

Newark Town Board

Minutes of the Meeting of the Newark Town Board Meeting held on Monday, 29 April 2024 at 10.05am, at Holy Trinity Community & Partnership Centre, Boundary Road, Newark.

PRESENT: Andrew Phillips, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Anna Tsartari, BE Design
Bonnie Mitchell, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Charlotte Ellam, Nottinghamshire Police
Danny Collins, Savills
Darren Burke, Masdings
Elaine Poon, Newark and Sherwood District Council
James Daykin, Daykin Marshall Studio
Jane Harrison, Newark Civic Trust
Jo Bradley, YMCA
Joelle Davies, Nottinghamshire County Council
John Robinson, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Julia Sandhu, Reach
Karen Langford, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Kathryn Sharp, Environment Agency
Keith Girling, Nottinghamshire County Council
Kevin Kendall, Lincolnshire Coop
Linny Beaumont, Canal and River Trust
Louise Casey-Simpson, Newark and Sherwood CVS
Louise Sinclair, Beaumont House
Matt Lamb, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Matthew Gleadell, Newark Town Council
Neil Cuttall, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Neil Ross, Newark Town Council
Paul Peacock, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Penny Taylor, Newark College
Peter Gaw, Inspire
Richard Gelsthorpe, Pratt and Gelsthorpe
Rose Thompson, Historic England
Rowan Cozens, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Sanjiv Kohli, Newark and Sherwood District Council
Simon Gabbitas, Newark Business Club
Steff Wright, Gusto UK
Steffen Benbow, YMCA
Sue Gray, Office of Robert Jenrick MP
Tony Aspbury, Newark Showground

ONLINE: Calum Osborne, Nottingham Forest
Claire Hinchley, Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Fiona Johnson, Nottingham Trent University
Jenny Garbis, Gusto UK
Melanie Phythian, DLUHC
Michael Bingwa, National Careers Service
Paul Wilkinson, Notts Wildlife Trust
Phil Gilbert, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Rhona Holloway, Newark and Sherwood District Council

1.0 Welcome

Neil Cuttell from Newark & Sherwood District Council opened the meeting and informed everyone that the Chair Tom Cartledge had resigned from the Newark Town Board. Penny Taylor stood in as Chair and Tony Aspbury as Vice-Chair.

Tom Cartledge was thanked for his direction and dedication to the Newark Town Board over the past few years.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

Adele Walker, DWP
Alex Ball, NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB
Andrew Fearn, St Mary Magdalene with St Leonard
Beccy Speight, RSPB
Bernadette Hunter, Headteacher representative
Henry Price, Abbot and Co (Newark) Ltd
Jackie Insley, Citizens Advice Bureau
Jane Buxton, Balderton Parish Council
Jayne Saunders, Farndon Parish Council
Lee Marshall, Viridis
Nikki Burley, Newark Emmaus Trust
Paul Gascoigne, Homes England
Paul Holmes, Wirtgen Group
Peter Hill, Transforming Notts Together
Salim Hajoudj, Barcode Warehouse
Sam Thompson, The Duck
Tom Cartledge, Benoy

3.0 Minutes of Meeting held on 27 March 2024

It was agreed that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

4.0 Newark Town Board Town Fund One Project Update

Neil Cuttell from Newark & Sherwood District Council updated the meeting on current progress of Newark Town Board 2021-2026 Projects.

- Air and Space Institute: the construction of the building is now completed and students have started using the facility, an invite to Town Board members to attend the opening event on the 28th June 2024 will be forthcoming.
- Newark Construction College of Excellence: is operational and will start its 3rd cohort of student intake in September 2024
- Castle Gatehouse: the project has proceed with archeological investigations following planning approval in early 2024. The outcome of the Heritage Lottery Fund bid is due in early May 2024.
- Newark Heart: The District Council has been working with the Town Council on an Events Plan for summer 2024.
- Southern Link Road: The SLR is now under construction with a completion date of March 2026

5.0 Newark Long-Term Town Investment Plan Update

Danny Collins from Savills provided a presentation to the meeting on the development of the Long-Term Town Fund Investment Plan and analysis of data, with headline findings for social, economic and property market. The presentation is appended to these minutes.

Discussions are summarised as follow:

- Kathryn Sharp mentioned that the Environment Agency has newly released a report on environmental resilience and quality and can share a copy of the report to the project team for consideration as part of the data set.
- Cllr Keith Girling stated that the three intervention themes were carefully analysed by central government and summarised into the three themes of: safety and security; high streets, heritage and regeneration; and transport and connectivity.
- Tony Aspbury requested what the current figures are for employment and unemployment. Danny Collins gave an overview of the employment and unemployment statistics.
- Cllr Rowan Cozens asked how A Grade specification office space is defined. Danny Collins explained that this defined by meeting standards including sustainability and modern by design.
- Cllr Paul Peacock asked for more information on the median of wages. Danny Collins will review average earnings, not median earnings and also a breakdown of earnings by amount.
- Tony Aspbury noted within the data that train usage as a transport mode is low despite one of the strengths of the town is having two accessible train stations Danny stated he will review the travel to work data and request that then data pack be updated .
- Cllr Keith Girling posed a question on whether the pro forma is only for the short term (3-year investment plan) projects or whether they are also for longer term (10-year) projects. Danny responded that all potential projects should be submitted at this stage. The Government have stated that a further investment plan will be required for year 4 onward and this will present an opportunity for the Board to review priorities in the near future.
- Cllr. Neil Ross noted the small business showcase and 'Whale' exhibition was a success. Cllr. Neil Ross asked about the model of funding and the focus on the Parish boundary with the most deprived area in the town. Cllr. Neil Ross asked whether funding could be used for town centre initiatives such as the provision of public toilets and staff to keep it clean and safe noting that a safe, clean environment supports improving Anti-Social Behaviour and funding does not need to only support infrastructure.
- Joelle Davies commented on the use of static data and the need to include social mobility in the dataset as well. Neil Cuttall replied the Council has commissioned a study and its conclusion will be included within the Town Investment Plan. Joelle further commented on the need to look at trends and projections, schemes take time to have an impact with longevity to meet the national process which Danny Collins has noted.

- John Robinson expressed that a pragmatic approach could be considered where immediate impact might be desired but a legacy over time needs to be developed for the Long-Term Plan of projects.
- Tony Aspbury relayed consideration of projects being financially sustainable over the longer term.
- Melanie Phythian advised in the online group chat function that projects must meet the three strategic priorities as outlined in the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund guidance.
- Steff Wright requested a copy of the presentation be shared after the meeting noting that the strategic themes don't include a focus for the creative or craftsmanship industries known to Newark. Danny Collins advised that these can still be linked to the interventions and can therefore be included in project proposals.
- Neil Cuttell advised that the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund data pack would be shared with the minutes of the meeting and the Social Mobility Report commissioned by Newark and Sherwood District Council is to be shared with Savills for reference within the Town Investment Plan.
- Cllr Keith Girling asked whether some of the projects listed have already secured funding from the Council and whether the pro forma document would need to include a formal business case. Neil Cuttell advised that the the guidance for projects for Long Term Town Fund did not state a requirement for Green Book Business Cases as required in the Town Fund One Programme.
- Richard Gelsthorpe noted that commercial rental demands are unrealistic and is this also the case nationally. Danny Collins advised that the data indicates this is a national issue.
- Anna Tsartari commented that the overall amount of funding is not significant when annual spend is considered and suggested a workshop be considered for the assessment of projects.

The Town Board members are encouraged to circulate, and promote to partners, stakeholder and community groups the need to complete a project pro forma for any potential projects they wish to put forward before 10 May 2024. The pro forma will be circulated after the meeting. The long list of projects will be assessed against alignment with the investment themes and deliverability and presented back to the board. The submission of the Long-Term Plan for Towns Fund Investment Plan is due by 1st August 2024. There was a suggestion that a workshop to be considered for the May or June meeting to review the themes and priorities of the programme.

A copy of the presentation would be shared after the meeting and the Board agreed:

- The master plan vision reflects the intention for the Town Investment Plan
- To note the strengths and weaknesses of Newark
- To put forward any potential projects using the proforma by 10 May 2024

Nominations for the next Newark Town Board Chair were requested and could be emailed to Elaine Poon elaine.poon@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk or Neil Cuttell (neil.cuttell@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk) or Matt Lamb (matt.lamb@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk) before 10 May 2024.

6.0 Newark Town Board Communications

Andrew Phillips Senior Communications and Marketing Officer introduced himself to the meeting and highlighted the Communications and Marketing Strategy.

7.0 Date of Next Meetings

30 May 2024 at 8.30am
27 June 2024 at 3.30pm
25 July 2024 at 3.00pm

Meeting ended at 11.30am.