

# TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 2pm

Held at the Town Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon

## MINUTES Pages 1-4

### Present:

**Accessible Stratford** represented by Elizabeth Dixon

**Royal Shakespeare Company** represented by Emma Gibbons

**Shakespeare's England** represented by Helen Peters

**Stratford-upon-Avon Town Council** represented by Cllr Richard Vos

**Stratford District Council** represented by John Careford, also attended by Cllr Jenny Fradgley

**Stratford society** represented by John Scampion (Vice Chair)

**Stratford Town Trust** represented by Sara Aspley (Chair)

**Town Transport Group** represented by Colin Stewart

**Warwickshire County Council** represented by Dave-Ayton-Hill, Aaron Corsi, and also attended by Cllrs Kate Rolfe and Tim Sinclair. Aoife O'Gorman attended as an observer.

**Advent Communications** represented by Sam Jackson.

**Clerk to the Strategic Partnership:** Margo Galvin

**Apologies for absence:** Tim Aucott (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust), Stephen Rumble and Catherine Marks (Warwickshire County Council), Cllr Anne Parry and Joanne Bozdoganli (Stratford District Council), Cllrs Gill Cleeve and Caroline Nash, (Stratford Town Council), Rachel Sharpe (RSC), Dianne Mansell (Stratford Upon Avon BID) and Holly Woodhead (Bell Court)

### 1. Welcome

The Chair welcomed Aoife O'Gorman to the meeting as an observer.

### 2. Actions and Minutes from the meeting held on 19 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2023 were approved.

### 3. Matters Arising

As a follow-up to item 4.1 in the January 2023 minutes (Future structure of the Strategic Partnership) Cllr Vos advised that he has obtained some information on Altrincham. This should be read in parallel with documents previously circulated about best practice in Colchester, Lowestoft and Kendal.

**Action 1: 23.02.23** – Committee Clerk to circulate Altrincham documents with these minutes.

**Meer Street bollards:** Cllr Sinclair shared the designs created by local artist Ilona Pike for six bollards in Meer Street, a project initiated by Stratford's former Town Clerk, Sarah Summers. The designs focus on different aspects of Stratford-upon-Avon, incorporating both historical landmarks and green spaces around the town. It is expected that the bollards will be painted during March.

**Vision workshops:** The final workshop 'Ease of Movement' took place in January and the updated slides from all the sessions have been circulated to Partnership members. The outputs from this work are a vision, a mission and 24 projects. Some of these are large strategic projects with potentially large benefits, while others are smaller but can be seen as 'quick wins'. Some projects overlap with others. The next steps are to prioritise these projects in the context of benefit vs cost, present them in a prospectus and then go out for public consultation. Oife O'Gorman will assist with this. Funding will be crucial and, while funding opportunities are available, they often arise at short notice. Therefore, the Partnership needs to be ready to apply quickly when they do come up.

Recommended next steps:

- a. From the 'long list' of 24 projects currently identified, select a short list of short/easy and longer-term/harder projects.
- b. Create a document that sets out the actions required to deliver on the selected projects, to include a business case for each one (accepting that some projects may not be delivered until funding is achieved)

Clear and positive support from SDC will be vital to maximise the chances of success.

#### **4. South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) – consultation and response**

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are undertaking an Issues and Options consultation, in tandem with a Call for Sites exercise, between Monday 9 January and Monday 6 March 2023. The Strategic Partnership has agreed to respond to this consultation.

The Issues and Options consultation provides a second opportunity for residents and stakeholders to have their say on the emerging Local Plan. It includes different options for selecting preferences to several planning policy issues and the policy options to address them. It also sets out broad options for consideration on where to best accommodate new development in the future.

Issues and Options is the second stage of eight in the process of preparing the SWLP and will be followed by a Preferred Options consultation to run from July to October 2023.

John Careford highlighted some of the key points to consider in any response to the consultation, and Strategic Partnership members made several observations, summarised below:

- It is important to consider the locations of the suggested Call for Sites.
- Locating new housing at the edge of towns does not necessarily create community cohesion.
- New sites should be considered in the context of 20-minute neighbourhoods whereby residents should be able to access local amenities by walking, cycling or taking public transport in 20 minutes there and back. Locating housing at the edge of ever-expanding towns will make this impossible.
- Every new development needs a base/centre.
- While new settlements will avoid the need to develop housing at the edges of Stratford, they take around 15 years to develop, so are not quick solutions.
- Two new settlements have been started in the last decade in the Stratford area: Meon Vale and Long Marston. Long Marston is currently problematic because the development's connectivity to Stratford is unclear.
- New settlements would potentially work best if located alongside the railway. This would have an impact on Green Belt land but should be considered
- A transport plan is needed that matches the local plan.
- New housing should be accessible to all e.g. not have steps to the front door

John Careford advised that SDC is doing some work to map suitable locations with sites that landowners have brought forward for potential development.

<p><b>Action 2: 23.02.23</b> – ALL to provide comments to SA by Monday 27 February. SA to co-ordinate the feedback into a single Strategic Partnership response to be submitted on 06 March.</p>
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## 5. Town Transport Group and Cycle Forum

Colin Stewart advised that the Town Transport Group had met to discuss the SWLP and he will share feedback with the Strategic Partnership.

## 6. Communications update – new Strategic Partnership website

Sam Jackson demonstrated the My Town Nuneaton website <https://mytownnuneaton.co.uk/>, developed by Advent Communications. The Partnership website could use a similar template. Advent would manage the new site with input from the Town Council. Exact responsibilities to be agreed as work on the site progresses, including ownership of the info@ email address, if one is to be included on the site.

**Action 3: 23.02.23** – Advent Communications to produce an outline website framework.

**Action 4: 23.02.23** – Advent Communications to review the original quote for developing the new website.

## **7. Stratford Upon Avon BID**

In Diane Mansell's absence, this item will be moved to the March agenda.

## **8. Any Other Business**

Elizabeth Dixon advised that funding for the Changing Places Toilets has been achieved and a toilet will be going into Bell Court.

*The next Strategic Partnership meeting will be on Thursday 23 March  
2pm – 3.30pm, via Zoom.*