

DARLINGTON TOWN DEAL BOARD
Hybrid/Microsoft Teams Meeting
Monday 6th March 2023

Present :

Kate Roe (Deputy Chair)	Ian Williams
Mark Ladyman	Chris Mains
Peter Gibson MP	Gary Hutchinson
Adam Suleiman	Yvonne Richardson
Sue Donnelly	Richard Allen
Chris Farlow	Katy Tate
Martin Short	Vicki Henderson
Naomi Jenkins	

No.	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS
1.	<p>Apologies: Angela Howey (Chair). Councillor Jonathan Dulston. Brett Neilson.</p>	
2.	<p>KR welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting were confirmed as accurate.</p>	
3.	<p>Update presentation</p> <p>CM gave an update presentation, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Towns Deal - Finance. Capital funding received and Spend. - Towns Fund Revenue received to date. - Monitoring and Evaluation. DBC 151 Officer to provide written assurance to DLUHC. Return deadline 20th March 2023. 	

	<p>- Update on the ongoing Towns Fund projects.</p> <p>Skinnergate and the Yards Work continues in Skinnergate, Yards & Post House Wynd. Ongoing improvements to property frontages.</p> <p>Discussion was held regarding the building at the end of Skinnergate (Blackwellgate end - currently scaffolded). CF to discuss potential for comms with the property owner/agent, exploring opportunities to inform the wider community.</p> <p>Adult Skills Expansion of scope – whole building development.</p> <p>An update on proposals for the former Northern Echo was provided.</p> <p>Proposed ground floor plan (draft) shared with the board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prelim Market Testing process undertaken• Progression to open tender for potential development partner with a Design/Build/Operate remit. <p>PG. Asked are we doing ground floor works in any event? CM Yes. Currently included in the whole building approach, but could progress in isolation if required</p> <p>PG: Does this lead to greater cost and disruption? CM. Yes.</p> <p>Business case (underway) shows 4 options currently being reviewed, including ground floor only and the whole building approach. The business case identifies risks and benefits of each option for consideration.</p> <p>Target completion Adult Skills – Late 2024.</p> <p>CM notes Adult Skills remains a key priority.</p> <p>T Levels KR provided an update on the T Levels project.</p> <p>Completed and achieved within budget and opening in March 2023.</p>	
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	<p>An opening event is to be held on 17th March 2023 at Darlington College. To which all members of the Town Board will receive an invitation.</p> <p>Northgate</p> <p>Linear Park: Continue to develop options to create an appropriate cycle route between the Rail Heritage Quarter and Town Centre, looking at existing network and links with work proposed by TVCA (LUF). Darlington Cycle Club to be included within discussions.</p> <p>PG Advised this doesn't look like the best route. CM agreed that options need to be considered further and options discussed at future meetings.</p> <p>North Road & Northgate House:</p> <p>Northgate House -</p> <p>A further and final revised offer was sent to the owner of the building in December this was not accepted.</p> <p>DBC Cabinet have agreed to progress the process for Compulsory Purchase Order of Northgate House.</p> <p>Planning consultant has been consulted to progress this as an outline planning permission for the identified redline area.</p> <p>ML advised that DBC are aware of the telecommunication masts on the roof of Northgate House and have undertaken discussion with the providers.</p> <p>YR queried on heritage aspects. PG agrees and asks for these to be protected in this plan. ML advised that these aspects will be fully considered and retained if possible.</p> <p>CM advised that engagement with owners of buildings in the area to be undertaken. This has commenced.</p> <p>YR queried timescale for CPO. No fixed programme at this stage.</p> <p>156 Northgate -</p> <p>Design progressing. PM appointed. Conservation Officer recently appointed to be involved in the design process.</p> <p>Tiny Forest -</p>	
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	<p>Facilitated by the Town Fund and DBC, Earthwatch have secured funding to provide a `Tiny Forest` in an area of The Denes.</p> <p>The planting day will take place on 14th March 2023. Corporation Road School and Reid Street School are sending pupils to plant. Other stakeholders invited and there is a public invitation from 2pm.</p> <p>Name agreed as `The Sally Gibson Tiny Forest`.</p> <p>Victoria Road</p> <p>Draft Creative Strategy agreed.</p> <p>Work has commenced in this area. Pocket park started at roundabout.</p> <p>CM and NJ to commence engagement with shop owners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Artwork to be considered on gable ends of some properties.</p> <p>Bank Top</p> <p>Discussions with TVCA, who are progressing the East and West of station proposals. TVCA are progressing a revised west of station proposal, to be shared with the Board for consideration when available.</p> <p>CM has advised Towns Funding is for West of Station (Victoria Road).</p> <p>Rail Heritage Quarter On site.</p> <p>Edward Pease House Valuations undertaken. Negotiations continue.</p> <p>YR noted highways issues with current shops there.</p> <p>CM asked PG re engagement with shops on Northgate. PG advised meeting space in URC Church - dates to be advised.</p>	
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4.	<p>Communications & Marketing</p> <p>KT Discover Darlington episode 1. 5000 views on Youtube. Shares continuing organically.</p> <p>Northern Echo article - KT advised good feedback for Towns Fund from the public on a negative article.</p> <p>Tiny Forest. KT advised social media response to this has been positive.</p>	
7.	<p>AOB</p> <p>YR asked about Yards. Mentioned mixed feedback online for High Row signage to Yards. KT advised shop owners positive responses to this.</p> <p>PG advised Towns Fund page on DBC website is not working. KT advised IT working on page updates.</p>	
8.	<p>Future meeting:</p> <p>Monday 17th April 2023</p>	