

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes

Date: 11 March 2022

Venue: Virtually, via Google Hangout

Present: Brian Horton (Chair), Madeline Homer, Sir Roger Gale MP, Eddie Kemsley, Sam Causer, Jesse Tomlinson, Cllr Reece Pugh, David Smith, Jo Simmons (substitute for Adam Bryan), Cllr Derek Crow-Brown (substitute for Cllr Lesley Game)

In attendance: Louise Askew, Natalie Glover, Iain McNab, Holly Lewis (We Made That), Emily Temperton (We Made That), Will Temple (PRD Ltd)Katie Brewer,

Apologies: Cllr Lesley Game, Adam Bryan, Clarrie Wallis, Steven Darrer

Declaration of Interest: None

1. Welcome

Chair Brian Horton welcomed members of the Board.

2. Actions from Previous Meeting

LA noted that:

- Board members making videos to raise awareness of the Boardias ongoing.
- Board members advising NG if they have skills to help bring projects forward is also ongoing.
- SC was thanked for sharing his information on 15-16 Hawley Square with LA.
- It had been agreed to hold off putting together the Inward Investment Prospectus brief until submitting the business cases had been concluded. This was so that efforts could be concentrated where they are needed at the moment and points arising from business cases could be reflected if appropriate. This would come back to the board after the submission of business cases.
- The Creative Land Trust Board Recruitment Pack is in the final draft stage and will be shared with the Board to share with their networks.

3. People's Panel Update - EK

- EK requested for Board Members to attend the next Panel meeting which will be held in person, at Dreamland, on March 22nd at 7pm. They should inform NG if they plan to attend.

4. Chair Update - BH

- BH acknowledged the work involved and the success of the pop-up exhibition at Turner Contemporary, which had resulted in c.400 attendees on 26 February.
- Thanks was expressed to the Board Members and project representatives who attended.
- Feedback from the event was noted as extremely positive.
- BH reminded the board of their recent decision to include him on the interview panel for CLT.
- He also noted that Thanet District Council had been asked to provide an overview of the ambitions of the MTD for BBC 4's Front Row and thanked CW for managing to expand the scope of this coverage to include the Town Deal and town's regeneration

BH invited SC to update on his experience at the public engagement event.

SC informed the board that:

- He had met someone from a specialist traffic modelling company.
- Through collaboration, looking at the Kent County Council proposal for Cecil square, SC had changed the plan to a model showing 70% improvement in wait times and improved space for all users. He will share this via email for the board to consider.

LA commented that:

- It should be considered at which point in the development of schemes this information could be used.
- She asked the Board to ensure the strategic vision is kept in sight throughout the process and the aims and objectives already signed up to within the Town Investment Plan. It is worth keeping in mind the objectives of persons offering to support in this way.

The Chair noted that the person in question was local and interested in the area. He added that it would be possible to inform KCC of ideas and insights that come from work done by the Board.

MH explained that the Local Authority would need to ensure any commissioned services are done in a transparent way and in line with the relevant procurement rules/process.

5. General Update - LA

LA updated the board on the following topics:

Andrews Passage

- Thanet District Council (TDC) were in discussion with Kent County Council (KCC) about the future of the passage.
- Work was being done to understand any responsibilities TDC has and the scope of power it had with regard to ensuring issues are resolved.
- The private owners had been contacted and requested to undertake the work without any response.
- KCC was concerned with health & safety, but was notable to carry out remedial works as it was on private land.
- Quotes have been sought for the costed overground surveys with costs for underground structural survey expected to follow w/c 14 March.
- The responsibility of ongoing maintenance of the passage was also an important consideration.
- Discussion was had on whether to take up this work as part of the Margate Town Deal or to keep lobbying the owners.
- The Board felt that it was an important link in the town structure and members were keen to include this work as long as no issues were created.
- Possible issues and the concept of charging works back to the owner would be considered in a meeting between LA and TDC legal team w/c 14 March
- It was agreed that a paper would be shared with the Board so a decision can be made about whether to include Andrews Passage in the short list of projects.

External Assurance

- External assurance had been brought in as part of the Business Case development and LA will bring a report to the Board on this in due course, once the Business Cases have been through the external assurance review.
- It will show that mechanisms are in place to ensure Business Cases have been put together properly and provide further assurance to the Board Accountable Body ahead of sign off.
- BH, MH and the Section 151 Officer at TDC would be given a presentation once the external assurance has been undertaken ahead of signing off the Business Case Summary Documents.

Strategic cases for review

- Coastal Wellbeing and Active Movement and Connections have been shared with the Board to date.
- Comments from the board were requested by the 18 March.
- LA and NG had been doing work on management cases.
- More information was needed before finalising financial cases.
- LA was hoping to share the Theatre Royal Strategic case next week.
- More work was needed engaging with the private sector. There would be an update showing the final document on engagement at the next meeting of the Board.
- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had re-engaged the Towns Fund delivery partners to work with Town Deal project teams, LA

updated that she and NG have a meeting with Rebecca Collings w/c 14 March to explore the support that will be on offer to towns.

- The Summary Document for the Winter Gardens project has been finalised, on the basis that there was no feedback from the Board in relation to the Strategic Case document. The Summary Document, which has now been through the local assurance process will be shared with BH, MH, the Section 151 Officer at TDC and the MTD board on 14 March ahead of its submission.

6. Business Case: Active Movement and Connections For Decision

HL presented an outline of the project as shared at the previous board meeting noting that:

- Feedback from the public had included requesting more information on the development of projects, expressing the importance of; toilets, a clear parking strategy, 'greening' and improved signage/wayfinding.
- The medium list had been calculated at c.£12 million and the budget was only £5.3 million. The two proposed options had been scaled down to this size.
- SC felt the KCC proposal for Cecil Square felt underwhelming and needed tackling.
- Further cost scrutiny was needed in relation to management charges etc.

The two options to decide on were presented to the board and it was commented that:

- TDC were trying to understand from KCC where greening can happen and are still waiting for more technical information.
- Cecil Square was a critical area for improvement within the town and considered a priority.
- The train station approach and concourse was also commented on as an area needing improvement.
- Desire was expressed to concentrate down on the key trading areas of Margate Town Centre/Old Town and Northdown Road , rather than the connecting routes, in order to make maximum impact.
- At a previous meeting of the Board, Cllr Game mentioned that she was lobbying KCC for a 20mph zone on Northdown Road and this was not something that MTDB would deal with directly. However, a letter would be drafted from BH to Cllr Game and KCC, stating that although it is not in the remit of the MTDB to implement a 20mph zone, the Board supports it and are keen for it to move forward swiftly.
- Removing the railings on Northdown Road was suggested as well as 'greening' that area.
- It had been decided early on that the plan for MTD funds was broader than focussing solely on Northdown Road and the interventions had tried to be focused sensibly, to maximise outcomes from the Town Investment Plan.

- Concerns were raised on budget going to the 'stitching together' of areas rather than the improvement of areas considered town centres.
- Further design development was needed for improvements to Cecil Square.
- A key element of the proposals set out was to encourage people to move around confidently and happily in areas that they do not currently, with a broader view that this route may be used more in future as access to the Winter Gardens and the Lido site.
- The costings for Zion Place seemed too high and it was proposed that this budget could be shared elsewhere.

Members agreed to adopt Option 1, with a caveat that the cost of Zion Place improvements would be interrogated and re-distributed where possible to the visual improvement and decluttering of Northdown Road if possible.

The Chair offered his thanks to HL.

Meeting closed at 15:15

Actions	Responsibility	
Board Members to make videos with Thanet District Council's Communications team to raise the public profile of the Board.	LA/ Board	Ongoing
Board Members to advise NG if they have skills to help bring projects forward.	Board	Ongoing
Inward Investment Prospectus - request opinions and information needed from the Board (top 10)	LA	After submission of business cases
People Panel meeting 22 March - attendance info to NG	Board	ASAP
Share CLT Board Recruitment Pack with Board for sharing	LA	March
The Strategic Case summary document for the Winter Gardens will be shared with BH, MH, the Section 151 Officer at TDC for signing	LA/NG	14 March
Letter from BH to be drafted and sent to KCC and Cllr Game re 20mph zone.	LA/NG	March
Cllr Derek Crow-Brown to speak to KCC regarding 20mph zone and Cecil Square improvements and share correspondence with Cllr Game and DS.	Cllr DCB	March