

Town Deal Fund - Newark-on-Trent Town Board
Minutes from the meeting of the Board held on Friday 15th May 8.30 am
Meeting held virtually hosted by Benoy Ltd

Attendees

Alan Mellor, Clerk, Newark Town Council
Cllr. David Lloyd, Leader, NSDC - CHAIRMAN
Cllr Keith Girling, Deputy Leader, NSDC
Cllr. Ronnie White, Chairman of Balderton Parish Council
Danny Collins, Savills (for Benoy Ltd)
Darren Burke, Proprietor of Masdings Newark
Darren Scott, Team Manager, National Careers Service
Dave Tantum, Towns Fund Consultant
David Wright, Area Lead, D2N2
Fiona Anderson, Economic Partnerships Manager, NTU
Georgia Wright
Jackie Insley, Chief Officer, Citizens Advice Bureau
Jo Bradley - Business Development Lead, YMCA
Johanne Thomas, Urban & Civic
John Coles, Director, Evenbrook
John Robinson, Chief Executive, NSDC
Kerri McGarrigle, Chair of Newark Business Club
Lyndsay Hutchinson, Benoy Ltd
Madeleine OSullivan CEO of Newark Community and Voluntary Services
Matt Lamb, Director of Growth & Regeneration, NSDC
Mike Wilson-MacCormack, Director, Senior Designer, Benoy Ltd
Nicola Marshall, Town Centres Manager, NSDC
Paul Carr, Deputy District Operations Leader, DWP
Sandhya Ward, Homes England
Simon Witts, Founder and CEO, Aviation 360
Stephen Barker, CEO, Nottingham Creative Quarter
Timothy Calvert, Dixons Carphone
Tom Marsden - Director of Strategic Growth, Lincoln College Group
Tom Cartledge, Chief Executive, Benoy - CHAIRMAN
Tony Aspbury, Chairman of Development Committee, Newark Showground
Yamen Badr, Senior Designer, Benoy Ltd

Apologies

Clive Fletcher, Historic England
Gary Headland, CEO Lincoln College Group
Jean Sharpe, District Operations Leader Department of Work and Pensions
John Gelsthorpe, Pratt and Gelsthorpe
Nikki Burley, CEO, Newark Emmaus Trust
Simon Shaw, Newark Business Club
Sue Gray, Office of Robert Jenrick MP

Main points and Actions:

- Update on progress – Phase 1 of Strategy
- Feedback from three sub-groups
- Timetable for Strategy and Town Investment Plan

Items to be circulated to Board:

- Presentation

1 Welcome

Clr David Lloyd welcomed participants to the meeting.

- Covid-19 situation has been a focus for the Council but activity on the Towns Fund has continued with the intention to submit the Town Investment Plan by August.
- Data analysis and research has elucidated the ‘challenges’ for Newark and the resulting transformational projects for the Investment Plan.
- Sub-group meetings of the Board had taken place this week and considered potential propositions: thank you to participants for their contributions.
- Consultation and community engagement is a vital part of the process to shape the projects that will emerge.

2 Introduction

Tom Cartledge thanked the Council, Board and sub-group members for their efforts in progressing the Board’s work.

Tangible projects are beginning to take shape; covid-19 impact means there is an increasing need for these to be transformational for the town.

Four key areas of work: Residential; Town Centre; Business and Education; Connectivity. [Slide 5 of presentation].

Residential

- Looking at sites to bring forward with a focus on increasing residential use in the town centre.
- Private sector investment is looking promising.

Town Centre

- Focus on culture and heritage and how this works with the town centre and traditional retail.
- The importance of the Market Place.

Business and Education

- Positive discussions with educational partners including Lincoln College Group, Aviation 360, Universities of Nottingham, Lincoln University and the YMCA.
- Focus is on improving the ambition for young people in Newark with a programme of vocational education at all levels as well as academic research and innovation.
- Opportunities with the Freeports at Immingham / Grimsby and East Midlands Airport.

Connectivity

Focus is on increasing use of transport alternatives to private car journeys.
Improved connection between train stations, employment sites and town centre.

3 Sub-Group Meetings Update

Mike Wilson-MacCormack gave feedback from discussions at the three sub-group meetings held:

- Education, Business and Skills – Monday 11th May
- Town Centre, Culture, Heritage – Tuesday 12th May
- Infrastructure – Wednesday 13th May

The sub-group meetings had been very positive and a valuable opportunity to share work so far and listen to feedback from participants. Thank you to the participants for engaging and contributing some great ideas; this will all be absorbed and translated into the proposals.

Detailed feedback and key themes are detailed on the presentation [See slides 8-22 of presentation]

4 Next Steps

4.1 Matt Lamb outlined forthcoming activities and the timetable for the next phase of work including public consultation and engagement.

- Consultation will be carried out as an e-survey since due to covid-19 lockdown it has not been possible to carry out face-to-face consultation as had been hoped.
 - Survey will be promoted widely via all forms of media
 - Live on-line in next week and will run for three weeks until 10th June. Link is [here](#)
 - Schools project including a writing competition for primary schools and a geography project for senior schools (later in planning)
 - Newark and Sherwood Community and Voluntary Services will be carrying out short telephone surveys and also delivering paper copies of the full survey via their networks and contacts
- Consultation with District and Local Councillors via workshops in May and June
- A second round of sub-group meetings week of 8th June for refinement of proposals
- There will be an additional Town Board on 26th June and Board of 10th July will sign off the Town Investment Plan in advance of NSDC Committee sign off.

4.2 Tom Cartledge emphasised that the Board is keen to involve everyone and listen to ideas and feedback, acknowledging that discussion and debate is not easy in on-line meetings and encouraging colleagues to get in touch if they want to discuss a particular aspect of the Board's work.

5 Further Comments

- John Robinson: the livestock market site has an EOI in the public domain for options including a possible relocation.
- Tony Aspbury: importance of a 'landing site' for visitors to Newark from where they can easily navigate to the town centre.
- Tom Cartledge: Post-covid challenges to the economy may present opportunities – eg shopping centres losing tenants and looking for alternative uses or selling sites.

- Simon Witts: importance of finding a link and common themes between the sectors – eg STEM subjects in engaging young people and harnessing the Newark’s manufacturing heritage.

6 Summing Up

Cllr David Lloyd thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting. It had been a positive and open discussion. He emphasised that the Towns Fund is looking for projects which are truly transformation and which will make a gear change in the town. The work will continue to the timeframe outlined and will continue to engage people in greater depth.

Matt Lamb echoed Cllr Lloyd’s thanks and appreciation for participants’ contributions.

The meeting finished at 9.30 am.

7 Date of Future Meetings

Friday 26th June (please note change from original date)

Friday 10th July

Friday 11th September

To be advised if meetings will be held remotely or at NSDC, Castle House.

Start time **8.30 am if virtual**, 8.00 am if at Castle House for refreshments.