

Mablethorpe Place Reference Group Meeting- 29th May 2020

Place Reference Group Members:

- Cllr Helen Matthews (Chair)
- Canon Chris Lilley (Vice)
- Kim Hoey
- Cllr Tony Howard
- Carl Richardson
- Cllr Daniel Richardson
- Claire Newman
- David Honman
- Adrian Benjamin
- Graham Cullen
- Nicola Radford
- John Henry Looney
- Steven Palmer
- Sarah Louise Fairburn (Chair of Connected Coast Board)

Consultants:

- Ivan Annibal
- Steve Kemp
- Rob Thompson

ELDC representatives:

- Alison Penn
- Martin Kay
- Roxanne Warwick
- Craig Fiske

Minutes of last Meeting

Approved and seconded by the group

Update on Government stance on the Towns Fund.

- Towns Fund is still key to government
- Towns fund projects will be useful to helping economies recover after Covid-19
- Want to keep moving things forward
- Would like start of our investment strategy by June. Looking at December for the whole investment Plan to be completed.
- Use of ARUP for development work
- Interested in how the towns investment plan will respond to Covid-19
- Looking for the shovel ready projects to help kick start the recovery
- Public engagement and consultation is very key to them

Progress Update since last meeting

Ivan informed use of changes to the investment plan and evidence base to help with the current scenario. Use of statistics in this evidence base along with additional project development will help build a good platform. There were concerns about the Towns fund becoming solely a recovery plan but these were addressed.

There were comments about the transformation plan not focusing enough on the tourism and hospitality sector and this needed to be looked at. Agreed this was a key area and ideas need to help offer an all year round solution for Mablethorpe.

The future living campus was then discussed and issues were raised by group members about the key purpose of this just being for care.

An issue around whether education for post-16 students could be incorporated into this? It was stated that conversations were being had with various education providers about what they could offer in this space and what it would bring to Mablethorpe. An issue of upskilling was raised and answered in terms of these education providers allowing people to learn further and improve the offerings that Mablethorpe had in terms of skills and the potential for new business. A point was raised regarding working with CLIP and there is ongoing discussions with them about how they could be involved.

Another issue that members raised was that it focused just on providing care to residents and there was concern around turning Mablethorpe into a retirement village. Also that the younger generation would move away as it didn't provide new and exciting opportunities for them. John Henry Looney shared his conversations he has been having around the google campus which would help massively with technologies innovation in the area and work with the younger people to get them involved and wanting to stay in the local area.

It was agreed that the right communication message must be put across to market Mablethorpe in the right way. It is about what's right for the Town and not being rushed into putting ideas forward. Looking at the mid-longer term strategy is a key aspect in this.

Shovel Ready Projects

Discussions were had around the shovel ready project that is the Colonnade. There were questions asked around why this is now planned to take Towns Fund money when previously it wasn't. It was suggested that the Towns Fund money would help add value to the project and help secure the funding from government as it would showcase the project is all ready to go. Agreed that if the money was going to be used to further the offering on the colonnade then it would be a good shovel-ready project to have. It was also agreed that the surrounding space around the colonnade needed to be looked at and developed as well especially the garden areas. It was mentioned that this could be done with public opinion on what they wanted surrounding it. Was advised that there is still time in the scheme to tweak things. Comms proposal will help inform people how we have got to where we are. Further ideas to be put in a prospectus to develop the surroundings to get the public's views on these. A comment was also made on how the colonnade would help with the social recovery of Covid-19 and the benefits this would bring.

There was also a discussion around Station Sports. It was said that this would need a different facility as it a different concept needing its own space. Question of whether a pool would be included in the plans for this answered that it would be considered and is being looked into. It was also asked whether private sector project could receive towns fund money, which they can so David Honman shared his plans of a swimming pool being put on one of his parks for the public to use.

It was agreed that both of these projects would help with the all year round offering that Mablethorpe could offer.

Public engagement and consultation

Engagement with the public is key factor in the Towns Fund Process (transformation plan and evidence base help with this). The communication agency that is being brought in will really help push this connection and help the community fully engage in the process. It will help with people's perception of the Towns Fund and show we are actually listening to their ideas and see them being followed up. Prospectus will be a catalyst for future ideas and allow for extra additions to current projects.

Any other Business

Nicola Radford- Lincolnshire gardens trust- looking for volunteers and would be good to engage with as they work with young people to boost gardens and historical landmarks.

Next Meeting

Next meeting- 31st July at 2pm

Meeting end 3:52pm