

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT	Town Deal – Member Reference Group		
DATE	9 August 2022	LOCATION	Virtual meeting using Zoom

Attendees	
Councillor Bokor (Chair)	Lead Member for Loughborough
County Councillor Ted Parton	Loughborough South
Councillor Geoff Parsons	Loughborough Nanpantan
Councillor Sandie Forrest	Loughborough Storer
Councillor Emma Ward	Dishley and Hathern
John Moseley	Vertigo Creative Studio (Hope Bell Project)
Rhod Thomas	Vertigo Creative Studio (Hope Bell Project)
Aaron Rossi	Vertigo Creative Studio (Hope Bell Project)
Sylvia Wright	Head of Leisure and Culture
Eileen Mallon	Strategic Director of Housing, Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services
Maria Curran	Town Deal Project Manager
Richard Bennett	Head of Planning and Regeneration
Mike Roberts	Communications Manager
Sally Watson	Minute Taker (Charnwood Borough Council)
Apologies	
County Councillor Jonathan Morgan	Loughborough South West
County Richard Bailey	Loughborough Outwoods
Councillor Beverley Gray	Loughborough Shelthorpe

Meeting Type (Team, Board or other)
Member Reference Group
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<p>1. Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Attendees confirmed that they were able to see and hear the meeting and apologies were given as outlined above.</p>
<p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising</p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record and there were no matters arising.</p>
<p>3. Hope Bell Project Update</p>

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Representatives from Vertigo, John Moseley and Rhod Thomas delivered a presentation on the progress of the Hope Bell Project.

Following the initial consultation period, a concept had been devised focussing on the loss of lives to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the work of the NHS and the hope for the future coming out of the pandemic. There had been a considerable amount of research undertaken, which considered potential ideas for the structure.

The presentation included design concepts for the Hope Bell Tower, information stones and memorial stones and also technical drawings of the constructions.

The following summarises the discussion:

Members praised the design and felt that it was an appropriate tribute of remembrance.

It was expected that any bronze used in the structure would be relatively durable. It was highlighted that bronze was commonly used on memorial structures.

A [poem](#) would be engraved onto the structure. The Hope Bell working team had suggested a poem which was considered to reflect the grief and loss associated with the pandemic, but also provided a positive outlook. Feedback on the poem had been positive, although the team were open to new suggestions.

It was suggested that the wording on the structure containing the names of individuals that had died during the pandemic be changed from 'Lives Lost' to 'Lives Remembered' to keep consistent with the positive outlook theme.

It was intended that four floodlights would be contained within the main structure in order to provide sufficient lighting at night.

4. Project Update

The Project Manager delivered a presentation on the status of each Town Deal project. The following summarises the points made;

- i. The current Town Deal projected value was almost £46m. The total amount of funding was £16.9m. To date, there had been £5.6m received in government funding.
- ii. The programme was in the process of completing stage two, which consisted of business case approvals. Eight projects had successfully reached this stage in the process.
- iii. There were two projects (Lanes and Links and Living Loughborough) that had completed business cases and successfully passed through the assurance process. These projects would be subject to the DSG approval process in the coming weeks. It was anticipated that following approval from DLUHC, funding would be made available in December 2022.

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- iv. A grant agreement template would be created to ensure consistency across all projects. A slightly different process would be required for Council-led projects due to conflict of interests.
- v. An indication of project start and end dates was provided to give the group an idea of when developments would be visible.
- vi. A RAG assessment of each project was provided to enable the group to understand any delays in processes. It was highlighted that most projects were rated amber, as there were short delays of less than three months.

5. Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that a further meeting of the group would be scheduled in due course.

6. Any Other Business

The Strategic Director for Community, Planning and Housing (CBC) Eileen Mallon stated that she was leaving the organisation and thanked all of the members of the group for their work and input into the development of the project.

The Head of Leisure and Culture (CBC) Sylvia Wright also stated that she would be leaving the organisation and thanked the group for their support on the project.

The Chair highlighted the hard work and dedication of both officers and thanked them for their significant contributions into the Town Deal programme.