

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 9.45am – Stable Block/TEAMS**

**Attendees:**

Democratic: Councillor Malcolm Brown (MB) (St Austell Town Council), Councillor Tom French (TF) (St Austell Town Council), Councillor Anne Double (AD) (Cornwall Councillor), Noah Law MP.

Voluntary/Community: Heather Batho (HB), Sandra Heyward (SH), David Hendry (DH), Dale Lovatt (DL).

Business: Peter Moody (PM) (St Austell Print), Neil Woodward.

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (TC), David Pooley (TC), Bill McCardle (TC), Annette Miller (BID).

**Welcome**

The Chair (PM) welcomed Noah Law MP to the meeting and invited group members to introduce themselves for the benefit of the MP.

**Apologies**

Councillor Crystal Pearce, Councillor Jordan Rowse, David Atkinson-Beaumont, Chris Sampson, Miles Lovegrove, Sarah Scoltock, Mark Ellis and Louise Wood.

**Noah Law MP**

The Chair invited Noah Law MP to speak.

Mr Law introduced his Assistant Katie and advised that he is planning to put some time and resource into St Austell town centre. He advised that he has read the Town Centre Masterplan with interest and that he is working out his own priorities for the town centre which could differ from those identified by the partnership.

**Minutes of the meeting dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes dated 9<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

**Rooftop Garden Project**

The Town Clerk advised that the pre-planning advice has been received and is generally positive. A slight issue has been identified with regard to a planning application currently going through the planning process which could present overlooking issues.

The Town Clerk advised that the structural testing did not go ahead as the Town Council was advised by its Solicitor not to sign the indemnity in the form requested by the landlord.

The final report will be based on the building regulations at the time of the car park's construction and should be available by the end of the year.

In answer to a question, the Clerk confirmed that funding for the roof top garden project was for a feasibility study not delivery of the project.

During discussion, disappointment was expressed that the structural testing did not take place and that the final report will not be a fully worked up, ready to go project as originally anticipated.

The Clerk advised that the final report will be professionally put together and of huge benefit to a potential investor in the property should large scale funding become available. He added that even if the structural testing had been carried out, any potential investor would more than likely want to carry out their own testing and design works.

It was **AGREED** that Mr Jon Nicholls from Hayhurst should be invited to speak to the Partnership before the report is finalised at the end of the year.

**ACTION: SG to invite Mr Nicholls to the next meeting.**

### **Town Centre Revitalisation**

#### *Poundland Banners*

A public exhibition of the two designs will be held in October/November. A selection of photographs will also be on display for the public to choose which ones they would like to see on the banner. Only scenery/places will be on the banner. The timescale for erection of the new banner is January/February.

The Clerk provided images of the two designs to the partnership. During discussion, the majority agreed that the boxes design was the preferred design but acknowledged that the public would have the final vote.

The Clerk advised that volunteers from the partnership would be needed to help run the exhibition. Councillor Brown, Councillor Double and Annette Miller volunteered to help.

#### *Church Piazza*

HB advised that the public consultation had been positive, and that listed building consent is being obtained for phase 1 of the works. The tendering process is underway with a view to the works starting in the new year. She stressed that the piazza (phase 1) only goes as far as the main gates and that she has started to look for funding to complete the project. Samples of the granite and bound granite to be used were passed around to the group.

*\*\*Councillor Double left the meeting\*\**

### *High Cross Street*

The Clerk advised that Matthew Vowels is leading on this project and regular meetings are being held with stakeholders, including Cornwall College and Eden to assess the demand for student accommodation on the site.

*\*\*Noah Law MP left the meeting\*\**

### *Highways Review*

No progress has been made with this project.

**ACTION: DP to chase Mark Ellis on timescales.**

### *Duke Street*

A briefing document that looks at scope and opportunities is being produced for review by the partnership in due course.

### *Viaduct*

A visual audit of the area carried out by Mike Hawes, Town Clerk and Bill McCardle identified very limited scope and community benefit for the uplighting of the viaduct. As a result, Cornwall Council has agreed to divert the monies to the Piazza Project for an enhanced lighting scheme. A short report will be delivered to demonstrate the unviability of the viaduct lighting proposal.

## **Town Council update**

### *Penwinnick Road*

A public consultation event was held at the childrens centre recently which exhibited a proposal for 99 units on the site, a shop, café and open space. It is anticipated that a planning application will come forward around Christmas time.

### *Blantyre site*

Approximately 70 extra care units are proposed for the Blantyre site with a public consultation due to take place, possibly at the Stable Block on 12<sup>th</sup> November. It is not clear at the present time, who will run the care facility.

### *General Wolfe*

The Town Council has written to Phil Mason at Cornwall Council expressing their strong displeasure that the derelict building remains earmarked as homeless accommodation.

**ACTION: SG to send a copy of the Town Council's letter and reply from Mr Mason to the partnership.**

**ACTION: Peter Moody to try to set up a meeting with Phil Mason to discuss the General Wolfe building.**

ASB

Hotspot funding in the sum of £25,000 has been provided to the BID from the OPCC for extra security patrols in ASB hotspot areas identified by the Police. This funding is due to end in January 2025.

*Rob Bosworth*

The Clerk advised that Rob Bosworth is keen to assist the partnership with their place shaping aspirations and has pledged to re-visit the 6<sup>th</sup> form/A level provision in the town.

**ACTION: SG to invite Mr Bosworth to future Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership meetings.**

MB advised that the Town Council is likely to freeze car parking charges for the forthcoming financial year and has agreed to free parking from 12pm onwards for the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas.

The Planning and Regeneration Committee considered a consultation on the proposed changes to the planning system and a comprehensive response has been submitted to the Government.

### **Cornwall Council update**

In the absence of a Cornwall Council representative at the meeting the Clerk advised that Cornwall Council is in negotiations for Carlyon House and that the White River Place offices appeared to be progressing well.

**ACTION: The Town Clerk to ask Cornwall Council's Property Team for an update on the negotiations and timescales for the re-occupation of Carlyon House once Cornwall Council staff transfer to White River Place.**

### **Financial Update**

The Clerk referred to a financial summary which had been circulated. He advised that projects were progressing reasonably and within the approved budgets. The Town Council was funding the cost of the Regeneration Officer and in addition was contributing approximately £50,000 to the various projects in the pipeline.

### **Any Other Business**

None

### **Future Meeting Dates**

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 9.45am at the Stable Block.

**ACTION: SG to invite Jonathan Nicholls, Hayhurst to the meeting.**

The meeting closed at 11.15am.