

Bude-Stratton Town Team – Notes of Meeting Thursday 17th May 2023

Present: Tony Gibbs – Chair (Bude Chamber), Linda Winstanley – Vice Chair (BATB), Nicole Gilbert (LUC), Cllr Katie Goode (BSTC), Rosie Hammonds (LUC), Sue Kessell (Bude JobCentre Plus), Cllr Peter La Broy (Cornwall Council), Chris Sims (Cornwall Council), Paul Tilzey (Friends of Bude Sea Pool), Rob Uhlig (Bude Climate Partnership), Paul Venter (Bude Chamber), Jonathan Walter (Bark Furniture), Nettie Wilson (Town Trader – Budeful). **Officers in attendance:** Ian Saltern - Deputy Town Clerk (BSTC)

1. **Apologies:** Chris Hemmerle, Scott Mann MP, Calum McGrath. PLB suggested that the two other Cornwall Councillors whose divisions include Bude be invited to future Town Team meetings.
2. **To agree notes of previous meeting (16 March 2023):** Agreed.
3. **Update regarding the Bude Town Centre Vitality Project – Vision and Investment Plan:** TG stated that the Town Team had now engaged consultants LUC, and he provided a brief summary of the process of developing a Vision and Investment Plan. He hoped that what would be produced at the end of the process would prove useful - not be merely a report, but a list of interventions which could be actioned. He felt that consultation would be key, and that this process was a significant and exciting opportunity to strengthen Bude's economic activity/vitality.
4. **Presentation from Nicole Gilbert of Land Use Consultants Ltd (LUC):** NG outlined the aims and outputs of the Vision and Investment Plan work, providing detail on the proposed public engagement (NG's presentation slides accompany these notes). NG stated that the Bude community appeared very engaged which bodes well for future consultation. NG stressed the importance of producing an evidence base to support future applications for town centre investment. There will be three outcomes: a Vision Document, an Investment Plan and an Evidence Base.

There would be a range of opportunities for the public to give their views on the future of the town centre via an online consultation hub, and in writing. It was also proposed to hold a Business Owners/Retailers Forum on Tuesday 6th June from 4:30pm – 6:30pm at a location to be confirmed. Additionally, a public engagement day was proposed for 7th June centred on Morrisons foyer and the Market at the Methodist Church by Nanny Moore's Bridge.

5. **Q & A with Nicole Gilbert:** NG fielded the following questions:
 - Q. Would it be possible to seek the views of chain/national stores by TT members visiting them individually? How do chains/national stores usually engage?
 - A. A direct approach is usually better – motivate these stores to get involved with the process before engagement events are held, and approach them individually if they do not attend.
 - Q. Could Bude Chamber of Commerce help to advertise the planned business forum on 6th June?
 - A. Yes, Bude Chamber and the Bude Area Tourist Board can certainly help to promote the event to their respective members.

Q. Could we have a leaflet to distribute to traders, businesses, and others?

A. Yes – a great idea – LUC will produce – BSTC could print.

Q. Would it be a sensible approach to make clear that there are no preconceived ideas regarding the town centre already on the table?

A. Absolutely – it will be made clear to everyone that there are no preconceived ideas – we are looking for suggestions and ideas from the community and its businesses.

Q. How do the results of the consultation turn into possible 'projects'?

A. A longlist of proposed projects informed by consultation undertaken with the community will be presented in-person and online in July, and consulted on once again.

Q. Should businesses outside of the Town Centre be included in the Vision and Investment Plan?

A. Yes, this seems sensible, but it would be helpful if, when giving consultation feedback, businesses state whereabouts in Bude they are based. Likewise, it is possible that suppliers to businesses in Bude, but based outside of the town, may also have a view.

Q. Can we find ways to address negativity towards the Vision and Investment Plan work?

A. Yes, providing easily understood graphics, hyperlinks, screenshots of the consultation hub and engagement timeline in formats that can be shared via social media to ensure the widest possible engagement. Also regularly communicating with the community will be essential.

Key Actions:

NG stated that hard copies of the surveys hosted on the consultation hub would be made available and could be distributed from BSTC offices and other locations.

CS offered to put LUC in contact with different relevant department of Cornwall Council.

TT members were encouraged to volunteer to distribute flyers promoting the business forum event on 6th June to local businesses.

A QR code should be generated for the survey.

SK mentioned that 6th June was also the date of a Bude Jobs Fair, and this would be an opportunity to promote the Vision and Investment Plan consultation.

6. **Any other business:** There was none.

7. **Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed.

Meeting ended at 20:00 hours.