

Meeting: Chippenham Town Centre Partnership Board

Date: 28th October 2022

Location: Town Hall, Chippenham

Time: 11.30 am

Attendees

Michelle Donelan MP (chair) (MD)	Member of Parliament
Cllr Richard Clewer (RC)	Leader, Wiltshire Council
Aaron Davidson (AD)	Parliamentary Assistant to MP
Victoria Moloney (VM)	Wiltshire Council
Richard Walters (RW)	Wiltshire Council
Judith Cameron (JC)	Wiltshire Council
Mark Smith (MS)	Chippenham Town Council
Matthew Kirby (MK)	Chippenham Town Council
Owen Inskip	
Rob Perks (RP)	Chippenham Chamber of Commerce
Robin Langford (RL)	Acorn Property Group (Emery Gate)
Sandie Webb (SW)	Chippenham Community Town Team

1. Introductions

Apologies were noted from:

Councillor Desna Allan – Chippenham Town Council
Don Steele – Chippenham Borough Lands Charity
Iain Hatt – Wiltshire College
Mike Stone – Chippenham Civic Society
Parvis Khansari – Wiltshire Council
Terence Herbert – Wiltshire Council
Andy Brown – Wiltshire Council

It was also noted that Simon Hendey (Director of Commercial and Assets) and Louise Cary (HoS Capital Projects) will no longer attend the Board. Where issues relevant to Commercial Assets and Capital Projects arise these will be covered by other Council officers at the Board, or Simon and Louise will be asked to attend those specific meetings as required.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes were agreed

3. Declarations of interest

No additional declarations

4. Updates from Partner Organisations (including Pillar Updates)

Sandie Webb – Town Team – meeting held CTC. SW has held discussions with owners of Borough Parade and is keen to facilitate dialogue to ensure their plans are appropriately captured.

Rob Perks – Chamber want to avoid duplication with work Town Team is doing – members are interested but possibly early to get engaged – how to make better use of the town centre – get employees into the town centre.

Sandie – offer to speak to members of Chamber.

MK – provided brief update on Town Council activity – (Pillar) – highlighting events in pipeline – pop up pumpkin – funding from city dressing etc. *Further details provided after the meeting, as follows:*

- *Chippenham Town Council continues to work with the Town Team and has officer representation on several of the quarter sub groups – including the Historic Quarter.*
- *The Council is continuing to develop its Charter Market offer and is also proving regular Artisan and Specialist markets.*
- *The Council is has received positive praise around the very popular pop-up park, and the high street dressing which includes new Purple Flags, Overhead Flowers and 'Discover Chippenham' lamp post banners.*
- *The Council has recently provided a very popular pop up 'Pumkin Patch' at the Buttercross and is planning the 'Festival of Christmas' – this will see a number of exciting activities within the High Street and Island Park launching on 26th November as part of the Christmas Lights switch on.*

5. Footfall Benchmarking and Wayfinding – Mike King - People & Places

Presentation made by MK.

Areas identified for improvement – access to the river, wayfinding etc. Noted that 61 % of respondents don't recommend visit to Chippenham – an important issue to understand and seek to address.

6. One Plan Consultation questionnaire

OI talked through his comments that had been circulated to the Board prior to the meeting.

These were broadly accepted by the Board and it was agreed that the questionnaire be revised to reflect the comments and discussions at the Board.

The suggestion that there be a final question that invites respondents to place their three preferred interventions in order be replaced with an open text question inviting respondents to comment on their preference or preferences.

Agreed to replace the term 'Radial Gate' with 'Flood Gate / Weir'

SW – expressed her view that consultation should be delayed until sufficient consultation had been undertaken with the private sector investors to have clarity on the form of a scheme / schemes (notably off the back of her discussions with the owners of Emery Gate).

MD – proposed that consultation proceed as quickly as possible with discussions to be held in parallel with landowners / scheme developers – the consultation is sufficiently high level not to

constrain or prejudice scheme development / evolution. This was put to the Board voting members and agreed by majority vote.

Consultation Process

RC recommended use of Survey Monkey alongside other media and outreach as this has proved successful on other consultations.

VM / RW - to draw up approach for consultation to be presented to the next Board meeting

7. AOB

RW noted that Wiltshire Council's Asset Gateway Group has been considering the Council's position as freeholder of the shopping centres it owns in Chippenham (Emery Gate (Acorn) and Borough Parade (Evolve)

The group has agreed that the Council is open to extending or restructuring leases as required to bring forward changes and have had some dialogue with the centre leaseholders. Disposal of the Council's freeholds has been ruled-out and the Council wishes to retain or improve its income from these assets.

8. Date of next meeting

25th November - 1.30pm