

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 3rd April 2023

In attendance: Keith Thomas (KT), Zara Aitken ZA), Maureen Smith (MS), Ray Tew (RT) , Jim Whittaker (JW), Nicki Maclean (NM), Fiona Toms (FT)

Apologies: Michelle Porter (MP), Paul Matcham (PM), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Bryan Howe (BH)

1. Updates to membership

New Somerset Unitary Council representatives are Cllr Marcus Kravis and Cllr Andy Hadley. As detailed in the terms of reference, there is only one vote per member organisation.

2. Introduction to Fiona

Introductions to Fiona. It was determined that a second meeting may be required to determine decision on Fiona's interest. NM to set up meeting with MK and Fiona.

3. Priorities for 2023:

i. Shared Prosperity Fund

No invitations for project proposals yet. Not clear how project proposals will be called for currently. Rural SPF delayed in government. Likely very short notice period, and only 40% of costs, so 60% funding must be found elsewhere.

ii. LCN

Spark is a potential for lead VCSE organisation on LCN. Keep track on how membership is determined – potential for MPAPP, Minehead EYE, WSGF etc.

iii. Funding for Project Coordinator Role

Work ongoing to input funding bid to HPC and National Lottery for Project Coordinator role and project delivery.

4. Minehead Action Plan

i. Mapping Social Capital

40 organisations have contributed to map. Work ongoing to invite other organisations to contribute, including Minehead BID, MTC and Minehead Connect CIC as key contributors in Minehead.

ii. Esplanade Shelters

Trial pits completed and technical design in progress. Critical time path for project has been completed by ZA and hopeful that work will be completed before start of July 6-week hols.

iii. BioBlitz

Successful event with good turnout. 46 species identified on the day. Successful partnership working with Exmoor National Park, Somerset Wildlife Trust and National Trust. Next BioBlitz event to be held in Blenheim Gardens on 17th June, 11am-3pm.

5. Old Hospital

Conversations re future of Old Hospital ongoing. No concrete proposals received yet by owner. Still on market for sale. Queried whether a feasibility study for Old Hospital could be included in funding bids.

6. Funding Opportunities

KT and NM working with MCDT on funding bids to National Lottery Community Fund and Hinkley Point C Open Grants Fund to secure funding for MCDT's Project Coordinator role and a selection of projects.

7. Future Meetings

ZA to send invites for next 3 meetings from May-July.