

Todmorden Town Deal Board

10th September 2020

Meeting notes

In attendance:

Members

- Cllr Dacre (Co-Chair)
- Tim Benjamin (Co-Chair)
- Cllr Press
- Town Cllr Skelton
- Craig Whittaker MP
- Tony Lawson
- Pam Warhurst
- Stephen Curry
- Frankie Mullen
- James Duffy
- Andrew Kim
- Barbara Jones
- Judith Furlonger (WYCA)

CMBC Officers

- Karen Houghton, Programme Manager
- Sarah Richardson, Assistant Director of Customer Services
- Daisy Wilde, Neighbourhood Coordinator
- Richard Armitage, Housing Enabling and Projects Manager

In Attendance

- Cllr Scullion, CMBC Member (Deputy Leader and, Cabinet member and Portfolio holder for Regeneration and Strategy)
- Atam Verdi

Apologies:

- Rebecca Greenwood, WYCA
- Cllr Fenton-Glynn

Welcome:

Cllr Dacre chaired the meeting.

Craig Whittaker was welcomed to the Board as he was unable to attend the last meeting. Mr Leigh MBE was substituting on his behalf.

Atam Verdi of Aspinall Verdi consultants was introduced as an observer.

Minutes of last meeting – 23rd July 2020

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

Matters Arising

None noted.

Introduction

Cllr Dacre informed that Karen would present some applications submitted for projects for the TIP. The categories that would be discussed would include Sports and Healthy Lifestyles, Transport, and Arts, Heritage and Culture.

Calderdale Council (CMBC) are working on providing the Board with brief guidance on 'feasibility' – highlighting where a proposal appears to be revenue based, does not appear to meet Towns Fund criteria or does not appear to be achievable in the timescale. This will be available for next week's Board meeting. This is designed to assist the Board but can be challenged by Board Members.

No decisions will be made today regarding the proposals.

Board members will be expected to rank each proposal from top to bottom for each category. Individual rankings will be collated, and this will inform the meeting on Thursday 24th September when Board Members decide what is to be included in the Investment plan.

Consideration of applications for projects for the TIP.

How does this meet the Towns Fund Intervention Framework?

Is it Capital funding only?

What problems does it solve?

Can it be delivered in time?

Agreed that where any proposals are discounted, the Board will work with the organisation to link them with other successful proposals or alternative funding.

Karen confirmed that the projects need to be delivered by the end of 2024.

Register of Interests

Cllr Dacre asked Board Members to consider whether they have any pecuniary (financial) interest for any of the projects which would mean they could not be involved in decisions concerning it.

Board Members were also asked to consider whether they have a conflict of interest, for example, involved in a project which could be in competition with another project.

Board Members were asked to indicate in the 'chat function' if they have any pecuniary interests or any other conflict of interest.

Board Members will be temporarily removed from the meeting if they disclose a pecuniary interest relating to a specific project.

Pecuniary interests and conflict of interests will be noted in the minutes. This will act as a record.

Action: Daisy to liaise with CMBC legal regarding drafted declaration guidance and register of interest form for the Board, including what is required with regards to these processes.

Sports and Healthy Lifestyles Proposals

Accessing Natural Todmorden (Living Bridge CIC)

-Asks for revenue costs only, therefore does not meet the criteria. Pending, further info required

Todmorden Active Outdoor Plan – amended proposal – Walsden Gateway Project – major accommodation aspect to be delivered from Walsden with smaller accommodation within Tod Town Centre

-Discussion around whether project could look at private investment also – Karen confirmed there is an element of match funding for this project

All Ability Cycling Centre Walsden (EMpowered People)

-Well established charity doing a lot of work locally and in greater Manchester

-Todmorden Town Council would support this project

-Could combine with other outdoor/cycling initiatives

Centre Vale Park – Old Coach Yard (Friends of Centre Vale Park)

-Seems a significant impact for a relatively small-scale amount of money

-To link the various schemes proposed for the park

Riverside Sports activity and Training Centre (UCVR) – Modernisation and Refurbishment

-Not within the boundary. If there is interest, Civil Servants will have to be asked if the boundary can change

Action: Karen to seek some advice from Civil Servants about whether the boundary can be changed.

Todmorden Bowls Association in Centre Vale Park

-General agreement that this project would be good as wider park development

-Would be a good way of improving links between generations

-Need to consider their plan for a bigger and more useful building on that site (not mentioned in this proposal)

Drinking Fountains/Bottle Refill Stations in Todmorden

-General agreement and support that this is a good project

-Fits with criteria

Making Todmorden Welcome to Walkers (and Wheelchairs, and Cyclists)

-Project does not seem coherent, but ideas that could be encompassed elsewhere

-Protected bike lanes would be a good take from this proposal – either part of this one or a standalone project

Transport Proposals

Legibility & Signage Strategy - costs could reduce if Calderdale wide approach.

- Costs could be reduced if became a Calderdale wide approach

-Discussions were had that improved signage would be beneficial – give the community a sense of 'knowing'

-Suggestion that this proposal could link with the 'Making Todmorden Welcome' projects

-General feelings that this would be good if costs could be reduced

Click & Go Transport

-Would need to consider whether revenue or capital

-Seems largely to refer to operating costs

-Concerns raised regarding sustainability beyond initial funding

-Recognised that transport is a need for the community

-Suggestions made that they could link with CIC (below proposal)

Accessible eBus (Community Transport Calderdale - CIC) – Electric Vehicle
- CIC and Click & Go to speak to each other and develop a plan collaboratively

Station Approach Access Improvement and Connectivity to Bus Station
-General positive feedback regarding the project
-Review against previous ideas from Civic Pride

Accessible overflows on Rochdale Canal (Canals and River Trust)
-Not within the boundary. As mentioned previously, Karen to check whether the boundary can be changed

Arts, Heritage and Culture Proposals

Arts House

-Similar to original vision for Strawbale Hotel - could be included in proposed Strawbale Hotel in Rose Street development

The Border Music Centre in Todmorden (Music Makes You)

-Like that it supports business, education and youth
-Some caution about how sustainable the project is
-Revised plan to be requested

The Refurbishment of the Conservatory in the Garden of Remembrance at Centre Vale Park - Centre Vale Conservatory Group (Comprising; Todmorden in Bloom, Friends of Centre Vale Park and Todmorden Military Veterans groups)

-Fits well within proposed improvements for the park
-Brings wasted space to be used as a cultural asset
-General feelings that the project should be supported
-Would need to give consideration whether it fits the intervention framework

Action: Karen to look at whether project fits within the intervention framework.

Grumpy's Mill Art Studios

-There is a need for artists studios, but need to give consideration as to whether this is the right provision
-Does not appear to add extra space for artists which is a need
-Ask is for limited roof repairs, but will not address more fundamental issues

Handmade Parade at St Aidans Mill (working title)

-Not just a creation of space for artists studios but focuses on community delivery, support and co-creation
-Bringing in a lot of match funding
-Need to consider timeframe and sustainability
-General support

Andrew Kim was removed from meeting.

Murmuration Workshops & Café at Robinwood Mill in Todmorden

-Board to consider whether want an 'arts' as a theme – for this project and others proposed
-Concerns only proposing 10-year lease
-Cost scrutiny required

Note: Andrew Kim noted that he has a conflict of interest with the Murmuration Workshops. He was removed from the meeting during discussions about the Murmuration Workshops and allowed back in for the Hippodrome discussions.

Andrew Kim returned to the meeting.

Hippodrome

-Request to see a detailed plan – ask to submit project template

Further Arts, Heritage and Culture proposals will be discussed next week.

These include:

People's History Museum Todmorden – Proposal

Unitarian Church Lodge House Phase 2: Sustainability and Access improvements

Restoration of the Bandstand in Centre Vale Park

Park Mobile Café

AOB

The previously mentioned Arts, Heritage and Culture proposals will be discussed in next week's Board Meeting. Learning and Skills proposals as well as Rose Street, the Market Hall and the Town Hall will also be discussed.

Dates of next meetings

- Thursday 17th September 4-6pm.
- Thursday 24th September 4-6pm.