

# Thornaby Town Deal Board

## Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Present:**

Mark White – Chair  
 Cllr Nigel Cooke  
 Richard McGuckin  
 Matthew Vickers MP  
 Cllr Tina Large  
 Cllr Sylvia Walmsley  
 Cllr Ray Godwin  
 Cllr Mick Moore  
 Cllr Steve Walmsley  
 Cllr Luke Frost

Leon Jones  
 Niall Innes (observer)  
 Claire Frawley  
 Dermit Smith  
 Julie Gilhespie  
 Chris Smith  
 Fr. Rob Desics  
 Lesley Graham  
 Laura Buckley

Item	Comment/Action	Owner	Deadline
1	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  Iain Robinson		
2	<b><u>Housekeeping and Chair’s remarks</u></b>  Chair welcomed all to the meeting.  Welcome extended to Father Rob Desics who has joined the board following Fr Charles Razzall’s recent period of ill health.  We have now received signed Heads of Terms from the minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, Luke Hall.  Richard confirmed that Jacobs have been appointed to start developing the Business Case and that we will be calling on board members for input over the coming months.		
3	<b><u>Review of Minutes from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021</u></b>  Agreed as accurate record though note that Chris Smith and Julie Gilhespie were present. Minutes to be updated to reflect this.	LB	
4	<b><u>Position Statement</u></b>  A copy of the Position Statement was circulated to board members in advance of today’s meeting.  The four priorities identified at TIP stage now need to be developed in greater detail, in order that a robust case for intervention across each of the four schemes can be made.  Board members will receive an e-mail from Dianne Buckton inviting expressions of interest for involvement in the workstreams.		

<p>5</p>	<p><b><u>Funding Allocation Decision</u></b></p> <p>The board needs to agree how the funding offer of £23.9m will be allocated across interventions.</p> <p>The original allocations across the four identified interventions cannot be exceeded when reprofiling.</p> <p>Sylvia Walmsley queried the meaning of ‘interventions cannot be exceeded?’ Does this mean the figures cannot be juggled later?</p> <p>Richard McGuckin confirmed that whilst we have to confirm our intentions with Government, we are not tied to it as long as the original ask for each intervention is not exceeded.</p> <p>Sylvia queried Jacobs role and reporting mechanism.</p> <p>Chair responded that Jacobs role within the rules of Towns Fund is to support us to achieve the vision of the board across workstreams within TIP.</p> <p>Richard added that once workstreams are up and running, we will need to agree how often the board needs to meet over the year. Frequently enough to bring workstream updates to the board.</p> <p>Next meeting likely to be in two months’ time at which point we’ll have had the initial meeting with Jacobs and set out the framework to agree an approach going forward.</p> <p>Chair and Richard McGuckin made a recommendation to the board to adopt a pro-rata reduction across all interventions.</p> <p>Julie Gilhespie queried whether any of the areas would be particularly capital heavy and therefore less easily flexed?</p> <p>Richard agreed to take the question away for further clarification.</p> <p>Steve Walmsley commented that a pro-rata approach seems most sensible. Steve went on to query North Thornaby housing and whether the money can be used to bring in investors?</p> <p>Richard confirmed that it is not precluded and match funding would be welcomed.</p> <p>Chris Smith commented that it would be practical to align plans and potential investment. When the invite comes out, Chris will be expressing an interest to be on the housing workstream.</p> <p>Chair addressed each member of the board individually for comments on the recommendation for a pro-rata reduction.</p> <p>All in support.</p> <p>Fr. Rob Desics queried what is meant by ‘futureproofing the Town Centre’</p> <p>Richard responded that the intention is to make the Town Centres a modern offering, fit for future generations.</p>	<p>RMcG</p>	
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6	<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Agreed that timeslot works well. Dianne Buckton to be in touch with invite for next meeting in due course.</p>		
7	<p><b><u>Any Other Business</u></b></p> <p>Steve and Luke Frost mentioned the new Gaming Hideaway, bringing something new to Thornaby.</p> <p>Demit Smith added that the tenants have fitted the first floor suite out for educational purposes and are working in conjunction with local schools to assist curriculum.</p> <p>Fr. Rob commented that he is hearing a lot of questions about the future of the Golden Eagle. What is the plan and how are we communicating what we're doing as a board with the wider community?</p> <p>Richard responded that the Golden Eagle is in a lease structure, as is Phoenix House (N Power building). Discussions are ongoing with both parties, though moving at different paces.</p> <p>In terms of communication, the Council have released comms following the Town Deal announcement. We have a duty to make sure we message effectively the work that the board is doing. Would be a good agenda item for the next meeting.</p> <p>Sylvia commented that the point was made at the last meeting about managing expectations. Communication is required to let people know that things are happening but it will take time.</p> <p>Richard agreed to develop a FAQs and Myth Buster that can be shared on the website and social media channels.</p> <p>Fr. Rob queried how we can use Social Media to our advantage? Do we have our own Social Media account?</p> <p>Richard confirmed that the Council are committed to ongoing conversations across all six towns and prospectus documents will be launching in the next 6-8 weeks. We will also be launching our own Social Media channels which will help keep messaging clear and consistent.</p> <p>Steve commented that yesterday was the launch of Billingham Boxing Club coming to Thornaby Victoria Rec and it went really well. Just what we need in the area to get kids engaged!</p> <p>Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and input.</p>	<p>MW/ RMcG</p> <p>RMcG</p>	