

Skegness Place Reference Group- 20th May, 2pm

Members in attendance

- Sid Dennis
- John Chapelle
- John Henry Looney
- Stuart Hardy
- Robert Parker
- Tanya Vaughan

Officers in Attendance

- Lydia Rusling
- Alison Penn
- Martin Kay
- Craig Fiske
- Lisa Collins

Consultants

- Ivan Annibal
- Steve Kemp

Apologies received (Martin could you please add who?)

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

LR- Update on Government stance on Towns Fund- highlight the need of the towns fund to help with economic recovery after COVID-19 and that the government are looking for these shovel ready projects to help aid with this recovery. Also the need to engage with the public to hear there views on projects and their suggestions. Looking for projects that look into environmental issues.

Discussion on eco-chalets: Eco-chalet project was agreed to be put on the back burner as SD, SH, JC and RP didn't really see any commercial viability to the project and didn't believe it would add what is needed to Skegness. Also questioned the seasonality of these and location. Understood that it would help promote the Towns Fund bid and strengthen it as they are shovel-ready. LC did provide an argument for the chalets saying demand for these were on the rise and it would come in line with the GO Skegness project. Would also help promote that area. AP did highlight this wouldn't be taking up much, if any, Towns Fund money but was there to showcase what can be done quickly in Skegness to help with economic development and recovery. It was agreed by all that if it was to help with promoting other key projects such as the foreshore and FE Campus then it could go ahead.

Discussion on the Skegness foreshore: Agreement that this was a good idea and should be looked into further. It would help bring visitors and footfall into Skegness and help the businesses recover after COVID-19 while also creating further retail opportunities. It would also help with the accessibility to Skegness which has been highlighted by locals as an issue. Would be seen as a project that would bring benefit to a majority of people in Skegness in some way or another.

Discussion of the FE Campus: Project was backed by all members and should be the keystone project for Skegness. Will help with the skill shortages in the area that were shown by the evidence base. Would help greatly with the young people in Skegness and their further education. Would be a transformational project as it would allow higher education to be taught in the area and allow for key skills to be learned in Skegness. Would also keep the young people in the area if we can teach them here which will help the local economy massively. The business incubation units would be a massive plus to help with new business into the area and allow students to develop their ideas to allow the town to thrive. Would provide training opportunities for local businesses to staff to develop skills further which businesses have needed in the area and would keep revenue in the area. Ideas were mentioned around Park & Ride at the facility for the Town and also the opportunity of new leisure facilities for the public. Agreed that the project should be moved forward as quickly as possible with designs and costings to be looked into further.

Community engagement: Still plenty of money available for projects. A prospectus is to be developed for further idea generation and engage with the private sector for developments in Skegness. There is the need to engage more with the community and what they want through the Towns Fund. SK talks about how in the current climate it is hard to public consultation but alternatives to get the public involved with the Towns Fund. Want the community to air issues and what they feel the Town needs and what it doesn't. Maye look at a focus group with a representative group of people for Skegness to share ideas that there already is and get feedback on them as well as get new ideas. Discussion on best ways to engage with the public to be had.

Any other business- highway work on Roman Bank to start imminently- TV

Discussion of what Mablethorpe are looking into. AP says they have similar interests but looking more into supporting people. They have also highlighted improve skills of the local people and providing more opportunities for them. SD to Talk to Helen Matthews regarding this.

Next meeting: 22nd July, 2pm