

CINDERFORD REGENERATION BOARD

MINUTES

Wednesday 7 February 2018

Minutes of meeting of the Cinderford Regeneration Board held on Wednesday 7 February 2018 at the Belle Vue Centre, Cinderford

PRESENT:

Chairman:	Councillor Graham Morgan – Cinderford Town Council
Board Members:	Matthew Burgess – Gloucestershire College Simon Excell – Gloucestershire County Council Councillor Terry Hale – Gloucestershire County Council Councillor Tim Holder – Cinderford Town Council Nigel Johnson – Forest High School Garry King – Two Rivers Housing Councillor Richard Leppington – Forest of Dean District Council Dave Wildin – Steam Mills Primary School Peter Williams – Forest of Dean District Council
Ex-Officio:	Wendy Jackson – Forest of Dean District Council Louise John – Forest of Dean District Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: Tim Davies (Homes England), Mike Price (Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council) and Stuart Tait (Private Sector).

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Graham Morgan welcomed everyone to the meeting. Graham introduced Dave Wildin and welcomed him as a new member of the Board. Dave would be a Board member representing the education sector.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Chairman's Announcements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Matthew Burgess – Principal, Gloucestershire College, Landowner within the Northern Quarter and related sites.
- Simon Excell – Lead Commissioner (GCC), involvement with Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Fund and Growth Deal.

- Garry King – Two Rivers Housing Chief Executive, involvement with multiple housing projects within Cinderford and the Forest of Dean. Potential interest in Site C, Cinderford Northern Quarter.
- Councillor Richard Leppington – Cabinet Member, Forest of Dean District Council, Landowner within the Northern Quarter and related sites.
- Peter Williams – Head of Paid Service, Forest of Dean District Council, Landowner within the Northern Quarter and related sites.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 5 JULY & MATTERS ARISING

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. Outstanding actions would be covered in the meeting.

6. FOREST ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Richard Leppington provided an update on the newly formed Forest Enterprise Partnership. One of the Cabinet's 2 main priorities is to bring more high paid jobs into the economy and get the Forest making things again.

The new Cabinet plans on investing extra resource into the Regeneration Team at the District Council to help deliver this priority.

The Forest Enterprise Partnership is also another key way in which to deliver on this priority. The first meeting took place last month and was attended by a number of attendees from the public, private and voluntary sector and represented a number of different employment sectors.

Andrew Callard has been invited to Chair the partnership. The next meeting will focus on where attendees want to see the FOD Economy in the next 2 years and how this is achieved. The next meeting will take place on 16 April 2018 at Vantage Point Business Village.

A number of sub-groups will be formed to address key priorities such as benefitting from the removal of the Severn Bridge Tolls, Digital Connectivity, Skills and Infrastructure.

Simon Excell noted that Gloucestershire County Council were supportive of the partnership. Simon had briefed Cabinet members and Councillor Alan Preest was selected as the GCC representative on the partnership.

Wendy Jackson noted that she would shortly be attending a meeting with the School Heads along with Richard to ascertain how the partnership could work with local education providers. Nigel Johnson supported this approach.

Garry King enquired whether Homes England had been invited to join the partnership. Wendy noted that they had been however weren't able to attend due to existing diary commitments.

Councillor Graham Morgan supported the formation of the partnership.

7. LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

No update provided as LEP representative not in attendance.

8. TRILOGY DEVELOPMENTS

Wendy Jackson provided an update. Wendy had spoken with Patrick Stones (MD Trilogy Developments). There was no major update to report following the last meeting. The outcome of the supermarket application in Coleford was awaited.

9. CINDERFORD AAP PROJECT UPDATES

Northern Quarter Project Timeline & Spine Road

Simon Excell reported that the first phase of the spine road was completed. Councillor Graham Morgan and Councillor Tim Holder congratulated GCC on completion of the road and praised the quality of engineering.

Matthew Burgess enquired as to when the road would be adopted? Simon Excell to respond to Matthew.

ACTION: Simon Excell to find out at what stage the road will be adopted and report back to Matthew Burgess.

POST MEETING NOTE: Currently awaiting contractor to complete snagging for full and final adoption. Proposals for double yellow lines along the road are currently out for consultation. Anticipated completion of double yellow lines is Summer 2018.

Councillor Richard Leppington asked whether GCC had completed their investigation into the overspend. Simon noted this investigation was still ongoing.

Councillor Graham Morgan expressed thanks to GCC on behalf of the Board for the work. Graham apologised to the public for the overspend but there were justifiable reasons behind it.

CNQ Biodiversity Monitoring

Wendy Jackson provided an update. The survey results were completed at the end of last year. The Great Crested Newt and Bat Monitoring reports are currently being checked and will be on the website in the next few weeks.

Land Management

Wendy Jackson provided an update. The proposed transfer of Northern United and Five Acres sites from Homes England to the Forest of Dean District Council will be presented to Cabinet in March.

Gloucestershire College Relocation

Matthew Burgess provided an update. The build was making good progress and the aim is for the building to be water tight in the next couple of weeks. The building is still on track to be ready for opening in the third week of August.

Matthew extended an invitation to the Board to tour the site prior to their next meeting.

ACTION: Louise John/Wendy Jackson to arrange tour of the College site prior to the next meeting.

An official opening of the College will take place in early 2019.

Matthew noted the College's wish to see the remainder of the spine road completed as soon as possible to ensure the overall benefits of the regeneration project are realised.

ACTION: Simon Excell to set up a high level meeting to discuss next steps for possible extension/completion of the spine road.

Councillor Richard Leppington congratulated the College on the build to date. He had received questions from residents regarding travel to the site and asked whether the College had considered bus route requirements. Matthew noted the College had liaised with bus providers and would continue to do so, Matthew asked that any concerns about travel are sent to the College.

Dave Wildin also congratulated the College on the build and noted how fantastic the location is.

Steam Mills Village West Housing Site

Peter Wynn (Homes England) provided an update prior to the meeting. Wendy Jackson read the update to the Board:

'We have concluded the site investigations all the tenants have now left the site and are now approach our demolition phase subject to consent from Forest of Dean District Council.

Demolition will exclude the Mill, apart from the northern single storey element which has suffered a collapse, and in that case it will be taken down only as far as the original stone walls and the original chimney plinth.

Early consultation has taken place with immediate neighbours (particularly Number 1) regarding boundary walls and access with a view to agreeing an approach which minimises and manages disturbance.

We are in the process of tendering for a contractor and once we have one I will be more than happy to share the programme.'

Councillor Richard Leppington noted that there were concerns about the mill building being demolished. He noted that this was not the intention of Homes England however recommended that this be confirmed in a press statement.

ACTION: Wendy Jackson to ask Peter Wynn to issue statement explaining that the Mill building will not be demolished.

Project Funding

Wendy Jackson provided an update.

The site preparation bid was currently being considered by GFirst LEP. The bid was for £1.52m for site preparation works to make the sites more appealing to investors. A Dragons Den style presentation was completed in January along with 9 other projects. An announcement is expected this month.

There has been no announcement on any further growth deal funding.

10. CRB GOVERNANCE

Fora

Environment Forum – Councillor Tim Holder provided an update. The Forum had been approached by the Foresters Forest to reallocate £20K from the S.106 Biodiversity Enhancement fund to a different project within the Northern Quarter. The Board were asked to vote and all agreed.

POST MEETING NOTE: ESIF Bid – Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust have been asked to proceed to the full application stage from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The final deadline for the completed application is 31st May 2018. If successful the funding will be used to implement schemes across the area. The Northern Quarter is one of these projects.

Community Forum – Louise John provided an update on the last Forum meeting:

- The Community Forum meeting took place on 5 December.
- The meeting was in the form of a site visit to view the first phase of the road and the College build.
- Attendees were provided with updates from Chris Riley (GCC) and James Billingham (GlosCol).
- Considering it was a day time meeting (owing to light in December), it was well attended.
- We were shown along the spine road and talked through the engineering and ground work required.
- Attendees then viewed the progress of the College build from outside of the active site area.
- There were many opportunities to ask questions throughout the visit.
- The next meeting will be planned for May/June time.

Risk Register

Louise John provided an update on the Risk Register.

Councillor Terry Hale asked whether Cabinet members would have to declare an interest in the land transfer report being presented Cabinet, as some members had an interest in the site. Peter Williams noted that it would be for Cabinet members to seek the advice of the District Council Legal Team regarding declarations of interest.

Communications

Louise John provided an update on Communications activity:

College are regularly providing updates on the build.

- Successful press photo call before Christmas with the first student to enrol for a start in September.
- MP raising College build at Prime Ministers Questions in December.
- The College have also recently launched an art competition for local artists which would provide the opportunity to have their work on the walls of the new campus building.

Garry King suggested there could be a new press release once GCN/bat reports are finalised to report on how well the new ponds are doing so far.

ACTION: Wendy Jackson to prepare a press release to promote the ecological mitigation survey/monitoring results.

11. AOB

Louise John noted that she would be on maternity leave from early April therefore this would be her last meeting. She wished Board members well and hoped to return next year.

12. 2018 MEETING DATES

Wednesday 2 May 2018

Wednesday 4 July 2018

Wednesday 3 October 2018

MEETING END: 3.25pm

ACTION TRACKER – CINDERFORD REGENERATION BOARD
WEDNESDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2018

AGENDA ITEM	NO.	ACTION	COMPLETE
PROJECT UPDATES – Spine Road	1	Simon Excell to find out at what stage the road will be adopted and report back to Matthew Burgess.	✓
PROJECT UPDATE – Gloucestershire College	2	Louise John/Wendy Jackson to arrange tour of the College site prior to the next meeting.	✓
	3	Simon Excell to set up a high level meeting to discuss next steps for possible extension/completion of the spine road.	✓
STEAM MILLS VILLAGE WEST	4	Wendy Jackson to ask Peter Wynn to issue statement explaining that the Mill building will not be demolished.	
COMMUNICATIONS	5	Wendy Jackson to prepare a press release to promote the ecological mitigation survey/monitoring results.	