

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes

Date: Friday 23 October 2020

Venue: Virtually, via Google Hangout

Present: Graham Razey OBE (GR), Cllr Ruth Duckworth(RD), Madeline Homer (MH), Sir Roger Gale MP (RG), David Smith CBE (DS), Lesley Game (LG), Victoria Pomery OBE (VP), Eddie Kemsley (EK), Sam Causer (SC), Rhiannon Mort (RM), Richard Ash (RA), Stephen Darrer (SD).

In attendance: Louise Askew (LA), Natalie Glover (NG), Iain McNab (IM), Colette White (CW), James Clapson (JC), Holly Lewis - PRD (HL), Amanda Robinson - PRD (AR), Sarah Wheale-Smith - Pleydellsmithyman Ltd (SWS), Cristina Gaidos - We Made That (CG), Emily Temperton - We Made That (ET).

Apologies: Adam Bryan (for whom Rhiannon Mort was a substitute), Jessie Tomlinson and Lesley White.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declaration of Interest

MH, Chief Executive of Thanet District Council noted an interest regarding the accelerated funding, agenda item four.

3. Previous decisions including subgroups and stakeholder engagement

LA opened the discussion by provided the group with a brief update, during consideration of the item it was noted that:

- PRD had started to set up sub groups to talk about specific themes. These meetings would form an official part of the investment plan process.
- **There would be an Action Log and Project Timeline that would be circulated alongside the minutes. The Board would also be given access to a new Margate Town Deal document sharing site.**
- **The Chair would explore the possibility of holding physical meetings.**

- The board had agreed to fund more stakeholder engagement, and looked to commission Pleydellsmithyman Ltd to hold some online sessions about how the investment plan was being developed.

4. 53-55 High Street - Accelerated Funding

MH gave the Board an overview of what had taken place, during consideration of the item it was noted that:

- MH wished to offer her apologies to the Board for not keeping them better informed about the project, the relationship between this funding and the Margate Town Deal Board had not been fully understood initially.
- It was highlighted that every member of the Board had the same objective, to grasp this opportunity to improve Margate for residents and visitors; moving forward, the Board would be involved in this project.
- LA advised that the building was owned by a joint venture between Thanet District Council and Homes England, and that early stage discussions had taken place with some organisations who may wish to use the premises once the improvement works had been completed.
- Members of the Board emphasised that the project must increase footfall to the area and offer skills training.
- **The Chair asked members to contact him if they wished to sit on the subgroup working on this project.**

5. Stakeholder Engagement Report (inc. People's Panel)

SWS from Pleydellsmithyman Ltd gave a presentation about the engagement work that had taken place and it's general findings. During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- Engagement had taken place with people across the District, and even further afield, not just residents of Margate.
- The beach and the people came across strongly as themes most liked about the town.
- There was a correlation between how long people had lived in the area and their perception of it.
- Stakeholders felt that the vision was along the right lines but needed adjustment to focus on bringing the community together.
- Funding projects to support young people and improve public spaces were popular choices.
- It was highlighted that poverty was a cause of division within the community, there was a need to make the town somewhere that felt clean and safe, with job opportunities.
- The appearance and cleanliness of the town were identified as key areas that caused negative feelings about the town.

- The creative coast concept would require work to show how it could benefit the wider community.
- The Board should make a clear commitment to include the public in the project, and consider how it can work with stakeholders.
- The Margate Town Deal Peoples Panel was an important mechanism for engaging with the community. This Panel could be chaired by a Board member to enhance and support meaningful dialogue between the Board and Panel.

After the presentation, the following comments from the Board were noted:

- The Panel was critical in order to have sensible involvement with the community, however it needed to have a clearly defined role, remit and terms of reference. **LA advised that this would be shared with the Board along with a timeline of activity to meet the submission deadline.**
- The Panel was intended to be a sense check, and a mechanism to get the message out.
- The Board agreed to endorse the People's Panel.
- **Chair requested that two volunteers from the Board email him, to attend the next couple of panel meetings and that a member of the Board should Chair the Panel.**

6. Town Investment Plan update

HL representing We Made That and PRD, provided a presentation about the evidence gathering that had taken place so far, and that fed into the investment plan. During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- The community priorities were identified as:
 - A thriving local economy year-round
 - Creating jobs including higher skilled jobs, with better wages
 - Opportunities for young people
 - A town to be proud of
 - Improving people's lives
 - Working with the community for the community
 - A Green New Deal for Margate
 - Margate at the heart of the creative coast
- The Town Deal should be seen as the first stage of long term improvement.
- The bids could potentially be grouped into five big ideas or clusters.
- The next steps would be to understand more about the proposals, produce a vision of each cluster, share the evidence and set out the structure of the Towns Fund bid.

After the presentation the following comments from the Board were noted:

- The Board had not seen the proposals so could not comment on the content of the proposed clusters.
- The three S's - Supporting, Surprising and Scaling, were a good concept and should be built upon.

- There needed to be recognition that the high street was changing, especially in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The references to the green deal and jobs were important, along with the provision of skills training.
- Skills and enterprise must be woven into any project taken forward.
- The Margate corridor concept was an interesting idea, not limited to just the highstreet. There was a need to look at how parts of the town could be better linked together to encourage footfall.
- The Board agreed that We Made That and PRD should continue their work and were happy with the direction of travel.
- The Board agreed that Pleydellsmithyman’s work dove-tailed very well into the work of We Made That and PRD. **LA would draft what the next round of public engagement would look like.**
- **It was agreed that the engagement document would be made available, initially to the Board then publicly once any feedback had been gathered.**
- The Board members were encouraged to read the Barrow investment plan as it was a good example, and had a number of elements which could be applicable to Margate.
- Thanks were offered to LA and NG in recognition of their efforts to date.
- It was noted that the consultants, We Made That, PRD, and Pleydellsmithyman Ltd had made a huge amount of progress for the Board.

Actions	Responsibility
To circulate the Action Log and Project Timeline with the Board	LA
To explore the possibility of physical meetings	Chair
To contact the Chair to sit on the 53-55 High Street - Accelerated Funding sub-group.	Board
People’s Panel Terms of Reference to be shared with the Board	LA
Draft of what the next round of public engagement would look like.	LA
Two Board members to contact the Chair to chair/sit on the upcoming People’s Panel meeting.	Board
The draft Stakeholder Engagement Report to be shared with the Board for feedback, then with the public a week later.	LA
Provide Board members with access to the new Margate Town Deal document sharing site.	LA