

TOWN DEAL BOARD

**Notes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 15 June 2023
5.00p.m. via Teams**

Board Members in Attendance:

<p>Name:</p> <p>Craig Moule (Chair) Cllr Marjory Bisset Cllr Lynn Denham Very Revd Peter Atkinson Sally Ellison MBE Professor David Green Mohammed Iqbal Robin Walker Nicki Williams Gary Woodman</p>	<p>Representing:</p> <p>Sanctuary Joint Leader, Worcester City Council Joint Leader, Worcester City Council Worcester Cathedral Worcester Community Action University of Worcester Community Representative MP for Worcester Heart of Worcestershire College and Worcester BID Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership</p>
<p>Also in Attendance:</p> <p>Zoey West Julian Pugh Ian Smith</p>	<p>Deputy Director – Economic Development, Worcester City Council Democratic Services, Worcester City Council West Midlands and South-West Cities and Local Growth Unit</p>

Item No.	Notes	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Craig Moule welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Councillor Marjory Bisset, Joint Leader, Worcester City Council, who was attending for the first time. Apologies had been received from David Blake, David Sutton, Councillor Simon Geraghty, Professor David Green and Councillor Roger Knight.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None recorded.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The notes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 had been previously circulated and were noted. There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p>Towns Fund - Progress on Projects</p> <p>Zoey West gave a presentation highlighting progress with two</p>	

projects, namely Community Skills and Heritage and Riverside. The main points were as follows:

Community Skills

Diagrammatic/concept work of designs is progressing, concept designs for Dines Green, Ronkswood and King George V were shared as part of the presentation. Initial costings of works indicate that the budget is appearing to be short - further work is required to clarify.

Zoey responded to questions and comments. The main points were as follows:

- The new building block 2 scheme is a stand-alone project and therefore is not included in the designs presented here. Zoey can share further details separately.
- Additional bids for funds and fundraising is being undertaken to address the anticipated Community Skills budget shortfall.
- It is anticipated that the final designs will be similar to those shown. There will be limited changes, but these can be brought back to the Board. Lynn will discuss with Zoey whether there should be a press release.
- Other projects are at different stages of design. St Peters Village Hall and the Fairfield centre have not been included in this presentation. The Village Hall Association have commissioned their own design for their new build. The Fairfield Centre is being developed in partnership with Worcestershire County Council. Zoey will share details in due course.

ZW

ZW

Heritage and Riverside

Cathedral Project - £118k is still to be secured for the extended scheme, bids have now been submitted and the Cathedral is confident funding will be in place for the whole project.

St. Andrews Gardens – Zoe shared drawings of scheme to enhance public access to St Andrew’s Gardens, including the potential for creation of an accessible gradient path. Consultation will be undertaken with local Members and access groups. Planning approval may be required. There will be a public consultation event at the Cathedral on 12 July.

Zoey responded to questions and comments. Board members raised a number of related issues:

- Nicki Williams commented that there is anti-social behaviour in St. Andrews Gardens and there is also a history of road

	<p>traffic accidents at the Deansway/Copenhagen Street junction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robin Walker made reference to the blue plaque which had recently been put up to commemorate the city's medieval Jewish community. He asked if it would be appropriate to provide a memorial in the Gardens as well. • Sally Ellison highlighted the narrowness of Copenhagen Street at the access to the car park. <p>Board Members concluded that the area as a whole needs to be taken into consideration when developing the design brief. Zoey acknowledged the points raised and advised that these issues will be fed back to the designers.</p> <p>UKSPF Second Year Zoey highlighted opportunities for new projects including Natural Networks, Asset Based Community Development, Business R&D Accelerator Training and Support and Business Sustainability and Decarbonisation.</p> <p>Feasibility - Wayfinding Zoey explained the work which has been undertaken to date and opportunities to provide a new network of signs.</p> <p>A number of issues were raised by Board Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marjory Bisset highlighted the new totem-style signs which have recently been erected and asked how these fit into the overall brief. • Robin Walker suggested that the Battle of Worcester society could be approached if new interpretation signs are to be considered. • Sally Ellison highlighted the issue of disability awareness when considering the location, size and design of interpretation signs. Lynn Denham commented that the proliferation of signposts, A boards and street furniture has created clutter in the city centre and there is a risk that the scheme as a whole may be adding to this. <p>Zoey acknowledged the points raised and advised that many of these issues will be fed back to the designers. She highlighted the collaboration work undertaken to date with New College Worcester. She will raise the issue of signboards etc. with Duncan Rudge, the City Council's Head of Planning.</p> <p>New Arts Centre Zoey commented on the recent consultation event regarding a</p>	<p>ZW</p> <p>ZW</p>
--	---	---------------------

	<p>new fine arts centre. This is about the feasibility of establishing an enterprise space for creatives and artists. The decision to undertake the study had been taken by the Council's Place and Economic Development Committee via the UKSPF.</p> <p>Some Board Members questioned whether this should be a priority, taking into account the volume of other projects currently underway. Lynn Denham commented on the low-key nature of the consultation event and stated that she will discuss this project with David Blake.</p>	LD/DB
5.	<p>Towns Fund - Risk Register Review</p> <p>A copy of the risk register had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Zoey highlighted the main points and in particular how the various workstreams are prioritised. The potential for cost to exceed budget was also acknowledged.</p>	All to note
6.	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Project Risk Register Review</p> <p>A copy of the risk register had been circulated ahead of the meeting. Zoey explained that all contracts have been signed.</p>	All to note
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Craig Moule thanked Officers for the progress made to date on all projects. He will feedback to David Blake on the discussion regarding the Fine Arts Centre.</p> <p>On behalf of the Board, Craig expressed best wishes to Peter Atkinson, who was attending his last meeting, and thanked him for his input into the Cathedral project.</p>	CM
8.	<p>Dates of Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 September 2023 • 7 December 2023 <p>All at 5.00p.m. on Teams</p>	All to note

The meeting closed at 6.02p.m.

Key:

ZW = Zoey West

DB = David Blake

LD = Lynn Denham

CM = Craig Moule