

Thornaby Town Deal Board

Minutes of Meeting held on 24 September 2021

Present:

Mark White – Chair
 Cllr Nigel Cooke
 Richard McGuckin
 Matthew Vickers MP
 Cllr Sylvia Walmsley
 Cllr Luke Frost
 Cllr Mick Moore
 Iain Robinson
 Leon Jones

Paul Gibson
 Claire Frawley
 Cllr Steve Walmsley
 Cllr Ray Godwin
 Revd Robert Desics
 Chris Smith
 Lesley Graham
 Mehboob Ahmad
 Laura Buckley (minutes)

Apologies:

Katy Severs
 Dermot Smith
 Angela Lockwood

Mike Baum
 Julie Gilhespie

Item	Comment/Action	Owner	Deadline
1	<p><u>Housekeeping and Chair's remarks</u></p> <p>Chair welcomed all to SRC and commented how good it was to be able to hold a meeting in person.</p> <p>Chair explained that himself, Richard McGuckin and Matt Vickers MP would need to leave the meeting early to meet a senior Government Minister. Cllr Nigel Cooke will take over as Chair at this point.</p> <p>The workstreams went well and we are delighted with the progress. Thank you to all who participated.</p>		
2	<p><u>Review of Minutes from 10 August 2021</u></p> <p>Agreed as accurate.</p>		
3	<p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>Iain Robinson provided an update presentation showing a timescale for the Programme along with summarised options on the 4 interventions following the recent workstream meetings held in September. Iain also discussed the next steps with more detailed programme to be developed for March 2022.</p> <p>North Thornaby Options for improvements to residential properties, community facilities and public realm were discussed. Wider discussion with</p>		

	<p>partners and other departments within Council to help refine options for North Thornaby in advance of a discussion with local community as appropriate.</p> <p>Thornaby Town Centre – Regeneration Phoenix House/Eagle Sites - 6 options presented to the board from minimal intervention to larger scale redevelopment. Residential development to be properly understood so that product is sustainable/desirable. Action taken away to understand proper viability process. Iain talked through 6 options. Indicative alternatives to residential on Phoenix House site. Residential remains priority for the Board. Benchmark cost from do minimum to greatest level of development on site.</p> <p>Skills Summary of 4 options discussed at workstream with a focus on development of a high level skills centre aswell as options for Digital Skills Hub and Vocational provision. Talked around striking balance for where skills gap is and capital funds gap. What is deliverable vs. aspirations.</p> <p>Active Travel Looked at cost differentials for different specs of cycle route. Presentation showed most effective cost with most effective interventions withing constraints by taking cycle route off Thornaby Road and linking with greenspace areas to maintain connection across Teesdale/College/Train Station etc. Will also look at roundabouts and cycle prioritisation.</p>		
<p>4</p>	<p>Q&A</p> <p>Comments and questions were picked up throughout the presentation and are summarised below.</p> <p>North Thornaby Steve Walmsley commented about having more community involvement. Wouldn't mind seeing representative from Police/Enforcement at meetings who can talk about the social problems. Can we get people involved, "What do you want?"</p> <p>Chair confirmed that SW, NC, RM and MW would meet to discuss further.</p> <p>Thornaby Town Centre – Regeneration Fr Desics commented that the people he has spoken to in the community do not want residential use on the site. The Anson and Hudson site should be used for residential.</p> <p>Steve Walmsley and Sylvia Walmsley stated that the Anson and Hudson House site is already earmarked for residential. Steve Walmsley further commented about the need for housing around the town centre and the changing face of retail.</p> <p>Ray Godwin added that Thornaby has empty retail units and that more units will not achieve anything. Downsizing in Stockton has been one of the best things to happen over the years and we need to get the same blend in Thornaby.</p>	<p>MW, NC RM, SW</p>	

	<p>Chris Smith commented that though the Anson and Hudson House site is planned for residential development, it is only ¼ of what was demolished. They're seeing a huge demand from people to live in the town centre.</p> <p>Nigel Cooke added that the workstreams were really positive. The aim is to futureproof the town centre and living is a really important part of that. We need to see expanding evening economy and security.</p> <p>Steve Walmsley reiterated that what people want in housing is security. He also commented on a recent report on swimming baths</p> <p>Skills The board discussed exciting opportunities that, at this stage, are commercially sensitive but with more detail to follow pending ongoing discussions.</p> <p>Active Travel Steve Walmsley pointed out that what is referred to as Linear Park on the drawings is actually Allison Trainer Park. To be updated in any further drawings/paperwork.</p> <p>Ray Godwin commented that the outcome of the workstream was very fruitful and monopolised on the infrastructure already in place. Time well spent.</p> <p>Nigel Cooke commented that it was interesting to see conclusions around Thornaby Road section with traffic islands causing problems. Result seems very pragmatic.</p> <p>Next Steps</p> <p>High level programme takes us through in to early 2022. Critical between now and Christmas to develop up brief in more detail. Additional workstream sessions likely to take place November with a view to agree preferred options for each of the 4 interventions and undertake an element of public engagement in December. Further details to follow over the coming weeks.</p>	IR	
5	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>Date to be confirmed for November.</p>		
6	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Iain Robinson commented that the intentions of the board are very aspirational at this stage. We need to build a strong/robust business case with some complex actions to pull off. It is a huge opportunity.</p> <p>Meeting close – thank you to all for attending.</p>		