

Margate Town Deal Board Minutes

- Date:** 22 June 2023 at 2.30pm
- Venue:** Virtual / Thanet District Council offices
- Membership:** Brian Horton (Chair), Colin Carmichael, Cllr Ruth Duckworth, Sir Roger Gale MP, Cllr Lesley Game, Clarrie Wallis, Clive Morris (CFO), Sam Causer, David Smith CBE, Richard Ash, Claire Pamberi, Alex Riley.
- In attendance:** Louise Askew, Natalie Glover, Thomas McGuffog, Pauline Smith
- Apologies:** Eddie Kemsley, Adam Bryan

1. Welcome and any Declarations of Interest

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and round table introductions were done due to new Board members and substitutes at the meeting.

The Chair provided an update on changes to the Board membership:

- David Smith has a new role within KCC and Tom Marchant is now the new Board member representing KCC. As Tom was unable to attend today his place was taken by Claire Pamberi.
- Adam Bryan now has a new role with Medway Council and his role on the Board is likely to be taken by Alex Riley from SELEP.
- Stephen Darrer has resigned from his role on the Board.
- Following recent local council elections, Cllr Pugh has left the Board and Cllr Duckworth is now the new Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Board member.

The Chair welcomed all the new Board members and thanked all the departing Board members for their support and commitment to the Margate Town Deal and wished them well for the future.

2. Thanet District Council Update

Cllr Ruth Duckworth introduced herself and expressed her support for the Margate Town Deal, having previously been involved at the beginning of the Town Deal process.

3. Chair Update

- The Margate School (TMS) - The Chair reported that since the last Board meeting the news from TMS was positive. They are in the process of finalising a 20-year lease for their premises and have a new management structure in place. He has recommended that they make contact with the Annette Russell, new Executive Director of Margate Creative Land Trust, as soon as she is in post.

- The Manchester Levelling Up Conference - The Chair advised that he has attended the conference this week and there were a number of Margate mentions, all positive. Members from the department advised the conference that they had found their visit to Margate very beneficial as they were able to see the projects first hand and better understand the work being done, challenges involved and benefits that would be gained by successful completion of the projects.

4. Actions from Previous Meeting - see below

5. Programme Update - see below

LA provided the meeting with a programme update from the document circulated with the agenda:

The Town Deal project team is working with the Dreamland delivery team to put together a new programme and paper to take to Cabinet, together with a grant agreement. The website will then be updated.

The Margate Creative Land Trust (CLT) has appointed Annette Russell as the new Executive Director. LA has a meeting with her soon after she starts in July.

Walpole Bay - AECOM are on board as external Project Managers and Cost Consultants. A design team for the testing new uses capital project has been engaged. This project also links with councils parking strategy. The project team is now looking to commission the refurbishment of the inside of the lift. A general Margate Town Deal blog update is being prepared to update the public and the website regarding progress of the Town Deal programme.

Theatre Royal - an update will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. Oval Bandstand and Lawns - Project and Recent Communications Update

The Chair acknowledged communications from GRASS on social media and via email. Stephen Darrer (SD) has resigned as Board member, but no clear decision has been communicated regarding next steps for the Town Deal project. The Chair requested an update on where we stand with the Oval Bandstand and Lawns project. He advised that SD did not contact him directly until he emailed his resignation.

LA showed a presentation detailing the timeline of the Oval Bandstand and Lawns project.

LA advised the meeting that £25,000 early capital funding (5% early CDEL) has already been paid to GRASS as part of the £500,000 capital funding that has been allocated to the project. This was covered by a Grant Agreement Letter signed by a GRASS Director in April 2022.

LA explained that no more funding can be released until a full grant agreement is signed and the council, as the Accountable Body, is required to see evidence of match funding as part of grant agreement. The grant agreement that has been prepared is the same as the agreements that other organisations are being asked to sign. LA advised that there is no NDA (non-disclosure agreement) in the grant agreement - there is a request for joint communications on the projects. The Margate CLT has already signed their grant agreement.

LG proposed that The Chair meets with the Directors of GRASS personally - which The Chair

agreed to do. SC agreed to accompany him at that meeting. The Board members expressed their support for the Chair to try to take this project forward successfully. LA advised that the council has put out one statement regarding this project and has another one prepared for publication.

The Chair formally thanked SD for his commitment and contribution to Margate Town Deal in his time as a Board Member.

Action: The Chair and SC to meeting with the Directors of GRASS to discuss the Oval Bandstand and Lawns project with a view to identifying a way forward

7. Active Movement and Connections - Potential Cecil Square Scheme

NG and SC presented a potential scheme to update Cecil Square.

LG expressed her full support for the potential scheme as did the Chair.

NG advised the Board that there is more work to do on the proposal, including further work with cost consultants. A further update will be brought back to the Board as appropriate.

The Chair thanks to SC for his work on this project.

Action: The Chair to arrange to take interested Board members on a site visit to Cecil Square to discuss the proposed scheme.

8. Meeting Closed

The Chair thanks Board members for their attendance and the meeting was closed at 4pm

Deadline for agenda items:** 11 September 2023

Next meeting: 28 September 2023
Suggested items: updates from Destination Dreamland, Theatre Royal, Margate Creative Land Trust

**Standing item to include all Board member engagement with the Town Deal and Town Investment Plan and specific agenda items.*

***Please provide any agenda items you would like to be considered for the next Board meeting by this date*

Actions from Previous Meeting (16 March, 2023)

Actions	Responsibility	Update
Inward Investment Prospectus paper	LA	Meeting to be held in the new year TBC. Previous interested Board members included - BH, EK, AB, CW, RA, RG. Update: Meeting still to be arranged <i>Hold action until we have something more relevant to the projects coming forward. Need to understand costs related to this work. ENTE and parking strategies will provide info to use for this.</i>
Arrange a meeting with relevant parties to progress the issue of Andrews Passage	LA / NG	A meeting with Haroona Chughtai (HC), KCC Director of Highways & Transportation happened today and they visited Andrews Passage. HC said she will speak with the KCC Legal team to see if there are any other ways to support us. The old Primark building is being sold but will still have right of way and that might help unlock this issue. MTD Board member RA shared his frustration that this is a long-standing issue that is not moving forward. He suggested that the Board offer £150K as incentive to the new owner of Primark and then ask KCC to match fund the necessary work. LA confirmed that the costs associated with any investigation works, or remedial works are not known. Clare Pamberi (CP), the KCC representative at the meeting, picked up an action to discuss with HC and Tom Marchant (TM) and will copy LG in on emails. An action was also assigned to the Chair to engage with KCC to see what can be done to move this issue forward.
BH to continue to engage with TMS and update the Board as appropriate	BH	See Item 3, Chair Update
CC ascertain where the interest on MTD funding held by TDC is allocated to	CC	Louise to pick this action up and pursue with CC
CC to assist with arranging for the Chair to meet with the new Cabinet to discuss the Board's function moving forward	CC/BH	Completed today.