

Bridgnorth Town Plan Steering Group

Minutes of Meeting – 7th April 2020

Held by Skype videoconference commencing at 7 pm.

Present: Henry Carver
Clive Dyson – Steering Group Chairman, Councillor BTC
Mike Golding
Darren Hodson

Apologies: David Cooper – Councillor BTC
Susan Howle – Vice Chairman, Tasley Parish Council
Gary Timmins

1. Minutes of and actions from the previous meeting

The minutes and actions from the previous meeting were not considered. Actions are progressing. For the record, the status of active actions (dormant actions dropped) is:

- Action 19/9-6:** David Cooper to find if data on the relevant spend in each area has been collated by anyone. **Ongoing**
- Action 19/11-1:** Clive Dyson to request that Shropshire Council officers meet with the Steering Group, on a mutually convenient date. **Meeting held**
- Action 20/1-1:** Clive Dyson to produce a draft document covering [how to complete sections of the plan for existing working groups] and suggesting a target date by when draft documents should be completed. **Complete**
- Action 20/2-1:** Existing working groups to produce first drafts [of their section of the Bridgnorth Plan] by June 2020. **First draft for demographics and business sections circulated.**
- Action 20/2-2:** Clive Dyson to progress with Steve Robbins, Sally Themans and members of the existing working group. **No progress**
- Action 20/2-3:** Keith Hayward and Susan Howle offered to be involved with the Medical and Health working group, including checking the status of the PPG at Bridgnorth Medical Practice. **To be progressed when feasible**
- Action 20/2-4:** Val Hayward offered to be involved with the working group on Education and Training. **To be progressed when feasible**
- Action 20/2-5:** Clive Dyson to write a briefing document, including outline timescales, to guide the new (and existing) working groups. **New approach adopted – see below.**

2. Current status

Clive Dyson has circulated a status update to Steering Group members and other active participants.

Mike Golding has set up a working group on Environmental Sustainability. He has been elected as chairman of the working group.

3. Initial Report and the Local Economic Growth Strategy

These two agenda items were considered together.

The close relation between the Phase 1 report we are drafting and the Local Economic Growth Strategy was noted. Responses to the LEGS are due by 22nd May and we agree that our initial

report should be completed by the end of April, in time to provide an input to supporting organisations for their consideration.

Clive Dyson has written a first draft (of all sections except for Mobility and Transport). We agreed that we should include a pithy summary including the key decisions and actions required.

Action 20/4-1: Henry Carver and Daren Hodgson to review the sections on economy, business and growth.

Action 20/4-2: Mike Golding to draft a section on Mobility and Transport, firming up proposals and making it more concise.

We agreed to make the document a positive statement of what needs to be done, requesting necessary support. Criticism of consultation documents can be made separately.

Some actions will define ways in which progress should be made, including finding ways to work with other bodies to attract grant and other funding to the town.

4. How to progress working groups during coronavirus lockdown

Addressing coronavirus is clearly very important in the short term. Work on the Bridgnorth plan remains important but is not urgent. We agreed to focus on producing the above report and progressing the following:

- The Environment Sustainability working group.
- Facilitating formation of work on Retail, Hospitality and Tourism and consideration as to whether to develop a proposal for a BID.

Action 20/4-3: Clive Dyson to discuss RHT and the potential BID with Hayley Owen and the Marches LEP, as well as continuing discussions with interested parties.

The draft Bridgnorth LEGS does not address encouraging tourism. We considered possible improvements, including redeveloping the area in front of the SVR and adding an innovative link from there to the town centre. These are already in the draft report.

5. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Steering Group will be held by Skype at 7pm on Tuesday 5th May.

Please nominate a delegate to attend on your behalf if you cannot attend.