

TOWN CENTRE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP MEETING

Thursday 27th October 2022 at 2pm

Held in person at the Council Chamber, Stratford District Council and online via Teams

MINUTES Pages 1-4

Present:

Accessible Stratford represented by Elizabeth Dixon

Royal Shakespeare Company represented by Emma Gibbons (attended online)

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust represented by Rachael O'Connor-Boyd (attended online)

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

Stratford BID represented by Diane Mansell

Stratford District Council represented by John Careford, Joanne Bozdoganli, and also attended by Cllr Jenny Fradgley

Stratford Town Trust represented by Sara Aspley (Chair)

The Stratford Society represented by John Scampion (Vice Chair)

Town Transport Group represented by Colin Stewart

Warwickshire County Council represented by Dave Ayton-Hill, Catherine Marks (both attended online), Aaron Corsi, and also attended by Cllr Kate Rolfe and Cllr Tim Sinclair.

Advent Communications represented by Adam Dent (attended online)

Clerk to the Strategic Partnership: Margo Galvin

Apologies for absence: Caroline Nash and Cllr Gill Cleeve (Stratford Town Council), Rachel Sharpe (RSC), Stephen Rumble (WCC), Tim Aucott (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust), Helen Peters (Shakespeare's England).

Not present: Cllr Tony Jackson, John Stacey (Bell Court)

1. Welcomes

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first 'hybrid' meeting that the Strategic Partnership has held. She thanked SDC for hosting the meeting in the Council Chamber at Elizabeth House.

2. Actions and Minutes from the meeting held on 29th September 2022

Action 1: 28.07.22 – It was noted that the Committee Clerk had recently circulated an Options Assessment report to the group on behalf of Stephen Rumble. In the minutes of the meeting held on 29 September this was referred to as a 'Transport Options Assessment report'. To clarify, the document relates to the Stratford-upon-Avon Sustainable Parking Plan.

Action 2: 28.07.22 - John Careford had circulated the notes from the last WMCA workshop.

The minutes were then approved.

3. **Feedback from Investment Workshop** (Wednesday 26th October)

This meeting had been cancelled due to insufficient numbers being able to attend, so there was nothing to report.

4. **Vision session update** – Cllr Tim Sinclair

Tim Sinclair presented the outputs from the first of four Strategic Partnership vision workshops: 'Town Centre Evolution', held on 19 October at the Town Hall.

He reported that nine people had attended the session which had gone very well. Over 90 ideas were generated and these were consolidated into seven draft major strategic projects (see slide seven of attached updated presentation). It was noted that most of these projects had been included in the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The outputs from the workshops were then discussed and it was noted that there was some cross-over with the '*Ease of Movement*' theme that will be the focus of the January workshop. Cllr Rolfe suggested that the '*Ease of movement*' workshop should consider a 10-mile radius around the town. Tim Sinclair agreed to incorporate this into the workshop.

ACTION 1: 27.10.22 - Tim Sinclair to update the workshop slides to reflect the discussions at this meeting. **Committee Clerk** to circulate these with the minutes.

Next steps:

- Strategic Partnership members to consider the draft Major Strategic Projects from workshop 1 and provide feedback to Tim.
- Partnership members to reply to Tim indicating their attendance at the next three workshops, all to be held at the Town Hall. These are:
 - '*Creativity and the Arts*' - 8 Nov, 10am to 12 noon
 - '*Vibe*' - 6 Dec, 2pm to 4pm
 - '*Ease of Movement*' - 10 Jan, 10am to 12 noon
- Updates from all three sessions to be included as agenda items at the November, December and January Strategic Partnership meetings.
- Produce a combined set of major strategic projects across all four key themes and prioritise.

- Stage public consultation on the projects and evolve.

5. Transport update - Colin Stewart

It was noted that the recently published LTP4 is very high level and strategic and does not include specific actions in a long-term plan. Apart from mentioning Bridge Street/High Street, it lacks a vision for Stratford. This is disappointing, especially since the Stratford Town Transport Group had submitted proposals for the town to LTP4 which were not included.

It would be helpful to understand why the town has not been included in this plan and to learn if other areas in Warwickshire feel equally disappointed. It was suggested that there should be a wider Warwickshire plan, with district plans identified for each area.

Colin Stewart commented that until Stratford has a clear transport vision and plan, such as the City of York's, the town is unlikely to receive funding for transport projects. He asked how Stratford can achieve this. John Careford felt that the priority must be to agree Stratford's vision and priority projects. The transport options will then become evident. The LTP4 may not be the right vehicle for this.

Cllr Fradgley noted that whenever a new housing plan comes forward, WCC always states that it will only result in a 2% rise in traffic and, therefore, the Council does not need to mitigate on traffic. However, no one has ever done a study of the new developments to look at where local traffic is coming from and, as a result, the response is always reactive.

In response to the previous comments, Dave Ayton-Hill noted that the LTP is for the whole of Warwickshire and, therefore, is high level and reflects broad themes. It is valid to have local plans which must be part of these sorts of discussions. Stratford's transport plan should come from the town through the Strategic Partnership and be aligned with the wider plan.

The Chair asked who should lead and author such a plan for Stratford. Cllr Sinclair suggested that the Town Transport Group's document might form the plan. Colin Stewart advised that, although this document had proposed some concepts, further work would be required to enable a plan to be produced. This would require funding of £40-50k. John Careford noted that having a vision document and a prospectus would give Stratford a hook to seek funding to do this work.

Cllr Fradgley commented that, as the Strategic Partnership came from the NDP and was promoted by the Town Council, the Town Council might take the lead with SDC and WCC.

6. Communications – Adam Dent (Advert Communications)

The press release announcing Sara's new role as Strategic Partnership Chair has been signed off and will be distributed w/c 31 October.

7. Future of Strategic Partnership

The Chair advised that she has spoken to Mark Lee, Chair of the Leamington Transformation Board, and she and Catherine Marks will meet with him and the Operations team.

8. Any other Business

John Careford apologised for the sound issues with Teams during the meeting.

*The next meeting of the Strategic Partnership will be on
Thursday November 24 at 2pm via Zoom.*