

Norwich Town Deal Board Minutes

22 April 2024, 10am

BOARD ATTENDEES	
Andrew Dernie (Chair) - AD; Emily Cashen – EC; Amber Clarke – AC; Sarah Collins – SC; Nova Fairbank – NF; Stefan Gurney – SG; Graham Nelson – GN; Michael Pedder – MP; Chris Sargisson – CS; Mike Stonard – MS; Chris Starkie – CSt; Ellen Tilney – ET.	Apologies: Chloe Smith, Jerry White

ITEM NO.	MINUTES	OWNER
1.	<p>Welcome, actions, apologies, minutes.</p> <p>Emily Cashen will be the DHLUC representative going forward.</p>	
2.	<p>LUF funding update</p> <p>ET – together with SC had a meeting with Oliver Alderton (DHLUC representative) to address some administrative queries. No questions re paperwork; he wanted reassurance on deliverability of projects. We were able to reassure him; he had no further queries and said he would recommend approval to the ministerial team and send a letter saying that verification was complete. We have not yet had the letter.</p> <p>ACTION: EC to chase the letter.</p> <p>ET – Oliver Alderton anticipated that we will get the money in our account in early May.</p> <p>SC – appointments of architect, project manager and quantity surveyor scheduled for 29 April. Any delay to receipt of the funding, or official confirmation the funding will be approved, will impact on the timetable, as we can't appoint them until we have the security of knowing we will get the funding.</p>	EC
3.	<p>Future projects and funding opportunities</p> <p>This item to be included on agenda of all future meeting.</p> <p>AD – we know we need to get East Norwich and Anglia Square across the line, but there will be a number of small- and medium-sized projects we want to pursue and for which we will want to obtain funding. It is key to bring together the City Council and County Council strategies with the work we</p>	SC

	<p>are doing with business in the community in order to make the most compelling case possible for additional funding.</p> <p>GN – active discussions re East Norwich and Anglia Square, with ongoing engagement with Homes England re securing funding. The other aspect is how Norwich can coalesce around a set of priorities – work is being done around open spaces in the City, as well as transport proposals, and ideas from other partners re the character of certain areas.</p> <p>GN – we need to develop a process to get everyone on this board to decide on priorities, particularly with regard to the NIF programme with the scope for local determination of our own priorities.</p> <p>ACTION: at the next Board discuss the scope of this work and set up a workshop to discuss ideas.</p> <p>AD – we want to package projects up to make projects as investable as possible. The networks we have allow us to bring in a range of voices and to build momentum.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Project updates:</p> <p>The Halls</p> <p>SC – progressing well. N D Willan is doing a good job and working well with the team. We will keep under review and bring updates to the Board.</p> <p>SC – we have been awarded additional funding by the Arts Council. Part will be spent on improving the main entrance into Blackfriars Hall and putting in a new platform lift. We will also be able to improve the external lighting.</p> <p>AD – recognition to Clare Hubery and SC for managing this successful application. It shows that, if we make a compelling case, the money is there.</p> <p>AD – has there been any pushback re the closure?</p> <p>SC – no – we have been actively communicating with users and stakeholders. People are keen to know when we will re-open. We are keeping in touch, but careful not to raise unrealistic expectations. Any issues/delays will be communicated to stakeholders.</p> <p>Hay Hill</p> <p>SC – work onsite is going well. There have been some issues, but all successfully resolved.</p>	

SC – Tarmac has committed to finishing the project. Some parts of the works may finish later than end of May due to building kiosk and plant room – we can explore taking back areas in phases.

AD – asked if the board members could escalate any areas to assist the SC.

SC – we are planning to start comms work in May to explain what we have done with Hay Hill. Events are not planned until July. Possibly will have an opening to tie-in with Lord Mayor's Procession.

GN – comms needs to include information about how the space will be used. We all need to get behind it, look after it, and recognise its success.

Digital Hub

SC – having weekly meetings with the operator. The change of staff has been very positive. They are re-tendering and have reissued all their drawings, which we are reviewing. They are proposing amends through the re-tender which will cut five weeks from the programme, maintaining the original programme completion on December 24.

CS – ready to go when ET and SC are happy. Anticipation levels are high, and we had a good discussion at the building.

Revolving Fund

SC – still looking at Phase One sites where we have a CPO option. The threat of CPO has focussed the developers, and they are consequently taking actions.

SC – looking at Phase Two sites which are larger. One has the potential to move quickly. They are negotiations rather than CPOs.

LUF Sloughbottom

SC – hope to award contracts for architect, quantity surveyor and project manager roles as soon as we get confirmation of funding. Meanwhile, we are looking at the surveys we will need, and working hard talking to other funders.

Completed project updates:

ENMP and Carrow House

GN – ongoing process re meanwhile-occupiers of Carrow House.

GN – have brought in PRD as strategic development advisors. They will provide us with strategic advice and will produce an outline business case to seek public investment. It will play into a longer-term conversation with people like Homes England. The planning application for the Carrow Works site was refused as so wide of the aspirations of the masterplan. Nothing had changed in the proposals during the last 18 months.

GN – we are also using specialist advice to progress the dialogue with landowner, in order to work together productively. A number of investors are interested in the site; the key is to broker those relationships so capital investors will be able to get involved.

AD – keen to see what help the Board can give.

ACE and DigiTech

Action: take to next meeting when Jerry White can attend.

Branding

SG – at the moment we are delivering the Working in Norwich campaign through BID funding. Would be helpful to get ideas re obtaining additional money, as at some point BID may decide not to keep funding.

AD – we don't want to have to re-invent the package – we need ideas to keep it going.

Action: let SG know of suggestions re obtaining additional funding.

JW

		ALL
5.	<p>AOB</p> <p>MP – thank you to everyone who has worked on the Town Deal; it has been exciting.</p> <p>AD - The Board thanks MP for his constant support and help, and the smooth handover to EC. The whole board wishes you well for the future.</p>	
6.	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>20 May – 2pm</p>	

Forward Meeting Dates:

24 June – 10am

22 July – 2pm