

## **Stocksbridge Town Deal Board (STDB)**

**DATE AND TIME:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 10:30am

**LOCATION:** Towns Fund Office, Stocksbridge Library, Manchester Road, Stocksbridge

**CO-CHAIRS:** Miriam Cates MP  
Yuri Matischen

### **ATTENDEES:**

#### **Board members attending:**

- Miriam Cates, MP for Penistone and Stocksbridge (MC)
- Yuri Matischen, MD MLSBG (YM)
- Neil Curtis, Community representative (NC)
- Gail Larking, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (GL)
- Kathryn Giles Bowman, Manchester Road Rep (shared role) (KGB)
- John Crawshaw, JW Crawshaw Ltd
- Graham Silverwood, Stocksbridge Training and Enterprise Partnership & Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (GS)
- Dave Cates, Redemption Media (DC)
- Sean McClean Director of Regen SCC (SM)
- Cllr Julie Grocutt, Sheffield City Council & Stocksbridge Town Council

#### **Also attending:**

- Howard Varns, Programme Manager, SCC (HV)
- Sam Townsend, Sheffield City Region (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
- Dermot Reader – Project Manager (DR)
- Amanda Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (AH)

#### **Apologies:**

- Ian Sanderson, SLR Outlets (IS)



# Minutes

1. **Item:** Welcome and confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting and discuss any issues arising  
**Yuri Matischen**

Previous meeting minutes were agreed. All outstanding matters had been dealt with since the last Board meeting including the updates to the Town Deal website which have now been implemented.

2. **Item:** Declaration of interest – to declare any interests in items on the agenda  
**Yuri Matischen**

None declared.

3. **Item:** Programme Update

Hopper Bus Project: HV updated the Board with the progress on the Expressions of Interest document which has now been published and is being circulated to potential providers. The deadline for the submission of proposals is May 6<sup>th</sup> with a target date of the end of May to agree a recipient of the funding. It is hoped that the Hopper Bus service could be operational by July.

519 Community Hub: HV reported that the planning application had been approved earlier this month with the expected conditions. All agreed that this was a positive and significant step for Manchester Road's anchor project.

Rivers Project: This project is currently paused. However, HV reported that The Steel Valley Project team had been in touch with a much reduced request for funding to assist in seeking match funding to realise the full investment from other potential funders. This would be needed towards the end of 2024 and the amount required to deliver the original project with match funding would be minimal from the Town Deal funds.

If the full amount cannot be achieved the STF contribution would not be made. A letter of support from the Board is also needed.

DC asked for clarification that this was the same project and HV confirmed that it was. JG added that it was important that the expected outcomes the Board would expect to see were the ones originally set out. NC as project champion said that it was a challenge to achieve the remaining funding, but he felt the Steel Valley Project should be supported in this.

**Action:** It was agreed that the Towns Fund should seek to supported this and HV will liaise with Tom Newman from the SVP and a letter of support would be drafted.

**Factory Shop / Town Square:** JC wanted to update the Board as IS was not able to attend the meeting, however JC reported that IS understands there is a significant interest from a party interested in purchasing the Factory Shop (next to the new Community Hub 519 Building) to develop the site into subdivided retail units.

HV said that he would discuss further with IS and that it would be helpful to bring a paper to the Board on this. A number of options for the site remain in play and all have merits. Discussions had been positive around SCC/STFB purchasing the property and a pre-app from the current owner around the potential for a residential development had also been positively received.

#### 4. Item: Update on Sport Hub project:

**Graham Silverwood**

Sports Hub Project: GS as project champion provided an update on the local engagement with sporting clubs which had recently taken place. GS said that he had been joined by YM, JC and JG to attend a meeting with representatives of the Rugby Club, Stocksbridge Park Steels, Cricket Club and the Stocksbridge Sports and Social Club. All felt that this was a significant step forward getting these groups together with a view to forming an alliance / association which could work together potentially on shared facilities in the Bracken Moor area. Graham outlined what the current Sports Hub project entails and the work that has been undertaken around the potential locations for a 3G pitch. He said that there was a real feeling that a joint entity could be formed and achieved and any profit from projects could be used to help support the various clubs as a group– this collaborative approach could deliver some real improvements to existing facilities rather than create new facilities.

He outlined that there was a need for a scoping / feasibility exercise which could deliver a masterplan and given the time pressure this should be done as soon as possible. YM added that any solutions needed to work and benefit all clubs including the Cricket Club, he outlined that there had been a recent injection of funding for the ECB which could potentially be tapped into.

DC said that this was a great step forward and a collaborative approach with the sporting groups is what the Board has wanted to see from the outset.

HV said that he would need to liaise with the funder as such a study would be revenue and not capital funding. YM said it was important that this opportunity wasn't missed, and GS added that this kind of collaborate approach would not have been possible a few years ago but all groups were now open and amenable to working together.

SM added that it was important to understand who could deliver the study and what the cost would be. HV agreed it needed further consideration to deliver a solution.

**Action: The Board agreed to support taking this to the next stage (i.e. a further meeting to form a collaborative group) and for HV to look at a feasibility study.**

**5. Item: Communications and engagement update:**

**Amanda Holmes**

AH confirmed that she was leaving her role at SCC as Communications Officer for the Stocksbridge Town Deal and was currently working her notice period. Board members thanked AH for her hard work over the last two and a half years. There was a discussion about how Comms/Engagement could work in the future and also in the shorter / interim period before a new member of staff is in post. HV outlined that the emphasis is now on delivery and therefore the contractor on the town centre projects would be expected to undertake an engagement role and Board members also have a role in that via their links with the local community. AH confirmed she was working on a handover document and would also update the Communications Plan. KGB said she was happy to be a strong local voice for the project but it was important to always have the correct information.

AH discussed plans for an engagement session around the placemaking and shopfront projects. She suggested two sessions could be delivered at the middle / end of May – one for local businesses and a wider drop in session for local residents. This would be dependent on the relevant information being approved and available for release.

**Action: HV to report back to the Board regarding a plan for managing comms. AH to liaise with HV and DR re material for the proposed upcoming engagement sessions around the placemaking.**

**6. Item: Land Acquisition Update**

**Howard V**

HV updated the Board on land acquisition. He reported that St Lukes have now agreed a deal and publicised their intention to purchase and relocate to the former Jack Foulton unit on the Manchester Road precinct. The Bridge Charity Shop is relocating to the former Coffee Apple Café and that move is imminent, the charity is working with the property team around the relocation support.

Further “best and final” offers have been given to all outstanding property owners. All offers have been very fair and its hoped an agreement can be reached.

**Action: Board members agreed that they would ask SCC to explore all methods, using all powers at its disposal, to expedite the acquisition of the remaining properties and deliver the regeneration of Manchester Rd.**

**7. Item: Project Updates – procurement**

The procurement approach for the 519 project was previously discussed at a Board workshop. This discussion had centred around the benefits of SCC using the YORbuild framework. This is the route recommended by RLB and the SCC Capital team.

However, some Board members have questioned this process and expressed an interest in exploring the merits of an open tender process to enable more local businesses of the correct calibre to tender for the work. MC said the framework is now closed therefore making it impossible for some local businesses to be included in the framework until it re-opens.

SM said that though the framework is closed there are a number of local businesses on the framework who are pre-selected in this process. The framework is opened every five year. The risks of open tender were outlined. SM added that there were risks and benefits with both strategies. He added that an Expressions of Interest Request could be submitted to the framework immediately. The SYMCA funding approval requires a tender price therefore this issue is time sensitive and dependent on land acquisition being resolved. SYMCA meet in June and then in October if the June meeting is missed. MC asked if SYMCA could hold an extraordinary meeting if it was needed to ensure that the funding and therefore the project was not delayed. YM added that there were many moving parts around this aspect of the project. GS asked if everything was on track with tender drawings DR responded that this was being worked through but a full pack was not yet completed and ready.

**Action: The Board agreed the recommendation to progress with the Expressions of Interest via the framework as this does not exclude going to open tender but would establish early interest. Options would be brought to the May 16 Board meeting. If there is a progress update in the meantime Board members will be asked to make a decision via email.**

## 8. Item: Parking Strategy for the High Street

A number of options were discussed around town centre car parking.

Options were:

- Option 1 – Changes to restrictions of current spaces (no charging)
- Option 2 – Changes to restrictions of current spaces (including charges at all parking locations)
- Investigation ongoing- Close off the Hole House Lane end of Edward St and use for additional parking

HV said that it was important for the Board to have a clear position on its strategy for parking ahead of the upcoming engagement around the Manchester Rd projects. KGB said that the Hopper Bus would also unlock a great deal of connectivity and transport issues. Members discussed the merits of Edward Street being marked out for parking as well as engaging with the Co-op and reconfiguring the SCC section of the Co-op car park (the recycling area could potentially be relocated to create further parking.) HV said it was not incumbent on the board to create additional parking as part of the 519 building

as that has been approved with the existing provision in mind. However a regenerated high street will undoubtedly attract more visits and ensuring parking is available and well signposted is obviously important.

**Action:** Board agreed that it did not support the introduction of parking charges and acknowledged that creating more parking close to the high street was a significant challenge due to the lack of locations and funding. The point was made there was a lot of public and private parking available proximate to the high street and the hopper bus would also assist. Board wanted SCC to explore the Edward Street area alongside improvements to existing car parks and the optimisation of current carparks.

**9. Item:** Financial update

Howard V

A budget update was provided.

**10. Item:** AOB.

It was agreed that the next meeting would be a full Board meeting on Thursday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2024.

Next meeting: 10:30 - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024