

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

5 August 2020

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Present:

Councillors:

Coles	Taylor
Jackson	Vos
Rolfe	

Clerk: Town Clerk, Committee Clerk J Mayes

Apologies: Cllrs Curtis, J Fradgley, Fotjik, How, Lee

2. Election of Chairman and Deputy-Chairman

The Mayor took the Chair for the election of the Chairman. It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

AGREED: To appoint Councillor Vos as Chairman.

The Chairman called for nominations for Deputy Chairman. It was Proposed, Seconded and unanimously

AGREED: To appoint Councillor Taylor as Deputy Chairman.

3. Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group

Councillors discussed the Terms of Reference document. The Chairman sought clarity on the standing committee the group should report to and whether it was appropriate for it to report directly to Town Council. The Town Clerk confirmed that because the group was a task and finish group, established for a limited time it was appropriate for it to report direct to Town Council and that it could self-clerk, if the committee clerk was unavailable.

4. Bring and Share Ideas on Stratford Town Centre including traffic and parking

The remaining items on the agenda were considered together as part of a wide ranging discussion on the role of the group. The Chairman outlined his vision for the group, which was to consider the many disparate views on the

future of the town centre for the medium to long term future, inviting contributions from other parties and then having a consultation to overcome barriers to change.

The Mayor noted that two public consultations had already taken place and the group should consider what it was comfortable with in the NDP and where the contentious issues are and how these should be dealt with. The Chairman felt that some consultation should take place to get “buy in” to the plans.

The Town Clerk reminded Cllrs that the NDP plan has been consulted on and has been passed as a legal document. There is no requirement to consult on it further. The work now is to consider how to implement the plan as it stands.

The Chairman noted that the NDP is a very good vision but more work is needed to decide the detail on what it proposes, in particular since the COVID 19 outbreak and it was this detail that he felt the group should work on.

It was noted that the Strategic Partnership Group, which hasn't met yet was instigated to decide the details of the NDP and concern was expressed that there may be duplication of work. A Councillor noted that the Task and Finish Group should look at specifics that they may be able to influence – for example the changes as a result of COVID measures have brought forward the trial pedestrianisation of the High Street, which is outlined in the NDP but may not have happened for a while.

It was noted that the Town Council are predominantly facilitators to start the Strategic Partnership meetings, which could consider the projects suggested by the Task and Finish group. The Task and Finish Group should present firmer detail to the Strategic Partnership on the projects it has identified in the NDP. The Mayor confirmed that he had identified three projects at the start of his term of office, one of which was TC Project 1 to instigate a Strategic Partnership and as a starting point these projects could be considered by the Strategic Partnership. It was noted that projects 5,6,7,8,9 in the NDP are also integral and linked to TCP1.

There was a discussion about the need for clear Terms of Reference for the Strategic Partnership. There is a need to convert the vision into practical measurable results, grouping projects together so that can move from vision to project to the work being implemented.

Cllr Rolfe left the meeting.

It was agreed that the Town Centre Strategic Partnership Group should meet as soon as possible. The Town Clerk noted that the first meeting of the Partnership would define its Terms of Reference and it may not be appropriate to submit detailed project information at this meeting. The Strategic Partnership may wish to use the Task and Finish Group to undertake research work. This would need to be clarified at their first meeting.

The Chairman noted that the NDP was agreed in November 2018 and there is a need to work on how to move forward on it for the good of the town.

It was suggested that the first meeting of the Strategic Partnership should be arranged to enable a clear steer on all the issues from other stakeholders. Councillors were in agreement whilst noting the need to prioritise key items in the plan and be ready with information to apply for possible funding opportunities.

The Town Clerk noted that her initial discussions with stakeholders in the group had suggested a meeting every three months. There was concern that holding meetings every 3 months might frustrate the need to move quickly in delivering more detail and agreeing further action towards the implementation of the NDP.

Some constraints to achieving projects may be a lack of funding. It was noted that looking for alternative funding sources may make it easier to get support for projects from other stakeholders. There was a discussion about sourcing funding through grant applications or discussions with WCC.

In summary

The first meeting of the Strategic Town Partnership will be arranged for the first week of September 2020. The Town Clerk to contact the stakeholders who originally agreed to be in the group and arrange a suitable date.

A further meeting of the Task and Finish group to discuss the proposed agenda for the Strategic Town Partnership meeting, which has not been agreed. This meeting will be held on Monday 17 August 2020 at 2pm.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 3.15pm