

Keighley Town Deal Board Minutes 8 October 2020

1.0 Welcome + Apologies, Declarations of Interest

Apologies received from:

Naz Kazmi (KAWAC),
Steve Seymour (Airedale Shopping Centre),
Chris Joyce (Job Centre DWP),
Cath Conroy (One Public Estate)
Paul Howard (Keighley BID)
Cllr. Peter Corkindale (Keighley Town Council) replaced for this meeting by Cllr. Mohammed Azam

Welcome

The Chair, Ian Hayfield welcomed everyone. He requested that
Action – Any Board Members yet to complete and return Declaration of Interest Forms.

Or provide short biography and photograph –
to be published on the website **please send to Bruna Minto bruna.minto@bradford.gov.uk (Deadlines for both items extended to close of play Wednesday 14.10.20)**

Board
Member

2.0

Review Minutes / Actions of last meeting

No matters arising

3.0

Procurement / Consultancy Update

A brief has been issued for external consultancy to 2 Frameworks that include consultants with the skills we need:

- Develop the TIP to meet timescales
- Undertake community and stakeholder consultation in connection with the TIP
- Develop Green Book compliant business case in Phase 2

Prior to issuing the brief, some soft- market testing was undertaken to ensure the framework providers had the capacity to undertake the work and the necessary skills, including Towns Fund experience.

We expect the consultancy to be in place by week commencing Oct 26th – ready for next Board Meeting and we intend to keep them on board post TIP submission to develop the green book compliant business cases for consistency and continuity. The Board agreed continuity and accountability was important.

It was pointed out that the consultants would not be able to do everything and that the Board and project proposers would have work to do in developing proposals.

Do we rely on the consultant for the data analysis?

CBMDC Policy team are already working on analysis based on data on the Town Hub site which is a summation of the relevant national sources.

Georgina has information relating to culture and asked how this would be shared. Lorraine confirmed the council is happy to share information. **Action suggested this be on the agenda for the next meeting.**

4.0

Action - Once Policy have finished their assessment the work will be circulated to the Board. Information available to Board members may not be known on a national wider basis – please advise on information that can back up the SWOT and forthcoming project ideas. Where you have specialist data let Council team know.

Milestones / Timeline

A slide showing the full life of the programme was shared.

A Gantt chart on the forthcoming tasks was shared running up to and beyond Jan 29th Tip Submission.

The Vision work will be developed during October with SWOT and the data being tied together to reinforce one another. This would lead to wider testing of the vision with wider consultation. CBMDC to layer the data onto the SWOT once it's completed.

Note

The Town Hub can advise on the journey from process to substance (Vision to projects) and if necessary areas can bring in some expertise to support the Boards in areas like leadership and governance. Elle is happy to make suggestions of potential support and propose a bespoke package based on challenges and opportunities identified. There are common resources on the site www.townfund.org.uk – this includes webinars some live and some recorded from earlier in the program.

Note

There are also a range of webinars some live and some recorded from earlier in the program.

Note

In addition to the Town Hub team, colleagues from MHCLG are available as a critical friend to ensure we stay on the right track. NB The Town Hub advises – – it doesn't 'do' and will not develop the TIP.

BMem

The consultants appointed by CBMDC will be directly engaged in producing our submission.

Elle to be kept updated so that best/timely assistance can be provided.

BMem

Lorraine Coates of MHCLG – TownFund is assisted by central and area teams Lorraine is our W.Yorks. Local lead contact - delivering on the town Fund for Govt. She has a support role now during the development process and a decision making contribution after submission. Lessons have been learned from the first cohort submissions and backing up projects with evidence is key.

Examples like Grimsby and Carlisle (already circulated) are worth reviewing.

The SWOT analysis was discussed at the Workshop on October 1st. The task is to reflect Keighley, build on strengths and tackle our challenges using data as evidence to formulate projects. The Board agreed that the SWOT felt right and reflected Keighley.

There were contributions from Mark Elders re digital connectivity, Georgina Webster re Culture and Ian Hayfield and Saqib Karim re land use. Saf Riaz also pointed out the weaknesses resulting from neglected sites in the Town centre and the need for attractive routes through the town.

Mark Elders (Mark had previously produced a paper setting out the points covered).

Mark runs a digital technology company. He believes that since 2001 Keighley has not had good connectivity. – People get used to poor connectivity, but businesses relocate to places where connectivity is good. Eg Channel 4's move to Leeds relied on good connectivity.

Mark described latency in the network before information accessed the wider internet and suggested that faster dark fibre connections within the District or a Point of Presence (POP) in Keighley were important. A project called Digital Aire Valley exists to pursue this. A reduction in latency and higher speed would help local businesses as well as potential inward investment.

Higher speeds would facilitate learning at college with potential growth for e.g. computer gaming courses and spin off businesses with attendant accommodation needs. The Chair said that he was not aware of any investor he had dealt with pulling out through concerns about Broadband speed.

Steve Kelly highlighted a local skills gap with low digital literacy and more need with the expected retraining following expected redundancies as a result of Covid's impact on business.

The same issue affects Shipley with potential connectivity benefits along the Airedale Corridor.

Mark was asked if he had ICT business colleagues who might act on the Shipley Board as this was not represented. **Action Mark to investigate with CBMDC**

LW

Saf Riaz noted that visually the greeting is not good when commuting by rail, on arrival at the station these include a semi-derelict Victoria Hotel on Cavendish St. and no obvious welcoming route to access the town and/or its attractions.

The town needs to flow better and we should be actively looking at vacant units like the former M&S and Beales and empty properties above shop units should be tackled. Lack of recognisable tourist attractions in the town centre had a knock on effect on service organisations

Georgina Webster described the outlook for culture and the arts. Georgina supported previous comments with regard to weaknesses. Keighley is weak in its engagement with art and culture.

61% of Keighley residents are not engaged with art and culture

54% of Bradford residents are not engaged with art and culture

33% of residents in England are not engaged with art and culture.

In Keighley Central 81% are not at all engaged in Art and Culture

Keighley's involvement is the lowest in the whole District.

This is often about opportunity.

Keighley Creative is looking to promote activity. Last year the Arts and Film festival had over 5000 attendees with support from the Arts

Council, - the first arts Council award to Keighley. Keighley Creative wants to be a creative hub with connections to other related activity eg The Town Council's recent work on Arts and Culture. They are looking for a new place within central Keighley. Meanwhile discussions with the college re arts/film based courses are on-going as they are not available locally. There's a waiting list for studio space and the occupiers are often creative entrepreneurs making a living from their skills.

In Kendal the Brewery Arts Centre has had a massive / positive impact on the economy with 28000 visitors last year. That centre is partly commercial.

The Chair reported that there was investment underway in the Town with a £10m venture about to start in Dalton Lane. Such investment would bring jobs and as a consequence associated progress. Saqib Karim was worried about the land supply for business expansion and did not think that the Business Development Zone work identified enough space.

(NB The planning authority is responsible for bringing forward proposals for new land allocations.)

It was suggested that the planning department did not serve development well, with "weaknesses in imagination" and speed re major applications.

Steve Kelly pointed out that the skills agenda would need accommodation for more apprentices, up-skilling the workforce and this would likely continue for 2- 3 years.

There was a brief discussion about the re-use of historic property as accommodation. It was suggested that there were issues with this as an option related to the existing buildings themselves and that alternative uses should be considered as some of the spaces above retail outlets were large.

Judith Furlonger reported that WYCA had a report – Transitional Spaces, that might help with these considerations.

Sophie Brown reported that there was a rise in demand for Health and social care apprentices and that some anchor organisations could be helped to meet these needs.

There was some recognition that this subject needed further investigation.

5.0

Robbie Moore MP Suggested that there be space for start-ups. There were opportunities in the sports sector and tourism. He suggested that mapping of public and privately owned sites would be valuable.

Cllr Ross-Shaw noted that at this stage we should not worry about competing priorities, will need to start strategic pulling together etc. We all know the sites which are problematic, in terms of public sector assets, we should be able to build on the work already done here.

B Mem

ACTION - Board Members to feedback to Lorraine Wright / Paul

North on the content of the SWOT analysis by close of play Monday 12th October. paul.north@bradford.gov.uk

Intervention Framework

6.0 The intervention framework Found in Appendix A of the further guidance sets out the details of the projects and interventions that are admissible under the fund. It also highlights the types of outputs and outcomes expected. All projects proposed for inclusion in the TIP have to align to the Vision and meet the Intervention Framework so it's important that any potential projects are considered in that context from the outset to ensure compliance.

Action: Board members to familiarise themselves with Intervention Framework. A link to the further guidance is on the Town Fund webpage on the Council's website. Experience from cohort 1 had shown that some places did not have a strong enough link between their proposals and the intervention framework.

7.0 Lorraine stressed the importance for board members to start thinking about potential projects, and bring thoughts to the next meeting. Ian also noted this is vital now, agreed identify projects to be discussed at the meeting on 5 November.

8.0 Any Other Business

None

Future meetings

- 5th November
- 3rd December
- 7th Jan 2021
- 28th Jan 2021

Attendance:

Ian Hayfield (Chair) Hayfield Robinson, Steve Kelly (Deputy Chair) Keighley College Cllr Mohammed Nazam - Keighley Town Council, Safraz Riaz-Yorkshire Aluminium, Sophie Brown Airedale Hospital Trust, Saqib Karim - Ezi-floor, Mark Wilkinson Environment Agency, Mark Elders Legend Telecom, Georgina Webster – Keighley Creative Space, Elle Dodd W & S.Yorks. Town Hub lead. Soo Nevison - CABAD, Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw, Lorraine Coates MHCLG, Adrienne Reid – Incommunities, Mark Clayton CBMDC Policy, Judith Furlonger – LEP rep from WYCA, Lorraine Wright – CBMDC, Shelagh O'Neil CBMDC, Paul North CBMDC, Bruna Minto - CBMDC.

6.0

7.0

8.0

