

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes



Date: 30 April, 2021 at 2pm

Venue: Virtually, via Google Hangout

Membership: David Smith CBE (DS) - Interim Chair, Cllr Ruth Duckworth (RD), Madeline Homer (MH), Sir Roger Gale MP (RG), Rhiannon Mort (RM), Victoria Pomery OBE (VP), Eddie Kemsley (EK), Sam Causer (SC), Richard Ash (RA), Stephen Darrer (SD).

In attendance: Louise Askew (LA), Natalie Glover (NG), James Clapson (JC), Chris Paddock (CP).

Apologies: Adam Bryan for whom Rhiannon Mort was a substitute, Jesse Tomlinson, Cllr Lesley Game and Cheryl Potts

1. Welcome.

DS welcomed everyone to the meeting and provided a quick outline about the order of business.

2. Declarations of Interest and Confidentiality

It was noted that if Board members had already declared an interest at a previous meeting then they would not be required to repeat it, however they would still be unable to participate in the discussion of the item.

DS reminded Board Members of the need to respect confidentiality when conducting the business of the Board. Public communication required careful and sensitive management. The Board would consider a plan for communications at its next meeting.

3. Finalise and agree project scores. Board to approve the projects to be included in the Project List submitted to MHCLG.

The Board reviewed a diagram of project clusters, created in response to the discussion at the last meeting. The diagramme was a headline of everything on one page, and showed four clusters of projects that now had a stronger geographical focus than previously.

CP introduced each cluster and highlighted any changes in response to the scoring and Boards comments at the last meeting. During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- The number of projects in cluster two had been trimmed to a focus on Walpole Bay. Hodges Gap, Newgate Gap, the playpark and outside sports facilities had been removed from the cluster, and the budget for the skatepark had been reduced. This focus would enable the business cases to be more direct and rigorous.

- The budget for the Winter Gardens had been reduced to £500,000. It was intended that this should be used to reimagine the venue in order to generate better private sector investment in two or three years' time.
- There was some concern about the availability of match funding for some of the projects, however MH advised that at this stage, the Council (as the accountable body) was confident about the approach being taken. This would be subject to the detail examined through the business cases.
- Skills and participation was important, the budget for skills and participation had doubled, and would run through a number of the projects, however this key theme needed to be made more explicit.
- The skatepark project was not intended to be a commercial project, it was designed to provide social value through engagement with young people and support to the community. **LA would come back to the Board with more information about the skatepark project.**
- A query was raised about the grant to the Thanet Press project and what the deliverables were. **LA would contact the project proposer for further information.**
- The Council had applied for capacity funding and would soon tender for a specialist consultancy company to develop the Land Trust. It was the intention that this company would create the business case and have the project ready to go in six months. This could be defined as a 'shovel ready' project by MHCLG. **LA would come back to the Board with more information about the Land Trust project.**
- LA advised that a final list of projects would need to be submitted to the government by 24 May, this submission should detail how many business cases would be written, an overall financial profile for the bid, and a financial profile for each project area.
- **Subject to more detail regarding the skatepark, Thanet Press and the Land Trust, the Board was happy with the proposed approach.**

4. Any Other Business

NG advised the Board that a blog post would be published during the week commencing 3.5.21 that would provide an update on the latest position. It would come from CP's team and include an outline of the framework and projects.

It was important that the team had the opportunity to contact the project proposers, particularly those who have had their allocation cut or removed, before public communication took place.

DS and LA (*EK the Chair of the People's Panel was having connection issues*) provided a brief update from the recent People's Panel. It was noted that only 18 of the 45 Members were present, however the meeting was useful. DS felt that the Panel wanted more communication. **DS offered to provide a fortnightly newsletter to provide updates.**

The Panel also asked that key performance indicators be published for each of the projects, once they were up and running.

There would be an open call to recruit new members to the People's Panel and the Board were asked to share this information to encourage new members.

Meeting concluded: 15.33pm

Actions	Responsibility
LA to come back to the Board with more information about the Skate Park and Thanet Press project proposals, and in due course, an update on the Land Trust.	LA
A fortnightly newsletter with the latest updates would be issued.	DS/NG
The Board will be asked by NG to share information regarding the open call for new People's Panel members.	NG/Board