

Stocksbridge Town Deal Board (STDB)

DATE AND TIME: Thursday 9th November 2023, 10:30am

LOCATION: Towns Fund Office, Stocksbridge Library, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge

CO-CHAIRS: Miriam Cates MP
Yuri Matischen

ATTENDEES:

Board members attending:

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG (YM)
- Sean McClean Director of Regen SCC (Attending for KM) (SM)
- Neil Curtis, Community representative (NC)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council Stocksbridge Town Council
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL)
- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)
- John Crawshaw, JW Crawshaw Ltd
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)

Also attending:

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
- Natalia Govorukhina – Finance and Commercial Business Partner (NG)
- Dermot Reader – Project Manager (DR)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)
- Matt Dixon, Constituency Office Manager for MC (MD)

Apologies:

- Kate Martin (SCC) (KM)
- Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)



Minutes

1. **Item:** Welcome and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and discuss any issues arising **Miriam Cates**

Previous minutes agreed. HV updated the Board on an item in the communications update at the meeting on September 21, 2023. This concerned the activities around a Business Information Officer working in the Stocksbridge area and organising meetings about the Stocksbridge Town Deal without being briefed. HV thanked SM for raising this at Director level. He confirmed that a position has been agreed that all STD engagement with local businesses will go through the STD Communications Officer.

2. **Item:** Declaration of interest – to declare any interests in items on the agenda **Miriam Cates**

GS asked that his interest in the Hydrotherapy Pool at Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre be noted and recorded.

3. **Communications and engagement update: Tracks and Activities Consultation session at Smithy Moor Community Centre.** **Amanda Holmes**

AH updated the Board on the feedback from the consultation session held at Smithy Moor Community Centre on October 19th 2023 around the Tracks and Activities at Underbank Reservoir.

Around 250 people attended the four hour session with 79.5 % using the area around the reservoir at least once a week. There were 83 feedback forms filled in at the event or dropped off at the library in the following days.

The information boards were uploaded on the website on Monday 30th October and are still available and residents can email any further comments or feedback in through the info@welcometostocksbridge.co.uk email address.

AH noted that it was a well-publicised and well attended event. The main points of the feedback were:

Car parking is a sensitive issue, balancing the obvious desire of some residents to see an alternative to on street car park with the concerns of others around encouraging car use and the existing anti-social behaviour.

Respondents were keen to see a café or bar in the area for walkers and other reservoir users as well as practical facilities including toilets and bins.

The three interventions which scored highest were: a circular route, family friendly loop walks and woodland creation and tracks. The team from the Activity Centre attended the session and are very keen to engage with YW and the STDB to explore options around increasing the available activities for the community. It was noted that some additional car parking would need to be considered if more people were to be visiting the area – whether that be by cycle, car or by the new hopper bus.

HV said that the next step would be to discuss further with Yorkshire Water once the costings on the various interventions have been obtained and the Board will be able to make an informed decision on what level of investment should be allocated to this project.

JG updated the Board that residents had been keen to discuss the new crossing on the A616 which is currently under construction by National Highways though this is not part of the scope of works of YW and the STDB.

HV reported that the costs are likely to be very high for a signalised crossing from Bramhall Lane to link to the Reservoir. YM asked if the idea of a crossing was now necessary if an alternative crossing is being created on the A616 and the likelihood that any future housing development would likely provide an additional crossing.

DR outlined that if the site neighbouring Bramhall Lane is developed for housing an upgraded junction would be required to service any new development. Members questioned the merits of investing in the crossing in light of this.

Action: HV to have further discussions with YW

4. Programme Update – Prioritisation

Howard V

HV outlined that the STDB was at a crucial point in the project delivery with some important and difficult decisions to make to secure the key Manchester Road projects. The plans for the new Library and Community Hub (to be known as Stocksbridge 519 as a working title) are being prepared for a scheduled submission date of November 24th.

However, updated costs, due to inflationary pressures and changes in scope on the town centre projects now means that it is not possible to move ahead with all ten projects in their current form and at the same time. To deliver the enhanced town centre placemaking project with the town square and the purchase and demolition of the former Factory Shop building the Board need to prioritise the projects.

Delivering the following would result in £4m being available across the other projects:

- Manchester Road projects including car park improvements and placemaking.
- Oxley Park Improvement Project
- Sports Grants
- Skills and Education provision

➤ Hopper Bus Projects

However, the remaining projects in the programme could cost around additional £6.3m (a £2.3m funding gap is therefore forecast). HV confirmed this gap included the additional agreed funding from SYMCA. It was discussed that accounting for swings in tender cost prices of between 10% and 30% also needs to be factored in. Therefore, the Board discussed the importance of securing the priorities in the programme and then progressing with the remainder once there was more certainty. SM confirmed that other projects across the city were experiencing concerning cost uncertainties and building in contingencies was not in all circumstances mitigating the situation. HV confirmed that circa 15% contingency has been built into the budget on the Library and Community Hub building, Board members agreed in the current climate this was a reasonable contingency, but HV asked them to understand there may still be further difficulties if costs further fluctuate. It is hoped that value engineering, effective contracting and not needing to utilise contingency will enable remaining projects to be delivered.

HV set out the options that the STFB needed to consider:

- Go ahead with the former Factory Shop purchase and creation of the new Town Sq. – this would however mean some projects would not be deliverable.
- Revert to the previous programme which does not allow for the Factory Shop purchase and deliver the programme with the exception of those projects which are over budget.

Alongside this decision HV outlined that the Hydrotherapy Pool had been costed at £1.8m against a budget in the programme of £1.1m. To deliver this project in either scenario would need another project to be cut and the STFB would have to consider what is their priority or look at a module hydrotherapy pool being provided (which was not wanted by the Leisure Centre).

IS said that the Hydrotherapy Pool had started out with a budget of £500k which had increased to £1.1, and it seemed unfeasible that it should go ahead at the cost of other projects with a newly revised budget of £1.8m.

HV said this was a difficult decision and it was important to balance the benefits to Stocksbridge. GS added that this applied to all projects and was at the forefront of all decisions for the STDB.

MC said that it was clear the Board would have to delay or cut some projects and it was important to go back to the original consultation which clearly indicated the priorities were the Hopper Bus and regenerating the Manchester Road area. She said that the costs had spiralled for the Hydrotherapy Pool and the projects needed to be viewed alongside the cost and benefits.

GS said that it was important to pause for thought, look at the outputs for each project and identify the ones which are key to improving the town. He added that he agreed that

the Town Centre and the Hopper Bus were needed but the other projects needed to be looked at carefully.

YM said that the circ. £3m contingency across the projects could be re-allocated back into the projects.

JG added that the Board had to make a difficult decision and do that with their eyes open. They all had to think about what was important for the town.

SM said that it was important to decide and have a clear path for delivering the projects the Board wanted to prioritise. HV added that in all the scenarios that the Board had to consider the Hydrotherapy Pool was still considerably over budget.

MC moved to vote in favour of moving ahead with all projects with the following paused and defunded to ensure a full commitment to the Manchester Rd regeneration. IS seconded the motion:

- Hydrotherapy Pool
- River Don Improvements

And the following reduced in funding:

- Shop Front Grants Scheme
- Trails, Tracks and Activities

Those in favour; MC, GL, NC, JC, DC, IS, JG, SM

Abstained; GS (interest declared), YM (Hydrotherapy Project Champion)

MC said she would like it to be put on record that the STDB are incredibly grateful for the work the Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre had put into the Hydrotherapy Pool project as well as improvements to Oxley Park.

5. Programme Update – other projects

Sports Hub: Options around delivery of the Cricket Pavilion have not moved forward and further information is needed from the ECB. Options for a new location for the 3G pitch is also under review as it seems that Bracken Moor may not be suitable. HV and AH are meeting representatives from Stocksbridge High School and the Minerva Trust to discuss an option to position a pitch at the school.

Oxley Park P2: Work has started on the footpath improvements and work on the infill area behind the Leisure Centre and this is progressing well and on schedule. A planning

application for the All Wheels Park will be submitted shortly and it is hoped this work will commence (subject to planning) in Spring.

1. **Item:** Financial update

Natalia G

NG and HV provided an update on costs to date.

Item: AOB

All

2. **Item:** Next (Workshop) Meeting: December 7th, Stocksbridge Library.