

St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 21st February 2023 at 9.45am - TEAMS

Attendees:

Democratic: Malcolm Brown (TC), Deborah George (TC) Crystal Pearce (TC)

Voluntary/Community: Sandra Heyward (Market House), Chris Sampson (Community), Dale Lovatt (Business Improvement District), Laetitia Mayne (Cornwall College).

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

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (TC), Bill McCardle (TC), David Pooley (TC), Caitlin Lord (CC)

Also in attendance: Mike Hawes, Mei Loci.

Welcome

David Pooley, Town Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for nominations for Chair.

Election of Chair

The Town Clerk referred to the Terms of Reference and the need to consider the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for the next 12 months.

A proposer and seconder was received for Councillor Brown.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Brown be elected Chair for the next 12 months.

Election of Vice-Chairs

A proposer and seconder was received for Peter Moody.

It was **RESOLVED** that Peter Moody be re-elected Vice-Chair for the next 12 months.

A proposer and seconder was received for Sandra Heyward.

It was **RESOLVED** that Sandra Heyward be elected Vice-Chair for the next 12 months.

Councillor Brown thanked the partnership for their support and thanked Bill McCardle and Sandra in particular for their hard work and advice.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Democratic: Steve Double (MP), Jordan Rowse (CC), Richard Pears (CC), Anne Double (CC)

Voluntary/Community: Rev Howard Flint (Holy Trinity), David Atkinson-Beaumont (Cornwall College), Jonathan Aberdeen (St Austell Arts Centre), Dr Stewart Smith (NHS)

Business: Mark Lewis, John Watkins (White River Place), Miles Lovegrove (Fluid Branding).

Advisors: Mark Ellis (CC), Louise Wood (CC), Bill McCardle (TC)

Minutes of the meeting dated 20th December 2022

The minutes of the meeting dated 20th December 2022 were accepted as a correct record.

Masterplan

The Town Clerk advised that a small number of copies of the Masterplan have been printed up and can be collected from the office should members like a hard copy. He added that a low resolution version is on the Town Council's website and thanked Mr Hawes for his excellent work. The document has been submitted as required to Cornwall Council with positive feedback from Senior Officers.

Good Growth Funding Bids

The Town Clerk advised that Good Growth Funding Bids have been submitted to Cornwall Council for the Poundland Banner, Old Vicarage Place and a Town Centre Events Programme the outcome of which is likely to be known at the end of the month.

During discussion the following issues were raised:

- The complexity of the grant application forms and criteria
- Publicity for town centre events
- Community Area Partnership funding bids

Levelling Up Fund

The Town Clerk advised that Phase 3 of Levelling Up Funding is expected to be announced by the Government during the summer and that Cornwall Council has set up a working group to consider projects that might benefit St Austell and Newquay. Councillor French is representing the Town Council on this group.

The Town Clerk updated the partnership on the Metro Project and the key focus of the spending within the project. He advised that St Austell would not benefit greatly from the project as the majority of spend would be on the stations in Falmouth and Newquay.

Town Council update

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council had been extremely supportive of the Town Centre Revitalisation Project when setting its budget and had earmarked an extra £50,000 in its budget for 2023/24 to support the project. It is hoped that this will help pump prime or match fund grants from other sources such as the Good Growth Fund and/or help pay for resource to manage projects.

DP advised the group that a grant of £78,000 has been approved by Cornwall Council from its Community Infrastructure Levy fund for improvements to Bethel Park. The Town Council would be matching this sum and managing a significant park improvement scheme with completion in the summer of 2023.

DP highlighted the planting schemes across the town including a new one at Trehiddle roundabout which were part of the wider plans to increase pride in place in St Austell.

In response to a question DP explained that the works outside the Penwinnick Road office block were drainage and sewer works for the Wainhomes development at Trehiddle.

Cornwall Council – Property Rationalisation Update

DP shared a presentation that the Town Council had received from Cornwall Council recently. The presentation included the latest timescales for the demolition of the Penwinnick Road offices and the plans for the proposed new offices in White River Place. He advised that the future of the Carlyon Road site was being considered and that Mark Ellis was proposing some master planning work in due course. CL circulated a survey about the new office in WRP.

Cornwall Council – General Update

Cornwall Council's Townscape Heritage Scheme is nearing completion and has made some very good improvements to key buildings in the town centre. CL circulated a survey regarding this project. DP suggested that responses requesting further schemes of this type would be helpful. CL drew attention to the St Austell app which has been developed as part of the Townscape Heritage project and encouraged the take-up of advertising space on the app. The Beryl Bikes e-bike scheme should be rolled out in March with one site being in Priory Car Park.

Financial Update

DP advised that the improvement plan had been produced within budget and because there was a small underspend he had asked the consultant (MH) to seek pre-planning advice for:

- The roof-top garden at Old Vicarage Place
- The new Fore Street access through the Burtons/Dorothy Perkins store
- Changes to the Poundland building
- Student accommodation in High Cross Street

Any Other Business

CS reminded the Group that there had been a promise to present the education and other volunteer reports to the Town Council. DP/SG confirmed that this was on the agenda for the Town Council meeting on the 20th March 2023.

LM invited the Group to attend the College to see the plans for the new building and to view the app and work undertaken by students in connection with the town centre improvement plan.

ACTION: SG to try to arrange the next meeting at the College.

The frequency and timing of meetings was discussed. It was agreed to meet monthly at 9.45 on the last Tuesday of each month subject to it not clashing with Cornwall Council meetings.

Date of Next Meeting

9.45am Tuesday 28th March 2023 (location to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 11.03am.