

Skegness Place Reference Group Meeting
Wednesday 16th September 2020 @ 4.00pm
Via Microsoft Teams

In attendance

Cllr Steve Kirk
Stuart Hardy
John Chappelle
Tanya Vaughan
Robert Parker
Peter Ives

Consultants

Ivan Annibal
Martin Collison
John Henry Looney

ELDC

Lydia Rusling
Martin Kay
Jon Burgess
Craig Fiske
Michelle Sacks

Apologies

Cllr Sue Blackburn
Sarah Louise Fairburn
Chris Baron
Cllr Sid Dennis
Amy Thomas

Welcome and Introductions

John Chappelle opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting

Minutes

The minutes were read and approved with one change, Tanya Burgess should be Tanya Vaughan (pg.2)

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Blackburn, Cllr Sid Dennis, Sarah Louise Fairburn, Chris Baron and Amy Thomas

Programme and Bidding Timescales Review

Reference was made to the updated Gantt chart issued in the papers. A workshop with MHCLG is being held on the 28th September to review the first draft of the Town Investment Plan and receive feedback. The Town Investment Plan will need to receive full council approval before being submitted on 30th October. A further proposed board meeting is being arranged in October to follow on from the September one. After the bid is submitted negotiations over projects will happen with government and then we will have 12 months to submit full business cases for each. It was stated that there wasn't really any more time and we had reached a cut-off for new project ideas.

Skegness Story Board

The storyboard for Skegness is available to view via the website. It has been produced as a summary of the evidence base, to realise the ambitions of the town and highlights the projects that have been put forward to date. It is a tool for community engagement and informing the community what projects are on offer and why they are needed. This will be continually updated up to bid submission.

It was asked by the group to circulate Preston's Town Fund Town Investment Plan which can be found here- https://www.preston.gov.uk/media/3175/Our-Towns-Fund-Investment-Plan/pdf/Preston_Towns_Fund_CIP_-_Our_Town_Fund_Investment_Plan.pdf?m=63733268238260000

Action- Lydia to check storyboard viewing figures and feedback to the group.

Skegness Projects Update – including interdependencies

A majority of projects have got interim costings. A tool which can look at the economic and social impact of projects is being used to help highlight the need for each project. Projects are also being measured on jobs created and the gross value added to the Town by them.

Further Education Campus- £14 million ask for a new college campus. This will enable greater learning and development for local people. It also includes enterprise units, sports facilities, and the potential for park and ride. The location helps the opening up of the Gateway site as part of the sustainable urban extension. Head of terms have been signed around the land, Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Grimsby tech group and a contract signed for designs to take the project to RIBA Stage 2 level. Will bring a very good return for the money with a BCR (Benefit/cost ratio) of around £10

Foreshore- is a shovel-ready project. The first stage of this project was put forward for accelerated funding and was successful. It will focus on the southern boating late area. It is a public realm initiative, with a direct impact upon the Town. Hoping to change the visitor offer. BCR of around £3.

Michelle Sacks commented on the importance of the timing of the accelerated funding in connection with the bid submission.

Police training- updated proposal received which offers added value to the project. Looking at working with FE campus. Elements of the new proposal to be used for the community (meetings and conference facilities). Looking for other partners to use the space. Main aim to help with police training and recruitment of officers for the area. Improved proposal was supported by the board and Cllr Kirk.

Action- Lydia to put Peter Ives in contact with Jo.

Station- designs have been received from EMR. The aim is to re-purpose some facilities and improve the overall look at the station while improving commuter experience. There is also a planned community facility at the station. Tanya Vaughan suggested to look at integration with the bus station for onward travel which is being explored. Expected BCR of £5-10.

Action- Visuals for Skegness station to be shared

Hardy's Animal Farm Trail- will enhance/diversify visitor offer in Skegness and extend the season. Footpath and cycle routes to be put in with commercial opportunities. These paths will connect with other cycle/walking ways to improve the routes from the Town to the beach.

Cycling/walking- gear-up program. This project is a broader plan for the coast bringing together nature with exercise. Environmental change to be incorporated in this to help with flood risk. Create a green strip to help with this but also get people out to walk/cycle and extend the offer provided. Hope is to engage with more locals and attract visitors who like cycling/walking. Create hubs along the route and create a circular route. Help link everything together from station to beach. Lydia updated group on LCWIP and Cycle England and how these can impact upon the project.

YMCA- help bring young people into employability and offering them something to do. Town hall has been highlighted as the proposed site. Would involve the redevelopment of the Town Hall to include accommodation, leisure facilities, meeting space, youth clubs and a nursery.

CLLD- is smaller grant fund scheme. Small businesses/community groups bid for money to improve services and offerings to the town. This will run for 4-5 years. Local community board to make decisions on what groups/businesses get the money based upon applications. Would cover key Towns Fund intervention themes (response to Covid, digital, green growth, regeneration). Board agreed that this is a great idea and were excited to get buy-in from the community and businesses. Was compared to the LEADER program with the potential of job creation through the scheme. Issue was raised as to whether this was allowed under the Towns Fund but was confirmed the rules allowed for it.

Magna Vitae culture proposal and the Embassy theatre- group concurred that there must be a wider look than the theatre. Use surroundings to link in with other projects. Looking further into this. Recommendations- outdoor screenings, lighting displays, using the beach. Further details and costings to come soon.

Town Centre Regeneration- Greg, Heritage Lincolnshire to help with this project in Skegness. Working with premises to upgrade quality of shop front (developed in covid response). Match from HLF. Working with Emilie Wales, Historic Environment Officer. Will offer area improvements and the look of the Town to make it more attractive to locals and visitors. Cllr Kirk noted about the failure of the previous grant fund scheme but with this offer the project team would work with the businesses and engage with them rather than the other way round.

Gateway- various aspects have been suggested from their plans. Fits in and around the new FE Campus.

Action- share tower gardens plans

Strategy Completion

Strategy will help highlight why we are doing what we are doing and how all the projects link together. First draft on this is being produced for the 21st September. Will be shown on the 28th in the MHCLG workshop for scrutiny.

Lobbying Plan

The plan not only looks at lobbying for the Towns Fund but goes beyond to try and attract interest in future investment (government, private and third sector). It is long term plan- different stages of over the next year with towns fund and then extend beyond towns fund. Highlights the need to pull in other funding sources and starts to show how this can be achieved. Last strand looks at a need for structure for the long-term. Board and PRG- how they continue and deliver projects in the future and keep the community engaged.

Investors in the Coast

Investors in the coast allows for the public/private sectors to work together to look at sites and develop them into new ideas/improve them for better use. Can create income to put back into different projects and into the community. Ideas session with the private sector confirmed with a date to be circulated.

Any Other Business

Agreed an October PRG is to be set up to discuss updated projects between now and then.