

**St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership
Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 9.45am**

St Austell Town Council Offices, The Stable Block, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP and TEAMS

Attendees:

Democratic: Anne Double (CC) **(TEAMS)**, Crystal Pearce (TC) **(TEAMS)**, Richard Pears (CC) **(TEAMS)**, Deborah George (TC) **(TEAMS)**.

Voluntary/Community: Sandra Heyward (Market House) (CHAIR), Chris Sampson (Community), Rev Howard Flint (Holy Trinity Church), Jonathan Aberdeen (St Austell Arts Centre)

Business: Neil Woodward (South-West Financial Services), Peter Moody (St Austell Print), Mark Lewis (Lewis Estate Agents)

Advisors: Sara Gwilliams (TC); Bill McCardle (TC), David Pooley (TC), Caitlin Lord (CC) **(TEAMS)**, Mark Ellis (CC) **(TEAMS)**, Louise Wood (CC) **(TEAMS)**, Steve Facer (CC) **(TEAMS)**.

Also in attendance: Mike Hawes, Mei Loci and Annette Miller (St Austell BID) (Standing in for Dave Lovatt).

Welcome

Sandra Heyward (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from: Malcolm Brown (TC), Dr Stewart Smith (NHS), Steve Double (MP), Jordan Rowse (CC), John Watkins (White River Place), Miles Lovegrove (Fluid Branding), David Atkinson-Beaumont (Cornwall College), Dale Lovatt (Business Improvement District).

Minutes of the meeting dated 25th October 2022

The minutes of the meeting dated 25th October 2022 were accepted as a correct record.

Actions from the minutes dated 25th October 2022

None that would not be covered within the agenda.

St Austell Revitalisation Plan 2022

Mr Hawes advised that the Masterplan is nearing completion and is currently in three parts:

- Full document (250 pages),
- Summary document (20 pages)

- Appendices (700 pages).

He referred the partnership to the summary document circulated before the meeting and highlighted the key areas. During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- The description and status of project 25
- The progress of the refurbishment of the water fountain at Holy Trinity Church
- The need to aim for large scale funding to complete all the projects
- The need to keep Bodmin Road free of large lorries

The Town Clerk advised that the only funding available at the present time is the Good Growth Funding administered by Cornwall Council but unfortunately due to the way that it has been set up will not fund all the projects. There are different funding streams within the Good Growth Fund, some of which are capital, some are revenue and some are a mixture of capital and revenue. He advised that in due course there might be large scale funding such as the Government's Levelling Up Fund that might fund large capital projects.

Mr Hawes stressed the need for the projects to be shown in stages.

Revitalisation Project Next Steps

Good Growth Funding BIDS/Next Steps and other funding opportunities

The Town Clerk advised that 4 funding streams are open under the Good Growth Fund:

1. *Cultural Events and Talent Programme £4.4m total budget for Cornwall (only revenue)*

It is proposed that St Austell BID and Studio 4 submit a joint application to this fund for funding for an Events Manager and a programme of events for the December round of applications.

2. *Culture/Heritage-led regeneration and skills £10.8m total budget for Cornwall (capital and revenue)*

It is proposed that a funding bid for the General Wolfe Project could be submitted to this fund. Probably in the March round of applications.

3. *Strategic business, enterprise and research and development infrastructure £18.7m total budget for Cornwall (mainly capital)*

No projects identified at the present time that would fit the criteria for this funding stream.

4. *Town, rural and coastal high street development and skills programme total budget for Cornwall £4.4m (capital and revenue)*

It is proposed that funding bids for the banner and projection and sound system for Aylmer Square and feasibility work in relation to Old Vicarage Place car park re-purpose into "Winter Garden" be submitted in the December round of applications.

A team of officers have been appointed at Cornwall Council to assist with the Good Growth Applications, but to date there has been limited capacity to provide guidance. Hopefully, this will improve as the team establishes. He added that the forms for each of the funding streams are very complex and resource intensive to complete.

Mark Ellis advised that Steve Facer is working closely with the Good Growth Team and should be able to provide some guidance in due course once the team is established.

The Town Clerk added that each application has to demonstrate pump priming/match funding and stressed that the Town Council's limited resources will not be able to provide funding for all the projects identified.

Output reports

Mr McCardle advised that he is in receipt of 3 Output reports:

- Output 2 Inclusivity
- Output 3 Events and Engagement
- Output 4 Education Provision

Chris Sampson provided an update on the Education report and the need to keep young people engaged. The report highlighted the potential for a Young Persons Forum, possibly overseen by the Town Council and the continuation of digital inclusion sessions at the library. Adult education, pre-school nursery provision and student accommodation were all highlighted as a need for the town. Mr Sampson outlined the background with regard to the lack of A level/6th form provision in the town and the lack of a critical mass to make this provision sustainable. All three reports will be circulated to the partnership shortly. A video has also been produced by students from Poltair and Penrice Schools which will be shown at a future meeting. Mr McCardle commented that Cornwall College St Austell had contributed an additional piece of work to the Education Report in the form of a 3D project on the town centre which they hoped to present at a future meeting.

Mr McCardle advised that he would like to invite the schools and college participants to a future meeting of the partnership to provide them with the opportunity to explain their input into the project.

Town Council update

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council reviewed the progress to date at their meeting on the 17th October 2022 and approved the progress and activities to date. Councillors are keen to have sufficient resource to keep the project moving forward and this is being worked into the draft budget which at the present time is indicating a 9% - 10% Council Tax increase.

Cornwall Council update

Mark Ellis advised that all staff have decanted out of Penwinnick Road into Carlyon House and that there is still an intention to have an Integrated Service Hub in White River Place. Negotiations on this were ongoing. He explained that Pondhu School and the Town Council would remain at Penwinnick Road. Treveth will take the site in due course, grant funding is being sought to clear the site and planning processes are being progressed.

Mr Ellis advised that Cornwall College were still at feasibility stage with their development plans but Department of Education were supportive. Planning permission would be required to proceed.

A working group chaired by John Evans (Cornwall College) is trying to progress a funding request for improved football facilities at AFC St Austell's ground in Poltair Park. A meeting of interested parties has taken place with the Football Foundation.

Financial Update

Mr McCardle advised that £103,000 had been spent against a budget of £140,000.

Any Other Business

Arising from a question, the Town Clerk advised that the Town Council is committed to providing resource to keep the project moving forward and a report to request continuing resource will be considered by the Staffing Committee at the beginning of December.

The Town Clerk asked Mark Ellis if there is any additional Town Vitality Funding earmarked for St Austell.

Action: Mark Ellis to check the Town Vitality Funding and advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

Louse Wood congratulated the partnership on their good work so far and stressed the need to keep driving the project forward.

Date of Next Meetings

Tuesday 20th December 2022, 9.45am at the Stable Block or TEAMS.