

St Austell Revitalisation Partnership:

Date: 21 April 2021

Locations: Via TEAMS

Time: 9.30am

Chaired by James Staughton

Attendees:

Jackie Bull (Cllr), Malcolm Brown (Cllr), Richard Pears (Cllr), Tim Styles (Cllr), M Hawes (Mei Loci), Ann-Marie Rogers (Ocean Housing), Chris Sampson (Community), James Staughton (SABEF), Mark Lewis (Lewis Estate Agents), Peter Moody (St Austell Printing Company), Mark Williams (WTW Cinemas), Dale Lovatt (Business Improvement District), Anne Double (MP sub), Helen Nicholson (CC), David Pooley (Town Council), Caitlin Murray (CC), Mark Ellis (CC), Helen Bartell (CC).

Apologies: Louise Wood (CC), Rachel Smith (CC), Tom French (Cllr), Rev Howard Flint (Community), Grant Macdonald (Market House), Anne Chapman (SABEF), Sandra Heyward (Cllr), Kym O'Mara (Cornwall College), Sara Gwilliams (Town Council), Tamsin Thomas (CC).

1. Welcome – Attendees, advisors, apologies

JS welcomed everyone and noted apologies (as above).

2. Review Notes of previous meeting & Actions

The Minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed for accuracy.

Papers are now able to be transferred to the SABEF website **(JS)**.

ME to liaise with LW re Franchising of pop-ups **(ME)**.

HN still waiting for response from Kneehigh **(HN)**.

HF confirmed to JS that the Church is become multifaceted to have the ability to become a venue for all sorts of things, including a theatre.

Action: can everyone please check they have access to the meeting papers.

RS to add a link for everyone to check **(RS)**.

Please check name spelling is correct for Ann-Marie Rogers **(RS)**.

JB told the meeting that the review of council assets and properties is going to make a big difference to the group and what it does and asked how this will be fed into the group. JS is concerned about what might happen when White River Place sells. LW to give an update on this **(LW)**.

JS reviewed the action log.

3. Town Centre Vitality Fund application

DP oversaw the application and submitted to CC on 13th April. ME confirmed that the bid for a total sum of £150k was reviewed at the Service Panel on 14th April and discussed at the CC's Growth & Development Board on 20th April. Final approvals by the Strategic Director and Portfolio Holder are expected on 26th April following which, if approved, a letter will be issued to the Town Council formally offering the grant funding.

4. Next Steps for delivery of the Vitality Fund application

MH showed a presentation on the next steps and ran through the 9 key points from the bid. The 9 sub projects must be seen as a component parts of a single outcome rather than individual outcomes.

1. Need to review previous historic and planned work – strategies, reports and policy
2. Undertake an inclusivity and accessibility review
3. Community engagement and participation
4. Building local place shaping capacity
5. Develop and establish clear standards, principles and projects for St Austell Town Centre to deliver signage and way marking
6. Develop concepts and proposals to encourage more active transport in and around the town centre
7. Develop proposals for establishing educational activities within the town centre
8. Developing proposals to increase and improve the leisure offer
9. Identifying and establishing viable business cases for key town centre properties that can provide prime opportunities for change and re-purposing

MH's presentation to be circulated with the minutes **(HB)**.

JS is aware of the Town Council procurement rules to use as guidelines to move forward.

One person will be needed to champion each of these 9 points to share the workload and oversee.

DP suggested that addressing the capacity issue early is key. ME agreed that a co-ordination role is absolutely vital. Building local capacity should be within the community itself and use the opportunity with the engagement activities that have already been outlined. Unsure at this stage who would employ this person but ME confirmed that CC would be able to help with the Role Profile for this role **(ME)**. HN asked if there was a need for writing applications for bids? JS asked if CC could second someone with these skills and knowledge.

JS will circulate Phase 2 of SABEF's Austell Project Masterplan **(JS)**.

There are lots of operational decisions to be made, and a number of names were suggested that may be interested in this work.

MB asked how these roles would be advertised, what are we advertising for and who is going to make the appointment? The process needs to be clear. It was noted that CC will be working on an update to the Local Plan and that this may be started soon after the election. MB suggested a small operation group could be set up to agree a way forward. Discuss at next meeting in May **(RS)**.

HN mentioned that work is going on within the Transport team to produce a walking/cycling strategy for St Austell.

MW, DL & A-MR all agreed that more leisure facilities are needed in St Austell, e.g. nice restaurants, VR centre, something for children and parents, etc.

5. Proposal for Partnership Board membership

Anne Chapman has confirmed to JS that the next meeting in May will be her last meeting.

The Board still needs a healthcare representative **(JS)**.

JS asked for comments on constituents. The group were all happy with the membership proposal – 3 representatives from each sector of Business, Voluntary and Community and Democratic plus the MP of the day.

The Town Council had received a request to make meetings open to the public. The minutes are publicly available and will be available at

<https://www.staustell.co.uk/local/town-revitalisation/>

There are regular reports to St Austell TC and 3 town councillors are on the partnership Board. It was agreed not to open the meeting to the public.

Reference to meetings not being public as well as where the agendas and minutes of meetings will be available to access should be amended in the ToR **(RS)**.

6. Overview of other funding opportunities

CM confirmed that they are working on a more detailed summary for guidance on levelling up fund and welcoming back fund. JS asked if there are any bids with closing dates approaching. CM confirmed that the Levelling up fund deadline is June. AD confirmed that it can be one big bid but can have multiple projects.

CS asked for a chart listing what principle funding opportunities are, with bid funding opportunities and closing dates listed **(CM)**.

7. Any Other Business

PM notified the meeting that the SABEF website (www.staustell.co.uk) launched 2 weeks ago with lots of information about the town.

8. The next meeting was agreed for 18th May 2021 at 9.00am (MS Teams)