

Minutes

Meeting: Chippenham Town Centre Partnership Board

Date: 25th March 2022

Location: Chippenham Town Hall

Time: 12.00pm

Attendees:

Michelle Donelan MP (chair) – (MD)
Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader, Wiltshire Council – (RC)
Laura Hall-Wilson – Parliamentary assistant to MP (LHW)
Mark Smith (MS)– CEO – Chippenham Town Council (MS)
Cllr Desna Allen – Leader, Chippenham Town Council (DA)
Iain Hatt – Principal, Wiltshire College (IH)
Phil Tansley – CEO - Chippenham Borough Lands Charity (PT)
Rob Perks – Chippenham Chamber of Commerce (HT)
Robin Langford – Emery Gate (RL)
Mike Stone (MSt)– Chippenham Civic Society (MSt)
Sandie Webb – Chippenham Community Town Team (SW)

Support Officers

Louise Cary – Wiltshire Council (LC)
Victoria Moloney, Wiltshire Council (VM)
David Milton – Wiltshire Council (DM)
Richard Walters – Wiltshire Council (RW)
Oliver Phipps – Community Engagement Officer (OP)

Guests

Matt Akers – Environment Agency
Andy Wallis – Environment Agency

Apologies

Simon Hendey
Owen Inskip
Don Steele – Chippenham Borough Lands Charity

1. Introductions
2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes agreed

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations

4. Partner updates and successes since last meeting (All)

VM updated on Business Grants the Council has been distributing to local business in response to the pandemic and noted progress of the project team on masterplanning.

PT – updated on the Borough Lands Charity purchase of Bank House where it plans to relocate its head office.

5. Town Centre Masterplan – consultation paper - (Dave Milton, Wiltshire Council)

Presentation provided by DM - copy attached to minutes.

DM referred to findings of report by consultants Cratus on the Future Chippenham consultation – this may provide insights into community aspirations for the town centre – see attached link: [Cratus Report](#)

Defining the area that comprises the Town Centre – a key issue (SW). this may include zones that do not have firmly defined edges – something that can be developed with the partnership (DM) It will be for the Partnership itself to determine the parameters (RC)

MD – the draft is too wordy – too long – need to get to the points /key questions quicker – would be a more powerful tool.

RC – important to establish what the issues are up front from the community including whether Chippenham wants a masterplan. MD – masterplan would be beneficial but key to engage local community. DA wants focus on what is fundable ‘the art of the probable’ to overcome scepticism.

RC – this risks missing out on opportunities – lessons may be learned from approach in Salisbury (VM) where a pipeline of possible projects was developed that fit in with overall vision / strategic objectives – worked up where possible – so we can be responsive to possible funding sources as they become available / are identified. Also this approach provides greater confidence in funding partners around the coherence of the overall vision.

Funding - MD – funding streams will become available – this approach means we have a head start. PT – there is benefit in defining what budget might be needed. The levelling up process provided some lessons in how projects can be developed and how this could be improved in future to maximise opportunities for funding pots as they emerge – which may comprise a combination of sources (CIL, developer contributions, government grants etc.) recognising the already extensive demands on these funding sources (RC).

Action (WC) - a workshop meeting to be set up to review and agree the key questions to consult on and the format of the document.

6. Flood risk, the Radial Gate & River Park opportunity – (Andy Wallis, Environment Agency)

Presentation provided by AW – copy attached to Minutes

PT raised issue of the residual maintenance costs for the Town Council associated with any new public realm works within its land. How are these accounted for? AW explained the EA assesses schemes on a whole life cost basis – so the long term maintenance costs of defined works will be factored into the funding model.

PT questioned impact on works to land downstream of the radial gate. AW – there should be no negative impact – and there is an opportunity to undertake a wider scheme.

MD – what steps might be taken to mitigate impact upstream on the sailing club. AW this would be within the scheme design – it may involve a series of low weirs – but will be determined through consultation in the scheme design.

Next Steps will be for the EA to look into the constraints and opportunities on the principal options. Timescale will be circa 5 years – this is something that the EA needs to progress and its preference is to work with the community and key stakeholders as it has done in Salisbury to get the maximum wider benefits alongside the essential environmental / flood mitigation improvements that it would deliver for a scheme that it would pursue on its own.

7. Planning for the pillars and delivering high street activity - (Victoria Moloney, Wiltshire Council)

Presentation provided by VM – copy attached to Minutes

Action (WC) – template to be circulated to the group to help capture all the activities already being undertaken and planned within Chippenham to help inform the development of the pillars.

Tourism Strategy – DA noted issue around difficulties implementing this strategy especially around coach parking / pick up in the town centre.

Action (DA / Town Council) – Tourism strategy to be circulated to the Partnership.

8. AOB

9. Date of next meeting

To be agreed – dates to be put forward