

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 22nd May 2023

In attendance: Keith Thomas (KT), Nicki Maclean (NM), Paul Matcham (PM), Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken ZA), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Maureen Smith (MS), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Ray Tew (RT)

Apologies: Michelle Porter (MP), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Bryan Howe (BH), Jim Whittaker (JW)

1. Chair handover

KT standing down as advisor but will continue to provide pro-bono support on funding proposals to end of June/July. Group welcomes Fiona Toms as Chair.

2. Priorities for 2023:

i. Shared Prosperity Fund

- KT shared update on SPF highlighting there would be a rolling call for other projects by community organisations.

Rural SPF – Currently seeking enquiries. Rolling call for enquiries with no deadline, but money must be spent by end of financial year March 2024.

Two strands:

- Community Grants – up to £50k with 20% match funding requirement. KT queried if this may be more geared toward an application from Minehead Town Council.
- Business Grants - £5k - £100k with 50% match funding requirement.

More information available in shared documentation.

ii. LCN

First meeting date set as 13th July. Appetite for MPAPP to be involved. Email to contact is lcn@somerset.gov.uk

Action: MK to confirm who will be invited.

iii. Funding for Project Coordinator Role

Work ongoing to input funding bid to HPC and National Lottery for Project Coordinator role and project delivery. RT has spoken with Funding Manager at National Lottery and ZA has spoken with Funding Manager at HPC Open Grants Scheme. Likely to be 6-8 months before any decisions made after application, giving rise to a query concerning interim funding for the Project Coordinator role. Possibility for a Service Level Agreement between MTC and MCDT to provide interim funding. MS discussed some project ideas from an environmental angle, with a specific discussion of circular economy projects and the 'Doughnut Economics' model.

Actions:

- RT and CP to discuss Service Level Agreement and interim funding further
- ZA to share notes from conversation with HPC Open Grants Funding Manager
- NM to attempt to source copies of successful bids from Somerset Community Foundation
- MK to investigate any possibility of interim funding from Somerset Council
- ZA to find out next date for HPC Open Grants submission after June deadline
- MS to circulate environmental project ideas and report
- ZA to research any 'Doughnut Economics' models in other cities/towns that might be applicable to Minehead

3. Minehead Action Plan

i. Shelters

Trial pits and technical design completed. HTSteel (building contractor) is working on 3D model which ZA hopes to present to the group at the next meeting. Awaiting detailed costing proposals of project now that technical design complete.

ii. June BioBlitz

Planning underway with Exmoor National Park and Somerset Wildlife Trust. To be held on June 17th in Blenheim Gardens from 11-3pm with a programme of free wildlife and nature-based activities and events. Somerset Wildlife Trust are funding this event, with MCDT planning and managing.

iii. Minehead Bay Festival

Planning is going well for the next event on Saturday 2nd September. Invitations for involvement extended to member organisations.

Action: ZA to consider what assistance might be required and inform the group.

4. Old Hospital

RT informed the group that the owner has taken the Old Hospital off the market for the time being.

MCDT funding bids hope to include funding for a technical feasibility study into the Old Hospital.

5. Future Meetings

Next two meetings scheduled in for June and July.

6. AOB

- i. MK queried if there are any contingency plans for an unsuccessful BID ballot. General consensus in the group is that there is no contingency plan.

Action: If BID vote is unsuccessful, ZA to add as an agenda item for next meeting.

- ii. MS updated the group that West Somerset Green Forum are involved in two new projects to retrofit houses. First project involves two people training to be assessors. Looking for volunteers to help. Details to be ready to share in 6-8 weeks.
- iii. FT suggested at the next meeting, we start with each member organisation providing an update to the group on their activities, challenges etc.
- iv. FT suggested that communication of MPAPP's work to the public is added as an agenda item at the next meeting.
- v. FT suggested that the group conduct a review of the Plan and determine what items/actions are feasible/likely to remain and to 'deep freeze' those unlikely to proceed with a brief statement detailing reasoning behind decision for future reference.