

DARLINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD
Microsoft Teams Meeting
Tuesday 24th January 2023

Present :

Angela Howey (Chair)	Chris Mains
Kate Roe	Councillor Jonathan Dulston
Brett Nielson	Yvonne Richardson
Peter Gibson MP	Andrew Saunders
Adam Suleiman	Ian Williams
Kirsty Weston	Richard Allen
Chris Farlow	

No.	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
1.	Apologies: Mark Ladyman	
2.	AH welcomed everyone to the meeting. The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as accurate.	
3.	<p>Update presentation</p> <p>CM gave an update presentation, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Towns Deal finances. Early warning of projects at risk of deliverability were again outlined. - Provided confirmation that the Monitoring & Evaluation performance report has been returned to DLUHC on 15th December. - Updated on the ongoing Towns Fund projects. <p>Work continues in Skinnergate, Yards & Post House Wynd. Including ongoing improvements to property frontages. An update on public realm proposals was provided. Discussion was held regarding the building at the end of Skinnergate (currently scaffolded). CF agreed to liaise with CM, with the aim of informing the community regarding progress and opportunities.</p>	

	<p>A further update was provided on progress with the proposed urban green space on Commercial Street, Northgate. RA agreed to provide CM with contact details for the Architectural Liaison Officer.</p> <p>An update on proposals for the former Northern Echo was provided. Tender returns have been received from Preliminary Market Testing considering the use of the whole building and are now being appraised. Risk appraisal is underway, and a business case is to be developed which considers the whole building. The outcome will identify the opportunities that can be taken to secure the long term viability of the building. Options being considered and recommendations will be provided to the Board to ensure full transparency as the development progresses.</p> <p>It was noted that the building is of significant local interest and any proposals will look to consider this sympathetically.</p> <p>KR provided an update on the Tlevels project. Completion is anticipated in February. Expected to be achieved within budget. An opening event is to be facilitated by KR at Darlington College. The date of this in March is to be confirmed. All members of the Town Board will receive an invitation.</p> <p>It was acknowledged that Darlington Council has not been successful in Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund. Concept designs for the Garden Street area are to be developed in consideration of this.</p> <p>DBC Cabinet have agreed to progress the process for Compulsory Purchase Order of Northgate House, should this be required. A further revised offer was sent to the owner of the building in December.</p> <p>156 Northgate has now been acquired. A design team have been procured and an inception meeting arranged in early February 2023. The design will be progressed taking into consideration the concept proposals, budget, timescales and that the building is Grade 2 listed.</p> <p>PG informed the Board that he has undertaken recent engagement along Northgate. PG will organise an event with the local community to progress this further.</p> <p>Facilitated by the Town Fund and DBC, Earthwatch have secured funding to provide a `Tiny Forest` in an area of The Denes. Discussion was held in relation to individuals and groups who may be available to support this opportunity. The aim is that the planting day will take place in early March 2023.</p>	
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	<p>An update was provided in relation to Victoria Road project – development of the Creative Strategy; specific improvement opportunities; and works underway.</p> <p>PG identified continued concerns regarding street cleaning, parking in the area, and suggested that opportunities for the digital advertising board on the roundabout be explored.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>AH suggested that a representative(s) from DBC Marketing and Communications attend some future Board meetings to update on engagement proposals and remain current on opportunities arising as the programme progresses. CM to contact appropriate officers.</p> <p>It was noted that the next meeting of the Board is to be a Hybrid meeting. Face to face in the Town Hall by those that are able, and via teams if not able. CM to coordinate.</p>	
8.	<p>Future meeting:</p> <p>Monday 6th March 2023</p>	