a grant had been agreed for the Arts Centre to help with electrical and safety work and the Football Club redevelopment planning application would be considered by the Town Council next week. He also advised that the Market House directors were seeking letters of support for a grant application to repair the Town Hall roof and insulate the walls as part of a research project.

ACTION: DP to send a letter of support for the Market House on behalf of the Partnership.

Councillor Brown provided an update on work undertaken and decisions of the Town Council with regard to local bus service changes and the Arts Centre.

Cornwall Council update

Mark Ellis (ME) advised that:

Carlyon Road – masterplan has been finalised and consulted on within the working group. The plan should be signed off in the autumn. There are currently talks taking place regarding the future of Carlyon House which could impact on the wider site.

White River Place – work has mobilised on the new Cornwall Council office development with a target completion date of May 2025.

General Wolfe – CORMAC has produced a report suggesting traffic calming/road layout improvements which has yet to be reviewed. CIL funding has been identified to help deliver improvements. This work should link in with the review of roads around the Church and Fore Street.

PM reiterated the urgent need for heavy goods vehicles to be discouraged from driving down Bodmin Road onto General Wolfe corner.

No progress has been made with the building works which were intended to deliver 13 flats for homeless families. Conversations are ongoing between Cornwall Council and Corserv Ltd on this issue.

Partnership Members expressed their concern about the negative impact of the derelict General Wolfe building and its lack of suitability for family housing. A discussion took place with regard to how the General Wolfe project could be improved perhaps taking in Globe Yard. The view was expressed that the proposals for the General Wolfe in the Masterplan should be revisited.

DP advised that the Town Council has sent a letter to Kate Kennally, Chief Executive of Cornwall Council, expressing the Town Council's concern about the state of the building and the impact it is having on the Police, BID and Town Council resources. To date, a reply has not been received.

ACTION: PM/DP to lobby Cornwall Council to find a positive solution for this site.

Sarah Scoltock (SS) advised that the next Community Area Partnership (CAP) meeting was at 6.00pm on the 24th July 2024 at Par and all were welcome. The October meeting would be at the House, the home of Young People Cornwall.

SS advised that a project to produce an improvement plan for the White River catchment area was progressing and a contract would be awarded shortly. Some work had been done with the residents of College Green with regard to recycling, waste and fire awareness.

Financial Update

DP advised that all projects were within budget.

Any Other Business

DP advised that an initial meeting had taken place with Treveth to discuss proposals for the Penwinnick Road site. The area at the lower end of the site is a designated flood plain and cannot now be developed. The number of housing units will be lower than in the planning brief (possibly circa 100). Thought is being given to commercial and community facilities, the access for Pondhu School and uses for Pondhu House. The next meeting will be early September.

A Skills Forum Event took place on 4th June 2024 and was a success with representatives from Imerys, British Lithium and others present. PM and HB attended on behalf of the partnership.

DP advised that the schools within the CELT Multi-academy trust were developing a Cradle to Career initiative and that he and CS would be attending the initial meeting. This might link into the work of the Skills Forum. HB advised that she would be attending.

SH advised that the Torchlight Carnival Committee had now folded and the money held had been distributed to 6 charities.

Future Meeting Dates

Tuesday 10th September 2024.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.