

Minutes of Stocksbridge Town Fund Initial Stakeholder Meeting

Date: 19 December 2019 at Dransfield House, Fox Valley

Attendees:

- Mark Dransfield, Dransfield Properties
- Amanda Holmes, Dransfield Properties
- Gavin Ward, Dransfield Properties
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council and Stocksbridge Town Council
- Yunus Ahmed, Principal Development Officer, Sheffield City Council
- Colin Blackburn, South Yorkshire LEP
- David Cates (on behalf of Miriam Cates MP)
- Graham Silverwood, The Venue Trust & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre
- Chris Bell, Don Valley Railway Trust
- Andy Ireland, Stocksbridge High School (departing at 11am)
- Nilam Buchanan, Chair of Governors, Stocksbridge High School
- Lee Thompson, Sustrans
- Tom Newman, Steel Valley Project

Apologies:

- Cllr Mazher Iqbal, Cabinet Team Member for Business and Investment, Sheffield City Council
- Mick Hood, Liberty Speciality Steel

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
<p>1. Welcome and introductions</p> <p>1.1 Mark Dransfield formally introduced everyone around the table and welcomed them to the first meeting of the Towns Fund Stakeholder Meeting.</p>	
<p>2. Background to the Towns Fund allocation for Stocksbridge</p> <p>2.1 Mark Dransfield outlined the background to the bid for £25 million for Stockbridge and recent meetings that have been held with Government ministers regarding the fund. It was discussed that this was a potentially game changing project for Stocksbridge and would bring benefits to the wider town, creating new employment and investment opportunities. All welcomed the new investment.</p> <p>2.2 It was outlined that £140,000 “seed funding” to prepare the business case is available. This money will be paid across to SCC and Yunus will keep the group updated when the money is available.</p>	ALL
<p>3. Funding Priorities</p> <p>3.1 Ideas for key funding priorities were discussed which would be part of the Towns Fund business case.</p> <p>3.2 Rail Link – Chris Bell from DVRT outlined the background to the campaign to bring a passenger link to Stocksbridge. This has also been discussed as a potential recipient project of an infrastructure fund through the Sheffield City Region. Feasibility work has been done which can be updated as part of the wider bid. Mark discussed that he would make contact with Bloor Homes regarding</p>	CB

<p>the positioning of the rail halt on their land (land is set aside at Fox Valley for a rail halt also). Lee Thompson from Sustrans talked about their plans for better footpath and cycle routes in the area which could feed into the plans.</p>	
<p>3.3 Leisure Centre – Graham Silverwood confirmed that the leisure centre has received a separate grant of £1.1m for access improvements. He outlined the background to the Leisure Centre and the current situation and that there are many other improvements needed (including changing rooms and showers). It was discussed that Graham would provide a copy of the masterplan for the Leisure Centre and a link with the architect which could feed into the towns fund masterplan. Cllr Julie Grocutt also mentioned linking with the Friends of Oxley Park about the wider area around the Leisure Centre.</p>	GS
<p>3.4 Town Centre – it was discussed that DPL has produced a vision for a major redevelopment of the precinct area on Manchester Road which hasn't been delivered because of a lack of funding. This includes first floor apartments above upgraded retail units. It was discussed that we would need to engage with property owners, Stocksbridge Town Council have an existing list of owners which will help in making contact about investment and improvements. Mark discussed that there could also be grants made available through the fund for businesses to upgrade and improve their properties.</p>	ALL
<p>3.5 Educational improvements – the possibility of upgrading the post-16 provision was discussed. Mark Dransfield outlined that there was no 6th form provision in Stocksbridge. Andy Ireland and Nilam Buchanan said that the school is now part of an Multi Academy Trust which supports 6th form places in other parts of the city but there are opportunities to look at vocational qualifications post 16. There are currently 850 children 11-16 studying at Stocksbridge School. It was also discussed that there should be a review of pre-school provision in the area.</p>	
<p>3.6 Tourism – the need to link improvements with the potential to attract tourism into the area was discussed with the primary focus on walking and cycling. Lee Thompson outlined that there are missing links in the cycle routes which could be improved on.</p>	
<p>3.7 Green initiatives were discussed including the possibility of exploring hydroelectricity (to liaise with the Environment Agency about this) as well as more use of glass in buildings / solar panels and tree lined entrances on key points in the town.</p>	
<p>3.8 Looking at the existing provision of existing community space/ community centres and facilities was also discussed.</p>	

<p>3.9 Mark mentioned that a professional team meeting was also being held which would be instructed to work on a masterplan to be tabled for further discussion.</p> <p>3.10 Consultation – it was discussed that once a masterplan has been drawn up and discussed community consultation would be organised to put the plans to the wider community.</p> <p>4. Readiness Checklist</p> <p>4.1 Yunus Ahmed talked through the readiness checklist and discussed with the board. This would then be uploaded to the Towns Fund portal later in the day.</p> <p>4.2 The issue of the legal framework for the stakeholder board was discussed and it was agreed that we would seek advice to ensure that the correct framework is put in place to deliver the project. All attendees confirmed they were happy to be part of the board and welcomed the investment in the town.</p> <p>4.3 The scope of the area to benefit was discussed and Yunus tabled a map of the area. It was agreed this would be primarily Stocksbridge and Deepcar as per the map.</p> <p>5. Date of next meeting</p> <p>5.1 Next meeting 30 January 2020 at 10am at Dransfield House</p>	<p>YA/MD/AH</p>
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Enclosures:

- Town Deal Readiness Checklist

Amanda Holmes
02/01/2020