

Thornaby Town Deal Board

Minutes of Meeting held on 12 April 2022

Present:

Mark White – Chair
 Cllr Nigel Cooke
 Cllr Sylvia Walmsley
 Cllr Steve Walmsley
 Cllr Luke Frost
 Cllr Mick Moore
 Iain Robinson
 Rachel Haycock
 Rev'd Robert Desics
 Leon Jones
 Angela Lockwood

Garry Cummings
 Jane Edmends
 Claire Frawley
 Dermit Smith
 Chris Smith
 Lesley Graham
 Mehboob Ahmad
 Adam Suleiman
 Mike Baum
 Dianne Buckton (minutes)

Apologies:

Cllr Ray Godwin
 Katy Severs

Julie Gilhespie
 Paul Gibson

Item	Comment/Action	Owner	Deadline
1	<p><u>Housekeeping and Chair's remarks</u></p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting and highlighted the importance of today leading up to submission of the bid.</p>		
2	<p><u>Review of Minutes from January 2022</u></p> <p>Agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>		
3	<p><u>Presentation</u></p> <p>Iain Robinson provided a presentation covering the progress which has been made since the last meeting, the main points to note being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further refinement of interventions has been undertaken involving liaison with SRC on the development of NETA options and initial design work on the NETA and swimming pool opportunities. • SRC has sites under offer on land adjacent to the college. This has been reflected in the business case. • Liaison has taken place with TVCA on project assurance. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The business case is to support the delivery of a swimming pool, parking and public realm around it with the associated opportunity this presents for the existing pool. • There is a commitment to acquire the Golden Eagle with opportunities for housing being looked at for the site. • The latest layout for the relocation of NETA to a site adjacent to the college’s current facilities was shared. A more detailed programme will be brought to the next meeting. • The four workstream interventions for North Thornaby; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvements to Victoria Park ○ Safer streets initiative ○ Empty properties initiative looking to purchase and refurbish 10 properties and demolish 1 problematic property ○ Energy efficiency to residential properties • Business case documentation – there is a requirement for an assurance exercise to be undertaken by someone outside of the Council to flag any risks etc. The TVCA assurance framework was utilised and a 3 week process undergone. This was felt to be really helpful from an audit perspective that we have background feedback documents to reference and will be part of the process for Cabinet and the Section 151 Officer to sign off. • Next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Report to be taken to SBC Cabinet 21 April seeking approval of the schemes the Board have identified and seeking onward delegation in order to deliver out the interventions. ○ Business case to be submitted by 19 May 2022. ○ Board to meet again June/July to go into more detail on the four interventions to determine how we move into the delivery phase and how we want to influence over the coming months and years. 		
<p>4</p>	<p><u>Q&A</u></p> <p>In response to Cllr Sylvia Walmsley’s question Iain confirmed the circa 1100sqm swimming pool will be bigger than what exists at Thornaby currently. It is the starting point for the brief for the design and can hopefully be delivered within the cost but there is a risk rising costs may affect the design.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Walmsley commented that some kind of residential development was wanted in the centre for the loss of the flats but talking to residents they would like a pub/restaurant families can enjoy on the existing Golden Eagle site which would generate an evening economy.</p> <p>Iain explained it is a constrained housing site but that there may be a role for a third party. Something had to be included in the business case as a starting point but there is a role for the Board in clarifying what is required.</p>		

	<p>Dermit advised LCP are looking at initiatives such as a Foodshack which will be a quality family seating area within the Mall currently being fitted out with approximately 9-10 operators as per the concepts in Durham and Darlington. There is also a requirement to follow up with good quality pub/restaurants in due course.</p> <p>The Chair commented that this was wonderful news and asked that Dermit lets Dianne know when the Foodshack opens so she can advise the Board.</p> <p>In response to Cllr Mick Moore’s question as to whether the swimming pool will be full competition size, Leon confirmed Billingham is the more suitable venue for competition purposes and what is feasible for Thornaby will be determined in terms of seating capacity etc.</p> <p>Cllr Sylvia Walmsley commented on how encouraging the NETA proposals are, they are a top level company with National presence.</p> <p>The Chair added how encouraged he was by the number of people who have visited the facility and Garry confirmed he had visited NETA and seen first-hand the great work that is ongoing.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Walmsley commented that the workstream interventions for North Thornaby are good but that the social problems in the area need to be addressed. On the plus side repossession is being sought on a property where there was a problem family but there needs to be a mechanism in place for dealing with problem families via Thirteen etc as these can bring an area down.</p> <p>Cllr Mick Moore asked when the empty properties are refurbished will these revert to the ownership of Thirteen or North Star. Iain advised this is still to be determined.</p> <p>The Chair commented that when the bid is submitted he would like a photo of himself, Cllr Cooke and others signing something. Iain agreed that this is an important opportunity to give the Board profile and pledged to arrange a photo opportunity around 9 May.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Walmsley added that he would also like to see a photo of all sectors involved in the business case, ie Education, business and housing, to reflect all areas which have contributed.</p> <p>Angela Lockwood commented that this is a great, coherent and well thought through plan which a huge amount of work has gone into and asked if, once submitted, do we know what kind of responses may come back or any questions we may be challenged on, judging by other Town Deal applications. Adam Suleiman explained provided the rationale is complete he wouldn’t expect any concerns, some clarification may be sought if there is insufficient detail in the business case but this tends to be the exception to the rule.</p> <p>Mike Baum agreed with Angela that the plan is extremely well thought through and overall he agrees with the way the money is going. He is delighted more money has been put into training as from an employer’s perspective it is an ongoing struggle to bring in the right kind of young people and, without the right kind of</p>	<p>DS/DB</p> <p>IR</p>	
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	<p>education and skills, the area won't be able to develop as it should. Lesley Graham to e-mail Mike in order to pick up the conversation.</p> <p>Cllr Cooke echoed the comments made so far, from his point of view this has been a great exercise in collaboration and joint working. There will be further conversations and further excellent work from the Board going forward, this is a prescribed model from Government for the Board and he will be making a strong case that this work is recommended when he takes the report to Cabinet.</p> <p>The Chair requested Nigel passes on the Board's good wishes to Cabinet.</p> <p>In response to Leon's question the report will be taken to Cabinet on 21 April so will go public on 14 April. The Chair has drafted a quote for Jen Tomlin to be included in a press release.</p> <p>Addressing Cllr Sylvia Walmsley's query as to when a decision will be known Adam advised the process can be approximately two months but he expects it to be less than this. The Chair confirmed as soon as he knows he will advise the Board accordingly.</p>	<p>LG</p> <p>Cllr C</p>	
5	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The Chair suggested that future meetings be held every 2-3 months with the Board being advised of anything pertinent in the meantime.</p>		
6	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair expressed his thanks to everyone who had commented on his article in Thornaby Pride. Cllr Steve Walmsley referenced this year's Thornafest community event to be held at Thornaby Cricket Club which is now starting to be promoted. Lesley Graham confirmed she is happy to promote the event at the college if Cllr Walmsley can provide some flyers. It was agreed Iain will send an e-mail to the Board the day after SBC's Cabinet meeting where the submission to Government of the business case will be discussed. Cllr Sylvia Walmsley added that Cabinet is a public meeting so anyone wishing to attend can do so. <p>In closing the meeting the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and confirmed the Board will be kept in touch at every stage.</p>	<p>Cllr StW</p> <p>IR</p>	<p>22.04.22</p>