

MINUTES OF THE SPALDING TOWN BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 17 JUNE AT 17:00 – 19:00
AT BOSTON COLLEGE CAMPUS, RED LION QUARTER, SPALDING

Present: Robin Hancox (Chair) - Lincolnshire Field Products, Lydia Rusling - S&ELCP, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Charlotte Goy - Destination Lincolnshire, Ivan Annibal - Rose Regeneration, Lizzi van Egmond - Business Representative, Councillor Nick Worth - SHDC, John Mullen - SHDC, , Michelle Gant - The Engaging People Company, - Joanne Davison (Lincolnshire PCC office), Craig Delaney - Spalding Business Board, John Bland - Spalding Civic Society, Sir John Hayes - MP, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Tracey Stringfellow - Heritage Lincolnshire, Simon Wright - LCC, Claire Foster - Boston College, Dustin Wood - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Councillor Rob Gibson - SHDC, David Jones - Pedals, Catherine Duce - Spalding Business Board, Michael Morris - Tonic Health

Apologies for Absence: Matthew Hogan - S&ELCP, Luisa Stanney - S&ELCP, Marc Jones - Lincolnshire Police Crime Commissioner, - Inspector Matt Dickinson - Lincolnshire Police, Louis Humphries - SHDC, Jon Burgess - ELDC, - David Ball Bridge Farm.

1 Welcome

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

He noted that there will be a degree of uncertainty surrounding and following the current election period and unknown outcome to decisions based on current commitments made by the previous Government to funding Long Term Plan for Towns. Discussions have been held with colleagues in UKGOV and it was agreed to take a "Business as Usual" stance with the LTPFT programme for Spalding and the two other S&ELCP towns.

2 Declarations of Interest

RH reminded members to fill in the Declarations of Interest form and return them to LS if not already done so.

3 To agree Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record - proposed by NW, seconded by CF.

4 Notes of Workshop held on 10 May 2024

LR stated that the notes had been distributed prior to the meeting and if there were any issues arising from these notes, she would be happy to receive - Meeting accepted the notes as an accurate record of the workshop.

5 Schedule and Programme of Work

LR introduced Simon Wright, LCC Regeneration and Portfolio Manager.

LR reminded the group that the papers sent out prior to the Board meeting included a Gantt timetable and next steps paper including the latest guidance received from UKGOV colleagues. LR had updated colleagues at UKGOV regional on current Business as Usual stance. LR noted the Portal for uploading the final LTPFT Vision and 3-year Investment Plan is expected to be similar to previous UK Shared Prosperity Fund plans upload. There will be 11 sections in total to upload including key areas such as Vision statement/Strategic Case for Change/Objectives/Outcomes/3 Year Investment Plan/ Statement how the 3-year plan aligns with the Vision over 10 years/ Investment leverage of other funding/match funding and spend/Governance/ High level milestones/ Assurances from Local Authority (Section 151 Officer) to support the plan.

CG asked if other potential alignments can be included regarding inputs and funding support that could benefit LTPFT delivery over the period of the programme? LR agreed that this would add value if supporting information was as complete as possible to inform the plans. JD confirmed that Adam suggested we did reference other funding sources, e.g. safer streets.

6 Long Term Plan Process - Refresh

LR updated the board in relation to the process for gathering information and views via survey work and research being carried out by Engaging People Ltd.

RH also asked MG to provide an explanation of issues that had come to light with capacity to provide full coverage of household postal surveys and in particular streets in the town that were missed out during the initial wave of activity.

MG stated to date those 498 responses had been received and that this could be considered a "Strategically Robust" return. Paper copies were still arriving and so the number would increase. Spalding was the most engaged taking account of the returns, from all three towns surveyed under the LTPFT. In relation to the postal questionnaire, robust evidence had been provided from the company around delivery. Extended deadline to Friday 21 June.

Whistl, were contracted to carry out survey mailing, but soon became aware that issues had been raised to the possibility that 25% of the town had no coverage. To cover missing streets MG sought help from researchers to go out to these streets and provide door to door availability and since then a further 250-300 surveys had been issued to households.

JB asked if all town had received the survey now? He would like to have this evidence from MG - He stated also that the surveys that had been sent out still had the old return date which may have added more confusion. He said that the layout was poor and address to be returned was missing.

RH asked where the survey was at with the deadline now and said he was happy to go on a joint call with Whistl to investigate the issues further and seek the relevant answers to issues faced.

MG thanked RH and added that there were positive events to report, and these were held to add further value to the household research namely Heritage Lincolnshire and YMCA events, the former having held a town walkaround and latter market day promotion of the survey and programme awareness campaign day.

7 Initial Consultation Feedback - Key Themes and Issues

IA summarised the three agenda items to follow by stating they were all integral and integrated to the submission that will be needed to go to UKGOV by 1 August. Firstly, to provide an overview of what the research has discovered and key feedback from the community. Secondly, to talk through the potential to explore “off menu” interventions that could be submitted with the plan and thirdly the opportunity to explore the potential of setting up of a future “Special Purpose Vehicle” as a means to both leverage returns on investments made and act independently providing a sustainable model for creating an “endowment” vehicle without been too closely tied to the local authority.

The headlines, (information still being collated) coming out of the responses and sitting under the three themes IA stated were:

- High relevance on tackling crime and ASB.
- River and waterfront focus important opportunity area for regeneration, along with High Street and Market Place.
- Cleanliness and appearance of retail environment.
- Shop fronts and heritage buildings enthusiasm.
- Live music and artistic events. More effort into tourism attractions, including Ayscoughfee.
- Physical environment at railway station and focus on town centre connectivity. Focus on cycling.
- Farmers Markets, indoor market provision and benefit of independent traders.

JH provided a view of themes pride, purpose and place. Shop closures. People hanging around. ASB based on impression. Focus on marketplace, ‘green’ it more, shop fronts. Endorse investment into culture, using the river more creatively, e.g. lights along the river. Shopping list of that can make a difference.

NW stated that although the summary of responses presented nothing new; generally public realm development and enhancements can provide a real difference especially with key buildings that could be improved and present opportunities for investment. Big opportunities such as the Old Johnsons Hospital have been highlighted as well as other prominent buildings that are noticeable in their current state and in need of more attention and improvement. Cycling access and improvement of current offer could present more sustainable way to encourage more people into the town.

SE said there are two key local cycling aspects to consider; firstly, there was cycle network provision, but not joined up to provide full coverage so connecting them was key; Secondly, there is a need to improve the state of the cycle paths to make them attractive as a means of travel to more people. He reminded the group that Lincolnshire County Council have a Cycle Network Plan and there will be an opportunity to focus on how the plan can be delivered if the funding available. Current planned investment of £1.8m has been through a feasibility stage to undertake cycle network improvements to the Pinchbeck to Spalding route" and not "Pinchbeck road area". The investment of £1.8m is from Knight Street, Pinchbeck to the entrance to Forge Close, Spalding (the current vehicular access to the swimming pool by motor vehicle).

RH stated that if there are plans that have been costed and could deliver improvements would this not be a potential submission that could go forward as a future investment opportunity?

LR agreed that there is capacity to link ideas and support for them to deliver improvement across all three investment themes given the example of cycling that could improve both the transport network and increase more activity in the town centre.

SW stated he will find out more on the current status of the LCC Cycling plans and provide an update on these with detail of current activities that are planned and/or could be included as potential interventions in the Investment Plan for the town.

RG stated he was not surprised ASB has been focus of responses as well as on-street drinking. Highlighted electric and mobility scooters combined with takeaway drivers and unnecessary levels of cars movements and parking in pedestrian areas as well as rough sleeping highlighted. LCC consultation with businesses, committee in September, barrier in October. and reported on current focus of the town centre traffic review that could see resolution by late Autumn with further and revised Traffic Orders sought for tackling issues of vehicles entering pedestrian controlled Market Place and creating conflict with pedestrians and shoppers.

A further discussion took place on ASB related issues to defining both the types of ASB recorded and insight into reviews and investments in tackling ASB through CCTV, lighting and police focus including "hot spot" response targeting that has had some additional funding.

JD highlighted PCC commissioned review of CCTV - Not enough capacity to provide hot spot policing. In other areas, warden patrols could be applied here.

JB said that there is a need to drill down into town centre and riverside improvement responses to know what the detail was regarding the focus for investment, especially the need to reconnect the town and river with improvements to public realm. He provided the group with the view that the Civic Society has been an advocate for improvements especially in Market Place/Hall Place and Riverside areas. MG said there is potential to drill down into the survey results and provide this data if required. CG highlighted the role more volunteering could play and underpin actions that are developed creating a long-term basis for community well-being and strengthen opportunities for sustainable improvements to be created.

ET re-iterated need to engage and support the voluntary and community sector with capacity to get involved and be part of the solutions that are planned through LTPFT investments, especially focused in on Active Travel - she will speak with IA to explore further detail on how the plans can support the role of the third sector and investment planning.

MM raised the subject of engagement through the current survey with young people and how surveys generally did not tend to be seen by them as a way of getting their views and ideas across. MG said schools and colleges were targeted and specifically prompted to engage with the survey. CF said ongoing engagement needed to be a theme and ongoing activity as she agreed that students tended not to get involved or see surveys as a way of getting involved.

Further discussion on town centre improvements came from DW and the many examples that currently exist and could support repurposing buildings including diversifying the use of shops not just focused on retail outlets but providing space for art galleries for example.

TS informed the group that the recent town and riverside walkaround exercise staged by Heritage Lincolnshire provided good input into issues and will support the themes being developed especially around vacant shops and re-use of buildings.

NW: markets opportunity driven by footfall. Focus should be on town centre events.

CF: USP for Spalding could be for large scale events.

SPG: 'dot-joining' between events and smaller scale events. Example of community artists displaying in empty shops.

IA reiterated the submission in August will need to be flexible in what is proposed and to a certain extent provide capacity for different and varied projects to be developed around the three main themes. He stated that the ongoing engagement will not stop in August and will therefore need to be an ongoing process.

8 Big Scale "Off List" Project Opportunities

IA highlighted the need to raise more interest in ideas beyond the three main themes and look potential to include "off menu" schemes. Noted interest in the Old Johnsons Hospital as an example but would encourage more "off menu" ideas to come forward prior to finalising the investment plans. IA was surprised not a great deal was mentioned on food and environment given the profile of the area and town has within the economy.

9 Special Purpose Vehicle Discussion - Options and Issues

IA introduced the topic of Special Purpose Vehicles and how introducing the model as a potential independent entity to provide capacity to invest and recycle those investments, (such as acquiring assets) in ventures designed to sustain long term activities in support of the town and community. The models currently in place include "Invest in Lincoln" as a relevant example and potential way forward to focus on the "endowment" aspects of the fund and ensuring there is a legacy for any investments made in the town. ET asked about the inclusion of community and how Invest in Lincoln model could and would need to reflect both the key ingredients of focus on the economy and community to make it work for this fund and town. RG supported need to ensure investment is long term and therefore sustainable - SW asked if a SPV would have Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers. IA said not CPO powers as this is an action used by local authorities and tends to be a threat to owners of said properties rather than action taken through the planning/legal process.

NW said that there were quite a few opportunities in the short-term for investment and potential longer-term assets such as the Old Johnsons Hospital.

10 Spalding Flower Parade

NW introduced the topic of future Flower Parade and talks that have been held to explore this. He raised the issue with the group as to whether there would be the possibility of support as a community event, which would be the ideal model for a sustainable event and create ongoing opportunities for staging the event for future years.

A general discussion took place on how the event can provide and align with the Long-Term Plan for Towns funding model and Government requirements on ensuring sustainable support for the town and community in the long term. This would require more detail and evidence of value that

investment could bring about. LR said there would be a need to base any investment proposal on how feasible it is and be based on the priorities of the funding and outputs and outcomes the scheme can provide.

11 AOB

IA said that the next meeting of the Board would have an outline investment plan submission along with ideas included as a first draft.

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 8 July 2024 at 5pm.