

Newark Town Board

Minutes of the Meeting of Newark Town Funds Board Meeting held on Thursday, 30 May 2024 at 8.30 am, at the Barcode Warehouse, Newton House, 3 Brunel Drive, Newark NG24 2EG.

1 ATTENDEES

PRESENT:

Jane Buxton	Balderton Parish Council
Louise Sinclair	Beaumont House
Linny Beaumont	Canal and River Trust
Alan Leather	Canal and River Trust
James Daykin	Daykin Marshall Studio
Rosemary Thompson	Historic England
Clare Janes	Inspire
Peter Gaw	Inspire
Penny Taylor	Lincoln College Group
Kevin Kendall	Lincolnshire Coop
Michael Bingwa	National Careers Service
Louise Casey-Simpson	Newark and Sherwood CVS
Elaine Poon	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Matt Lamb	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Andrew Phillips	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Rowan Cozens	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Victoria Cozens	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Neil Cuttell	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Bonnie Mitchell	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Paul Peacock	Newark and Sherwood District Council
John Robinson	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Will Parkinson	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Helen Brandham	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Jane Harrison	Newark Civic Trust
Tony Aspbury	Newark Showground
Dawn Campbell	Newark Town Council
Matthew Gleadell	Newark Town Council
Joelle Davies	Nottinghamshire County Council
Danny Collins	Savills
Emma Leung	Savills
Andrew Fearn	St Mary Magdalene with St Leonard
Peter Hill	Transforming Notts Together
Jo Bradley	YMCA
Steffen Benbow	YMCA

ONLINE:

Kathryn Sharp	Environment Agency
Jenny Garbis	Gusto UK

Darren Burke	Masdings of Newark
Steff Wright	Gusto UK
Lauren Harvey	Lincoln College Group
Sanjiv Kohli	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Julia Sandhu	Reach
Simon Gabbitas	Newark Business Club
Anna Tsatsari	BE Design

2 INTERIM CHAIR UPDATE

The Interim Chair Penny Taylor updated the meeting to advise that the current Government was creating a High Street Task Force.

A question was raised as to if the Government did change what would happen with the money, will it still be guaranteed over the 10-year period. The response to that was it should continue after the election as there was cross party consensus to the principle of the fund.

The Board sought that the fundamental issue was ensuring that local people were able to engage with the programme.

3 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2024

Matt Lamb advised the meeting that 3 people had put their name forward for the Chair's position, it was recommended to the Board to have two Co-Chair's and a Vice-Chair.

The Board agreed to the following:
 Co-Chair Penny Taylor and Louise Casey-Simpson
 Vice-Chair Tony Aspbury

It was AGREED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

4 MASTERPLAN AND TOWNS FUND UPDATE

Matt Lamb provided a presentation and update on the Masterplan & Town Fund Programmes.

The Masterplan update draft vision is going out to consultation in the Summer 2024 to understand what is important for the Town Centre to continue to thrive with an excellent mix of shops, services and community activities with the Marketplace at the heart, beautiful buildings and attractive green streets and spaces.

The Draft Masterplan Principles will inform what is important for the Town Centre and the Town and will include how climate change will be considered in all future thinking.

A review into the Public Consultation was provided, and what was not necessarily deliverable right away, and consideration into how things are done differently moving forward to achieve the vision. One identified project of a regenerated market place was discussed, and how it could be with undertaken whilst maintaining it's identity,

the public realm, managing movement, greening, water play for families, ability to host events. Further how to make this a success with existing businesses and involving all partners to support achieving shared aspirations was considered highly important by the Board.

Board members discussed holding a workshop between now and the next Board meeting to begin to build the 3 year Long Term Plan for Towns Investment Plan. An assessment can then be undertaken using what the Masterplan was providing as a set of principles, coupled with what the Residents and what the community have stated, and what the Board is giving as a set of principles, and what the evidence base is stating.

An update was provided on Towns Fund One Programme, with regard reallocating the grant for the Gateway (Sisclog) Project to the Stodman and Castle Gatehouse Projects. The Castle Gatehouse Project is now a fully funded scheme with funding confirmed by Heritage Lottery. Matt Lamb then informed the Board on the development of 32 Stodman Street which is progressing into the development stage and has archaeology works being undertaken at present. The assessment for an extended development incorporating St Marks Place is considered a future priority.

The Board approved the report recommendations for the reallocation of the Gateway (Sisclog) funding to Castle Gatehouse for £310k, and the remainder to Stodman Phase 1 & 2 and for the submission of the Project Adjustment Request (PAR) to Government.

5 CALLS FOR PROJECTS UPDATE - PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP FOR LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS

Danny Collins from Savills provided an update with a presentation, reminding the Board that 55 towns including Newark & Sherwood received £20 million and a further 20 towns have been selected. The funding is released over 10 years, it is not received all at once, with the investment being apportioned between capital and revenue funding each year..

Danny Collins reminded the Board that the overall process is the first stage is to set up a Town Board which is now in place. The next stage is to set up a strategy for the proposed investment.

The strategy will set a 10-year vision, what are the objectives and what the investment will be used for. The Board will decide on the 3-year plan, with what projects will receive funding and support, and how to get things moving.

The 'Call for Projects' has returned over 100 project responses which have been sorted into categories, grouped, and project themes. Many of the proposals were around regeneration, arts and culture, environment, safety and transport. These were then aligned with the 3 key themes of the plan which are 1) Security and Safety, 2) Transport and Connectivity and 3) High Street, Heritage and Regeneration.

Matt Lamb proceeded with the presentation and went through a list of what it is the Board may wish to consider in developing the Plan, this included a focus on geography, the town centre, vacant units, events and footfall and has all the

information been captured. There are a number of great proposal and ideas that require further information and working with partners. Further proposals with no organisation leading them have been received.

Other proposals regarding the safety and security objective have been received and include; a new CCTV control room, replacing market damaged lighting and youth worker support and outreach. The High Street, Hertiage & Regeneration objective have been received, one around the look and feel of the place, one regarding greening, one being there for families, and one for keeping the openness and al fresco eating and dining. There were also proposals for town centre events regarding activity, the and the market doing something different. Proposals also included redevelopment of St Marks and working on bring into use the upper levels of buildings for residential use. This included working with Landlords who make the decisions, developing a strategy for vacant units, and exhibition space. The development of the public realm and a focus to prioritise key transport links, trails, wayfinding. There was also proposals for a focus on St Mary's Church undertaking a stage 3 lighting project, an expansion of the Palace Theatre to enhance the profile and many proposals on improving the breadth and frequency of the arts and performance offer.

A Hospital active travel scheme was also discussed as well as community and business grants, feasibility grant funding for large capital projects, a new sports stadium and Beaumond House who are looking to expand and relocate. Other proposals provided included; were more litter picks and tree planting, flood alleviation, and local organisations such as Reach in a community grant regime and shows they are beginning to engage.

The Board agree that a separate workshop outside of this meeting and before the June 2024 meeting be held. The Board then divided into groups for a breakout session at today's meeting for approx. 20 minutes to discuss key themes and issues for the Investment Plan.

The questions for discussion and summary from the discussion as below:

- **Question 1 Does the Board support a focus on the town centre geography?**
General support for town centre focus (including riverside), especially for activities. There is consensus that the Board wants to include wider area to ensure various community groups can benefit from the funding, and better accessibility to the town centre.
- **Question 2 Do we prefer to see a larger number of small projects, or a smaller amount of larger projects?**
All of the groups support a mix of small and large projects.

Most of the groups have the same idea that they'd like to see some smaller projects as 'early wins' and then have a few large projects later in the process.

- **Question 3 Do things we agree to fund need to have a legacy and ongoing financial sustainability?**
 - Unanimous 'Yes' to legacy proposals – one group mentioned this is more

- important than financial sustainability, but also want to allow for one off events
 - Members sought that the investment could have some projects kick starting something even if financial sustainability can't be established at the start
 - Financial sustainability – important especially for large scale capital projects
- **Question 4 Have we missed anything?**
Feedback included:
 - Transport and connectivity; there not a lot of proposals and would like to see something related to public transport
 - Short term projects need to be visible to the community
 - Health and wellbeing provisions
 - Digital wayfinding signs
 - 37 Castle Gate (former TSB bank) and 14 Market Place are potential projects
 - A grant finder service to make it easier to find match funding
 - Better family offer and better promotion for day visitors
 - **Other comments?**
 - Match funding; would like to see match funding to show due diligence and confidence
 - There was an ask to see if Sustrans could be involved with active travel development
 - It was noted that the Long list of projects was not evenly spread across priorities
 - There was consensus to provide grant programmes for Community Business and Feasibility.

6 LONG TERM PLAN FOR TOWNS - A BETTER NAME?

Penny Taylor began a discussion for a better name for the Long Term Plan for Towns, something jazzy initial suggestions were 'Revive and Thrive Newark' and 'Newark's Vision for 2030'. Other suggestions could be posted after the meeting through 'Padlet'. The Padlet tool would be shared by Penny Taylor with Board Members.

7 FUTURE DECISION MAKING - A FINAL TOWNS BOARD

Matt Lamb advised after gathering the information from today's meeting, a workshop would take place before the next Board meeting, Matt thanked the Board for their time that they give to attend these meetings.

There would need to be consideration in the selection of project and methodology including state aid, and subsidy control.

Matt Lamb advised that the Steering Group would continue at present, with a proposal for a slimmed down Decision-Making Board to go ahead, the representation included a slide presented to the Board of proposed members who put their names forward for the Decision-Making Board over the last month.

Penny Taylor highlighted that those identified on the list are key people to move things forward. Andrew Fearn highlighted that there was nobody on the list with a responsibility for heritage and whether that should be reviewed, Penny noted for

further consideration.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Next meetings:

Thursday 27 June 2024 at 3.30pm – Newark College

Thursday 25 July 2024 at 3.00pm – Palace Theatre

Submission of LTPfT Investment Plan by 1 August 2024

Meeting closed at 10.07 am.

Chairman