

Todmorden Town Centre Development Board

14th October 2014

Attendees:-

Councillor D O'Neill (Chair) Claire Butler (*Project Manager, Corporate Projects*)
Councillor J Battye Joanne Gott (*Programme Manager, Corporate Projects*)
Councillor P Caffrey Robin Tuddenham (*Director for Communities*)
Councillor S Press
Councillor M Thompson

Welcome & apologies:-

Councillor Caffrey was welcomed to the Board. Apologies were received from Councillor Booth, Councillor Hatfield, Councillor Rez, Ian Gray and Andrew Pitts.

Agreement of minutes – 4th September 2014

Agreed.

Matters Arising

CB advised that up to date Terms of Reference had been uploaded to the Todmorden Development Board webpage, but Board minutes still needed to be updated.

Action: CB to arrange for outstanding minutes to be uploaded to the webpage

It was agreed that a representative from the Todmorden Markets group be invited to attend the next Board meeting (25th November 2014) to provide an update.

Action: CB to invite Todmorden Markets representative to attend the next Board meeting

It was noted that the Environment Agency (EA) were not yet at the stage where they could report to the Board on the detail of their FRRS programme. It was agreed to record this action as "carried forward (c/f)".

Action (c/f) : Officers to invite the EA to attend a future Board meeting to discuss the detail of the FRRS programme

Cllr O'Neill requested an update regarding the EA's compound on Rose Street. CB explained that the EA had confirmed they would be using the compound for the planned flood remediation works. The Board raised concerns about the current security of the compound until the EA took occupation.

Action: Officers to raise compound security concerns with the EA

All other actions were covered by the main agenda items.

Board membership update

CB reported that a query regarding the membership of the Board had been raised due to the wording of a Council decision sheet dated 2nd October 2014. The Board agreed that the position needed to be clarified as soon as possible, to avoid any further doubt.

Action: Officers to clarify Board membership ASAP

Project Updates

1. Rose Street

Officers confirmed that the initial independent valuation work had been completed and provided an update. Officers reported that they had met with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) on 6th October to provide an update on the development of the site. It was noted that the original funding terms set out timescales for developing the site. The Board asked officers to instruct an additional valuation based on mixed use (residential / retail) and to present development options to the next

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Board meeting, taking account of previous Board discussions and the outcome of town consultations held. Councillor Thompson also suggested that it might add value if the Council obtained outline planning permission for the site.

Action: Officers to instruct mixed use site valuation

Action: Officers to present development options at the next Board meeting

2. Water Street pedestrianisation

Officers confirmed that previous traffic survey information had been checked, however this dated back to 2006 & 2007 and was not relevant for the purposes of the proposed road closure. The initial traffic study had therefore been instructed as agreed at the previous meeting. Works on the ground are expected to start within the next 3 weeks (avoiding half term week), following which officers will review the data collected and produce a recommendations report. This is scheduled to be issued in early Jan 2015. CB explained that the outcome of the initial study will inform the road closure / pedestrianisation plans and should ensure that these are as cost effective as possible.

3. Other updates

Officers reported that the Cinderhill Mill and Ormerod planning applications are still progressing and provided an update on Hope Street. Concerns about site security had been raised with the agent for Cinderhill Mill, but planning officers were not aware of any security issues regarding the Ormerod site. The Board noted that the appearance of the Cinderhill Mill site was poor, and asked if this could be improved.

Action: Officers to raise concerns with Cinderhill Mill site agents

Various Board members advised that local rumours were circulating regarding the ASDA development, due to the fact that little seems to be happening on site. Could timescales be clarified?

Action: Officers to request an update statement from ASDA

Todmorden Town Hall

Officers provided an update with regard to the HLF bid for the Town Hall which the Board noted.

Officers explained that an outline project plan had been developed to consider how greater use could be made of the Town Hall building. The project plan reflected the Working Group's aspirations and vision for the Town Hall, and outlined suggestions as to how this could be implemented in the short-, medium- and longer term. The draft plan had been circulated prior to the meeting and the Board was invited to provide their comments.

Cllr O'Neill explained that the Town Council staff are employed by the Town Council, and confirmed that the Town Council had not yet made any decisions regarding their future location. In light of this, Cllr O'Neill advised that any issues affecting Town Council staff would need to be agreed with the Town Council. Cllr Press confirmed that the Town Hall Working Group had recommended that Cllr Booth, as a representative of the Development Board and Working Group, be asked to provide an update report to the next Town Council General Purposes Committee.

Action: Cllr Booth to provide an update to the next Town Council General Purposes Committee

Cllr Battye commented that the plan was clear and set out all the key issues. Indicative timescales were helpful, but would need to be more detailed as each workstream progresses. Cllr Thompson asked for an extra column to be added outlining the benefits/disadvantages of the component parts.

Action: Officers to update the project plan to reflect the Board's feedback

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Other funding bids – status report (Centre Vale Park)

1. Centre Vale Park – HLF bid

Officers reported that the HLF bid is being developed and is due to be submitted in early 2015. Cllr Press reported that there had been recent reports of deer traps being set in Buckley Wood, and that officers were liaising with the police.

2. Skate park

Officers reported that the proposed new skate park is in an area identified by the Environment Agency (EA) for flood storage, and as such the EA have advised they need to complete flood modelling before the location of the skate park can be confirmed. This is due to be completed by the end of October 2014. It was noted that the EA would need to provide an update direct to the Town Council. It wasn't known what materials were proposed for the skate park, but it was agreed that materials such as concrete and steel would be much better able to withstand water than, for example, wood.

3. Remedial flood works update

It was noted that the works had begun in September and the EA had been made aware of the rededication event on 12th October in advance to ensure that there would be no negative impact. Cllr O'Neill commented that the rededication had been a really good event and complimented the officers who had been involved in organising this.

Suggested 2015 meeting dates

It was noted that suggested 2015 Board dates had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Press advised that the meeting on 13th January 2015 may clash with a Town Council meeting.

Action: Officers to circulate Board meeting invitations

AOB

None.

Date of next meeting:-

Tuesday 25th November 2014, 5 - 7pm Committee Room A, Todmorden Town Hall.