

Burton upon Trent Town Deal Board Minutes

Friday 11th October 2024

Board Members Present

John McKiernan	Vice Chairman
Mick Clifford	Burton Civic Society
Cllr Conor Wileman	Staffordshire CC
Harry White	Brewery Heritage
Cllr M T Fitzpatrick	East Staffordshire BC
Cllr R Hawkins	East Staffordshire BC
Jacob Collier MP	Member of Parliament
Shaid Hussain	Business and Community Representative
Chris Plant	Chamber of Commerce

In Attendance

Andy O'Brien	East Staffordshire BC
Thomas Deery	East Staffordshire CC
James Abbott	East Staffordshire BC
Wayne Mortiboys	Staffordshire CC
Emily Thomas	East Staffordshire BC
James Dennison	Canal and River Trust (Via Zoom)
Duncan Stewart	56 Degree Insight (Via Zoom)

Agenda Item No.	Subject	Decision / Discussion / Recommendation	Action Points	Date Action Required
1	Welcome and Apologies	The Vice-Chairman welcomed the Board to the meeting and noted that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Walker		
2	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.		
3	Minutes of the Town Deal Board meeting held on 6 th September 2024 and Matters arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record. (subject to Parish Cllr D Fletcher being noted as present at the meeting).		
4	Register of Interests Update	The interim Chairman reminded board members that they should have all returned the register of interest forms.		

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		<p>At this juncture JC and SH joined the meeting.</p>		
5	Canal Towpath Project Evaluation Presentation	<p>The Board received a presentation from James Dennison Enterprise Manager (Canals and Rivers Trust) and Duncan Stewart (360 Insight) on the Canal Towpath Project Evaluation. The Board noted that over 550 towpath users and local residents were surveyed in July and August 2024 (including an online self-completion survey). The Board noted the success of the project and positive feedback received.</p> <p>JD requested that the Board consider the possibility of extending the work southward from Branston Water Park, up to Barton Marina in respect of any future projects.</p> <p>It was agreed that a copy of the report and presentation be circulated to the Board members.</p> <p>In response to concerns raised concerning the maintenance of the Towpaths, It was noted that the Canal and River Trust aimed to review the maintenance schedule and encouraged any further feedback be submitted via the Contact us section of their website.</p>		
6	Reflections on Bass House Event	<p>TD invited those Board Members who had attended the Bass House Tours earlier in the week, to provide feedback in advance of the public tours. Overall feedback was positive.</p> <p>It was suggested that timescales could be specified, including more details such as total cost and how this would be made up.</p> <p>TD advised that the public events were fully booked and that the slides from the event would be added to the website and published in due course and would be circulated to the board.</p> <p>TD reminded the board of the public forum which would be held on Tuesday 12th November at the Town Hall. A campaign would be launched to encourage public engagement and attendance at the event.</p>		

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7	Update on Washlands Visitor Centre and Garden of Remembrance	<p>The Board received an update on the Washlands Visitor Centre. The Board noted the revised build scope of the project. The Board noted that the pre application planning advice had been sought with the Local Planning Authority. Following this meeting the planning application would be submitted in December/January, with the procurement exercise beginning in January 2025. The Cabinet report would be circulated to Board members.</p> <p>The Board noted that approval had been given to commence the Garden of Remembrance enhancement scheme in September and that the Washlands Phase 1 underspend had been utilised, with works beginning now alongside the Washlands phase 1 project. The scope of the works had begun and had increased significantly to deliver a more meaningful physical change. The final plans for the Garden of Remembrance and Andressey Passage would be circulated to Board members, when available.</p>		
8	Town Deal Board Chair/Membership update	<p>TD advised that the MHCLG had highlighted the importance of electing a chair democratically, and this being more important than the specific criteria within the prospectus, their main concern was demonstrating the chair is elected and that the decision was minuted.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded that JM be appointed permanent chairman of the Board and was agreed unanimously by all those present.</p> <p>It was agreed to appoint a Vice-Chairman and consider the wider membership of the Board at the next meeting.</p>		
9	Dates of Future Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - November 2024 (TBC) (to discuss membership of the Board). - Friday 17th January 2025 - Friday 11th April 2025 		
10	Any other business	The Board discussed the project adjustment process.		

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