

## **St Austell Revitalisation Partnership:**

Date: 4 March 2021

Locations: MS Teams

Time: 9.30am

Chaired by James Staughton

### **Attendees:**

Malcolm Brown (Cllr), Jackie Bull (Cllr), Anne Chapman (SABEF), Anne Double (MP sub), Tom French (Cllr), Rev Howard Flint (Community), Sandra Heyward (Cllr), Richard Hurst (White River Place), Grant Macdonald (Market House), Peter Moody (SABEF), Kym O'Mara (Cornwall College), Richard Pears (Cllr), Chris Sampson (Community), James Staughton (SABEF), Tim Styles (Cllr), Mark Lewis (Lewis Estate Agents), Ann-Marie Rogers (Ocean Housing).

**Advisors:** Mark Ellis (CC), Helen Nicholson (CC), David Pooley (Town Council), Caitlin Murray (CC), Louise Wood (CC), Tamsin Thomas (CC), Helen Bartell (minutes CC), Michael Hawes (Mei Loci)

**Apologies:** Dale Lovatt (BID), Mark Williams (WTW Cinemas), Sara Gwilliams (Town Council), Rachel Smith (CC)

### **1. Welcome – Attendees, advisors, apologies**

As above. JS also welcomed Mike Hawes to the meeting, who will be presenting at Item 4.

### **2. Review Notes of previous meeting & Action Log**

The minutes were agreed unanimously.

Councillor Brown indicated that a sentence doesn't read right at the bottom on Page 2. *"Therefore, it was agreed that the ToR should be updated to reflect that it is not envisaged this group would not receive funding directing and therefore would not be contracting directly."*

Can this be simplified for the minutes. **(RS)**

JS ran through the Action Log to ensure all had been completed.

Sandra Heywood and Kym O'Mara have been put forward as Vice Chairs and all were in favour.

Declaration of interest form - All need to complete 2 pages and return to Mark Ellis.

**ACTION:** Everyone to complete the 'Individual Declaration' and the 'Individual Register of Interest Form' and return them both to Mark Ellis.

### **3. Governance Matters – Terms of Reference, Code of Conduct & Election of Vice Chairman**

The 'Aim' within the Terms of Reference document was unanimously supported.

It was agreed to use the following sentence in the Minutes:

*"It is important to note that it is not currently envisaged that the Partnership will be contracting for services directly".*

Chris Sampson pointed out that there was a minor typo in the 7<sup>th</sup> bullet point under Role. An 's' needs to be added after 'project'

- *To establish task and finish groups, as appropriate, to progress priority projects where required and where projects are not being led by lead organisations.*

Code of Conduct and conflict of interest policy – Chair and Vice Chairs to proceed to sign the document. Unanimous agreement.

Election of Vice Chairman – this was done under the Actions above.

### **4. Facilitated Workshop**

JS introduced Michael Hawes who is a Master Planner for the Austell project working with Sabef.

MH showed a presentation including a video demonstrating the huge amount of work that has been produced in St Austell.

This Workshop will discuss what the current opportunities are in relation to St Austell. JS emphasised that the primary focus is around encouraging town centre vitality and footfall.

MH ran through what priorities have previously been discussed and then asked the group to put through ideas and thoughts which are relevant to St Austell Town Centre.

The meeting chat will be used for thoughts and ideas and answers to the following questions. Helen Bartell will capture and circulate with the minutes.

- Q1, if there are vacant and underused premises, what are they and what could these be used for that may address contemporary needs and cultural change?
- Q2, How do we encourage people to come to work in the town centre?
- Q3, Increasing footfall within the town centre has been identified as a key element of the early work developed as part of the Austell Project by creating exciting and engaging interventions - how else can we encourage this increase in the pedestrian use in the town centre?
- Q4, Are whole buildings vacant, or are they partially vacant? If partially vacant how can we encourage the more efficient use of space? Is there opportunity for a greater mix of uses and facilities?
- Q5, How can we encourage people to stay and to live in the town? Is there opportunity for the conversion of existing town centre buildings to residential use? What would the benefits be?
- Q6, How is the public realm functioning at present? Does it cater for a variety of needs and if not, how can this be addressed and improved?
- Q7, Is the town accessible? How can this be improved?
- Q8, Should St Austell provide accommodation for higher level/degree level students? If so, how could this be achieved?

HB will circulate MH's presentation with the Minutes.

JS thanked MH for his presentation.

An extra meeting is scheduled on 17<sup>th</sup> March. Before that meeting, all the comments will be put together for further discussion.

## 5. **Town Centre Revitalisation Fund & Strategic Fund Discussion**

Caitlin Murray updated the group on the Town Centre Revitalisation Fund.

The Town Vitality Allocation is a £1million bidding process for revenue opportunities only.

The Strategically Targeted fund is for £425,000 and is allocated to Bodmin, St Austell and Liskeard. ME will be taking a paper to the Directorate Leadership Team to agree the projects that will be taken forward.

## 6. **Next Steps = Task and Finish Group(s)**

KO, SH & JS (plus advisors) to form a small Task and Finish Group to get a paper to the Council over the coming days. DP to join the Task and Finish Group on behalf of the Town Council.

ME will make a start on filling out the forms and then meet with the Task and Finish Group to look at finalising the forms. HN to help ME too. If anyone else would like to join the Group, then let JS know.

LW suggested making a bid to the Town Vitality bid first as that pot is open at the moment for bidding. St Austell already have a share of the strategic pot.

**Action:** Dale Lovatt and Mark Williams should be given an opportunity to give their ideas too.

## 7. **Any other Business**

LW advised that there are new funding opportunities announced in the budget yesterday. There is a Levelling Up fund (up to £20 Million) and Cornwall Council falls into Priority 2. CC can make a bid (per MP's constituency).

AD advised that the Member of Parliament will be willing to provide guidance and support in relation to bids being prepared in the constituency and asked to be kept in the loop.

**Action:** LW to circulate the link for the Levelling Up fund for further discussion at the next meeting. See link below.

[Levelling Up Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/levelling-up-fund-prospectus)

The Austell Project is concluding a bid for £4.5m ask for the next 3-5 years.

#### **8. Schedule of Future Meetings**

The schedule of meetings circulated in advance with the papers was reviewed and agreed. JS noted that he can't Chair the 22<sup>nd</sup> September meeting and that he will liaise with the Vice Chairs to cover this meeting.

#### **9. Meeting Close**

Richard Hurst told the meeting that he is stepping down as Manager of White River Place and therefore will be leaving this group following this meeting. JS thanked Richard for all of the fantastic work he has done for St Austell's community over the past 7 years, and everyone is extremely grateful.