

STRATFORD- UPON- AVON TOWN COUNCIL
TOWN CENTRE/TOWN TRANSPORT TASK & FINISH GROUP
MEETING

2 September 2020

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Present:

Councillors:

Jackson	Taylor
Lee	Vos
Rolfe	

Clerk: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk J Mayes

Apologies: Cllrs Coles, Curtis, Downing, J Fradgley, Fotjik

1. Notes from the 17 August 2020 meeting

Noted

2. Revised Terms of Reference for the Strategic Partnership

The Town Clerk gave an update on her meeting with John Scampion who is representing Stratford Society at the Strategic Partnership meetings. He is keen to be part of the group and willing to be an interim Chairman of the Partnership, but does not wish to take on the role of Chairman long term. The Town Clerk also reported that she had received an email from Geraldine Collinge, representing the RSC who is also a member of the Partnership but unable to attend the first meeting. Ms Collinge had highlighted her interest in the item around promoting diversity in the town and the movement from retail to offering experiences for visitors. She had expressed an interest in being considered as Chair or Vice Chair of the Partnership. The Town Clerk also highlighted that Colin Stewart from the Town Transport Group was another possible Chair.

The Chairman noted that the terms of reference of the Partnership may result in different strategic directions being taken depending on who was Chair and that to begin with the focus should be on setting up the town properly before focusing on the type of shops that might follow. It was suggested that Mr Scampion would be an ideal Chair for the first meeting and that the dynamics of the group will become apparent and this will help inform who might take on

the role of Chair in the long term. Councillors agreed that it was not appropriate for a Councillor from the Town, District or County Council to take the role of Chair.

The Town Clerk will open the meeting and initiate the appointment of an interim Chair.

There was a discussion on the number of meetings proposed for the Partnership. Councillors agreed that the dynamics of the group and action points will influence the number of meetings that are held but that the plan should be to arrange six meetings a year, with more arranged if needed.

Whilst the principal aim will be to keep everyone on track to avoid the possibility of being pressurised into doing something that doesn't improve the town the Partnership is not a Town Council group. The Town Council is one voice in the Partnership.

3. Input on proposed vision – what does Task and Finish Group think it should be?

Cllr Lee explained he had been working on a possible project, which may be able to be submitted for CIL funding. Information on opportunities to apply for funding for CIL projects had been presented to the Planning Consultative Committee meeting on 1 September. The deadline for applications is 11 September 2020. Cllr Lee suggested that there was an opportunity to be bold and push the vision forward by obtaining funding to explore what is needed to deliver the vision. Cllrs were shown details of a proposed document for a concept design study for Bridge Street, highlighted in the NDP as a potential project. The document would provide a definite scope of the work that was being tendered for and this would be for three separate designs for Bridge Street that could be presented to the Strategic Partnership and Town Council for comment and feedback. A second piece of work linked to this would be to identify budget costs for the project. There are a number of planning consultancy firms, both locally and nationally who may undertake the work.

Cllr Rolfe highlighted that anything that happens in Bridge Street would involve highways land and that Highways would want to provide costings on any work undertaken. She also highlighted that Steven Rumble at WCC is undertaking a review of parking around the town and would need to know what the vision for Bridge Street is and the impact it would have on parking. WCC Highways will need to be part of the decision when it comes to scheme concepts because they will know whether it is viable.

Cllr Lee confirmed that the proposal would be for a project to identify concept designs and obtain views of stakeholders to identify the most popular option. By developing a concept design a debate on feasibility will be started and this will help to progress things.

There was a discussion about funding for the project. It was suggested that applying for CIL funding will also give a greater understanding of the process of applying for CIL. Part of the CIL application form states that funding should not be available from other sources. There was a discussion about whether the Town Council should apply for the CIL funding or whether it should apply on behalf of the Strategic Partnership, a well-respected group, which is unable to apply because it is not a constituted body.

There was a further discussion on whether the concept design project should focus on Bridge Street or whether it should include other streets in the town because whatever happens on Bridge Street will have an impact on other streets. It was agreed that this could form part of the discussion with an outline plan across the town with a particular focus on Bridge Street as the first part. There may be an incremental cost if extra streets are added to the project. Particular attention will need to be paid to identifying the concept designer who will work on the project.

4. Any suggestions for future agenda items that the Strategic Partnership should consider

Councillors agreed that future agenda items for the Strategic Partnership will evolve. Cllr Rolfe suggested that parking in and around Stratford was an issue that could be considered. She will be meeting Mr Rumble, with WCC Cllrs J Fradgley and Skinner, to discuss his review of parking during week commencing 7 September 2020.

5. Agreement on future meetings

Six dates will be arranged for the Strategic Partnership meetings. It was agreed that everyone on the Strategic Partnership should have a vote.

In summary

Cllr Lee will work on an application for CIL funding as discussed in the meeting. A Word format of the application will be sent to Cllr Lee to assist this. The information shared during the meeting will be shared with the Strategic Partnership Meeting on Friday 4 September. If an application is to be made to the District Council it needs to be submitted by Friday 11 September 2020 so support from the Strategic Partnership will be needed quickly if an application is going to be made on its behalf. If an application is made on behalf of the Town Council it will need approval from a Committee to be submitted. The Town Clerk agreed that the CIL funding application could be added to the finance meeting agenda scheduled for 8th September.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Lee for his work on the proposal.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 16.04