

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership**  
**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 2pm**  
**TEAMS**

**Attendees:**

Democratic: - Richard Pears (CC), Deborah George (TC), Malcolm Brown (TC),

Voluntary/Community: Sandra Heyward (Market House) (CHAIR), Chris Sampson (Community), Rev Howard Flint (Holy Trinity Church).

Business: Dale Lovatt (Business Improvement District), Neil Woodward (South West Financial Services), Mark Lewis (Lewis Estate Agents), Alan Lawler (NHS).

Advisors: Steve Facer (CC), Rachel Galbraith (CC), Sara Gwilliams (TC); Caitlin Lord (CC), Bill McCardle (TC), David Pooley (TC).

Also in attendance: Mike Hawes, Mei Loci

**Welcome**

Sandra Heyward (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Crystal Pearce (TC), Dr Stewart Smith (NHS), Peter Moody (St Austell Print), John Watkins (Running Hare Investment Management), Rachel Smith (CC), Steve Double (MP), Jordan Rowse (CC), Kym O'Mara (Cornwall College, St Austell), Louise Wood (CC), Miles Lovegrove (Fluid Branding), Anne Double (CC), Ann-Marie Rogers (Ocean) and Mark Ellis (CC).

Rachel Galbraith (CC) advised that she might have to leave the meeting early.

**Minutes of the meeting dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The minutes of the meeting dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 were accepted as a correct record.

**Project Update (BM/DP)**

*Appointment of consultants*

Bill McCardle advised that 7 tenders were received and that the interview panel comprising Sandra Heyward (Chair), Peter Moody (Vice-Chair), Malcolm Brown (Vice-Chair) and Tom French (Town Council representative) had, through a thorough legal and technical selection process, selected 3 consultancy firms for interview on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May. He advised that all three tenders and presentations were to a very high standard and the panel felt that Mei Loci's bid was the strongest overall and their local knowledge of the area was an advantage over the other 2 consultancy firms.

Both Sandra Heyward and Malcolm Brown confirmed that the process had been very thorough and that the panel had agreed that Mei Loci should be awarded the contract.

During a robust discussion, the Partnership felt that a separate meeting should be arranged with Mei Loci in order to gain a better understanding of their skills and experience in Masterplanning work.

#### *Appointment of events contractors*

David Pooley advised that the Town Council had agreed to enter into a contract with St Austell BID for up to £15,000 for the delivery of events over the next 4-5 months and that if successful the Council will let a further contract for a similar sum of money. He added that the Town Council felt that the BID was the best placed organisation to assist with the required capacity building to provide the town with a sustainable year round events programme.

#### *Town Council*

David Pooley advised that the Town Council has concerns with regard to the Cornwall Council Penwinnick Road Planning Statement and has produced a paper outlining councillors' concerns and observations for consideration by Cornwall Council. Malcolm Brown added that both the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Planning and Regeneration Committee had deep concerns about the Planning Statement and that both Committees will be playing an active role in discussing the various issues in due course.

#### **Mr Mike Hawes**

Mr Hawes introduced himself as a Director of Mei Loci and advised that they are Landscape Architects, specialising in urban regeneration. He named the specialist consultants that he works with and outlined some projects that he had been involved in and confirmed that he would provide more detail on his approach to the Masterplanning work for St Austell town centre and the required outputs at the meeting to be arranged.

**Action: Bill McCardle/David Pooley to arrange a meeting of the Partnership with Mei Loci, if possible, before the next Partnership Meeting scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022.**

#### **Cornwall Council – Levelling Up Fund**

Steve Facer advised that the Lead Officer at Cornwall Council for the Levelling Up Fund Project is Emily Kent and that consultants called Inner Circle have been appointed to assist with the working up of a suitable bid. He advised that there are no further details at the present time other than that projects need to be ready to start quickly and be completed by 2025.

In answer to a question, Mr Facer confirmed that if St Austell were successful in a bid to the levelling up fund, that would bar future bids.

### **Voluntary/Community Sector Vacancy (Cornwall College)**

Sandra Heyward advised that Kim O'Mara has advised of her resignation from Cornwall College and has suggested that her replacement, Mr David Atkinson-Beaumont, who is due to join the college on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022 is invited to join the Partnership. David Pooley added that Mr Atkinson-Beaumont is currently with Truro-Penwith College and he is keen for the college to remain involved with the partnership.

Mr Howard Flint, Mr Alan Lawler, Mr Chris Sampson and Sandra Heyward all confirmed that they would like to invite Mr Atkinson-Beaumont to the Partnership.

It was **RESOVLED** that Mr Atkinson-Beaumont should be invited to join the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership.

### **Financial Update**

The Town Clerk advised that funding would start to be allocated shortly, particularly now that the consultants have been appointed and £30,000 has been earmarked for the BID for events/engagement work. He advised that an income and expenditure account will be produced for future meetings to show any monies expended.

### **Any Other Business**

Chris Sampson suggested that Mr Atkinson-Beaumont should be invited to join the partnership meetings before his official August appointment date to the college. Members felt that this was a good idea and that he could be invited along as a guest between now and his official start date in August.

**Action: Bill McCardle/David Pooley to invite Mr Atkinson-Beaumont to the next Partnership meeting.**

### **Date of Next Meetings**

The next meeting was noted as Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June, 9.30am at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm