

## MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

---

In attendance: Nicki Maclean (NM), Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken ZA), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Maureen Smith (MS), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH)

Apologies: Jim Whittaker (JW), Paul Matcham (PM), Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK)

### 1. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising

Minutes from last meeting approved. A review of action points from previous meeting undertaken and action log updated.

### 2. Individual Updates

Each member organisation provided a brief update on activities:

- **Cllr Andy Hadley, Somerset Council**
  - Working on the public space protection order for dogs on beach. Planning consultation by end of 2023. Consultation will go out to Somerset Councillors and general public and will include beaches and parks in West Somerset. Hope to have public space protection order in place by 2024. Might also include alcohol-free areas.
- **Maureen Smith, West Somerset Green Forum**
  - Work on retrofit projects continuing.
  - To access Somerset Community Foundation funding, WSGF must review all policies on advice from Spark Somerset.
- **Cllr Craig Palmer, Minehead Town Council**
  - Minehead Town Council have recently opened a Changing Places facility in Summerland Car Park. This is the only one between Weston-Super-Mare and Ilfracombe.
  - Poetry competition is ongoing. Judges are being arranged to create a shortlist and then put shortlist out to public vote. Potential for 5 poems, one in each shelter along seafront, dependent on permission from Somerset Council Assets Team. Hope to refresh regularly, but annually likely too often.
  - NM queried progress of swimming pool project. CP confirmed a feasibility study and business case is progressing. No appetite from MTC to run facility but happy for MTC land to be used, with third party to run facility.
  - Queen Elizabeth II Memorial Gardens now being hedged with over 500 plants
  - A re-wilding piece of work is also underway in certain areas, including Cross Farm Park
- **Nicki Maclean – Somerset Council**
  - Working on ideas for Shared Prosperity Fund, including ideas for Minehead.
  - Working on coastal resilience project which would include coastal strip from Porlock to Brea.
  - Somerset and Exmoor Coast Festival (23<sup>rd</sup> Sept – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct) is looking to extend and make sustainable for future years.
- **Zara Aitken, Minehead and Coast Development Trust**

- Contacted by Devon County Council who are starting a regeneration plan for 8 coastal and rural towns in Devon. Have had Minehead work recommended to them and hope to use Minehead as a benchmark for their work. ZA to meet with them to progress and discuss.

### 3. Trash Trail

FT updated group on Trash Trail project which involves 23 over-sized sculptures made from 'trash' being delivered to public spaces in Taunton, Wellington, Minehead and possibly Porlock. Money generated by scheme will go to charity. Two sculptures will come to Minehead, believed to be in Blenheim Gardens and Harbour. One sculpture offered to West Somerset Railway, but offer was declined.

Stakeholders in meeting not aware of this initiative. While it was generally agreed this initiative was positive with potential for growth and future opportunities, events and projects, concerns were raised over permissions, insurance, and licensing.

Group discussed the potential for a future coastal 'Trash Trail' that could link towns together from Porlock to Brea, enhancing local art and culture offer.

Action: FT agreed to contact Trash Trail project to confirm what permissions they have in place.

Action: ZA to add as item for agenda in September to discuss potential for future 'Trash Trail' project ideas.

### 4. MPAPP Plan Review – Preparation

FT requested that all members review the Minehead Plan for People and Place Action Plan in preparation for a full review of action plan at the next meeting. *Consider in advance those initiatives that should be 'deep frozen' and of those remaining who might be an appropriate owner.*

Action: ZA to share action plan with all members.

### 5. Minehead BID Result

It was noted that the Minehead BID ballot was unsuccessful and that we'd now need to wait to see the effect of this on the town. It was also noted that a business representative could be invited to join MPAPP in the absence of BID as the current representative member but would need to be a properly constituted organisation. Note: BID will cease wef 30<sup>th</sup> June.

### 6. Local Community Networks

ZA emailed Somerset Council to enquire about Local Community Network for Minehead and Watchet and received an email back from Somerset Council to advise that MCDT and MPAPP could engage with the LCN, and that there was potential for these organisations to become core members.

AH is attending a meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June so will hear more about members etc. AH to feed back to the group after this as the first meeting with members is before our July meeting.

Action: AH to feedback on meeting outcome

## 7. Funding for MCDT Project Coordinator Role

HPC EOI submitted on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June. 8 month decision process. WAwaiting to hear whether invited to submit full proposal. ZA to share bid with MPAPP members on a private and confidential basis. Other bids will be submitted to National Lottery Community Fund, Steel Charitable Trust and others. ZA searching for additional funding opportunities.

Action: ZA to share bid

## 8. Minehead Action Plan Updates

### i. Esplanade Shelters

ZA met with architect and building contractors week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> June. All agreed starting work now risked work running into 6 week holidays and this was undesirable. Work proposed to start 4<sup>th</sup> September. ZA noted that project may not be complete by time MCDT funding ends for Project Coordinator role, but in this case, ZA is happy to see the project through regardless. Architect putting together a budget and time proposal for works. To be reviewed by MCDT in coming weeks.

### ii. Minehead BioBlitz

Successful event in Blenheim Gardens attended by approximately 80 people on 17<sup>th</sup> June, predominantly families with young children aged 10 and under. Good feedback from event. Somerset Wildlife Trust and Exmoor National Park worked with MCDT on the project. Next event to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct with different format. Will be fungi and lichen focused. Various potential locations discussed. Possibility for event to be held on North Hill. Location and details to be confirmed.

### iii. Minehead Bay Festival (2<sup>nd</sup> September)

Limited updates due to ZA focusing on funding bids and BioBlitz. Work to pick up now BioBlitz has passed.

## 9. AOB

- CP suggested using an action tracker for future meetings.  
Action: CP to send MTC action tracker to FT and ZA
- CP raised that Stephen Heard was looking for workshop space to move to for his Metal Heads work. FT and CP will take off-line
- FT raised that a member of the community had approached her to discuss continuation of the Steampunk Festival as current organiser is stepping back. FT suggested he would need to create a proposal, but queries were raised by AH about who a proposal would be presented to as likely would need access to funding.