

MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 19th September 2023

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

Apologies: Cllr Andy Hadley (AH), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP)

1. Minutes of last meeting/matters arising/action log review

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

Action log updates:

All actions in action log completed and closed, except for 'Trash Trail' which will be added to October agenda.

2. Minehead People and Place Action Plan Review

i. Employment Land Actions

Project Status: Deep Freeze

Reason: No budget at Somerset Council to take this forward. Group felt we should keep this project in mind, as aware that at least two Minehead businesses are prevented from growing due to no available employment land.

ii. Minehead HUB Flexible Workspace

Project Status: Ongoing. Work is ongoing regarding the Old Hospital premises.

iii. Promote Skill Up Apprenticeships & Skills Support for Business

Project Status: Keep open, move into 'Educational' sub-category
FT advised the Minehead Chamber of Commerce will not be reigniting under current leadership following BID ballot outcome. Group queried whether MPAPP needs a representative from the educational sector.

Action: ZA add 'Review of Partnership attendees' to October MPAPP agenda

iv. Minehead/Devon to South Wales Ferry Feasibility

Project Status: Deep Freeze

Reason: Project is unlikely to go ahead due to infrastructure needed.

v. Infrastructure Investment

Project Status: Deep Freeze

Reason: NM advised that the Coastal Productivity Plan seems to no longer be a priority in government. FT queried if there was an opportunity to raise this at the next Minehead and Watchet Local Community Network (LCN) meeting. Group agreed this could be raised at the next LCN meeting.

Action: FT to raise Coastal Productivity Plan at next LCN meeting in October.

vi. Secure Place Based legacy programme to build on West Somerset Opportunity Area

Project Status: Keep open, move into 'Educational' sub-category

vii. Minehead Digital Ed-Hub & Accessible Training Space

Project Status: Keep open, move into 'Educational' sub-category

PM updated group that Minehead EYE is used by 15-20 organisations, including Spark Somerset's Digital Inclusion project. PM is also a governor for West Somerset College. PM feels this project presents an opportunity for Minehead and should be followed up. To be moved into 'Educational' sub-category of projects.

PM left the meeting.

viii. Green Economy Skills Development

Project Status: Keep open

West Somerset Green Forum are already involved in some projects regarding training individuals to undertake retrofitting of housing.

ix. Pre-Construction Employment Course

Project Status: Keep open, move into 'Educational' sub-category

MS advised that EDF Energy paid for use of a building at West Somerset College which is currently only being partly used. FT suggested a conversation be had regarding this.

x. West Coast 360

Project Status: Keep open, progress when possible

It is unclear who will take the Retail Mentoring project forward since BID no longer exist. To discuss with business representative on MPAPP once on board.

xi. Community Employment Hubs

Project Status: Keep open

NM shared that a bid had been submitted for 18 months funding. Leave project open until outcome of bid is determined.

xii. Youth Mentor and Local Achievement Ambassador

Project status: Ongoing

ZA shared that a young person's group at the Minehead EYE had been set up. ZA due to meet with them to discuss young person's involvement in MCDT projects.

xiii. Community Learning Facilities

Project Status: Keep open, move into 'Educational' sub-category

xiv. Capture Minehead's Social Capital

Project Status: Completed

ZA shared that there is potential to build on this project. MCDT in discussions with other organisations.

xv. Minehead Masterplan

Project Status: Keep open

Funding is being actively sought for this project.

xvi. Community & Visitor Facilities Strategy

Project Status: Ongoing

Swimming pool project is moving ahead with Minehead Town Council.

xvii. Encourage Investment in Local Health Services

Project Status: Keep Open

Shared Prosperity Fund bid successful for Seahorse Centre satellite facility for Health and Social Care Training Hub.

xviii. Complete Enterprising Esplanade Work

Project Status: Ongoing, nearing completion

ZA shared an update on Minehead Shelters project. MCDT meeting with architects and contractors to determine contractual arrangements and potential start dates for building work. Minehead Bay Festival 2023 was a successful event with lots of positive feedback from community. Funding is being actively sought to continue this event for the next 3 years.

xix. West Somerset Railway Track Improvements

Project Status: Keep open

West Somerset Railway are taking this project forward. FT is keeping in touch with Steve Williams at WSR regarding this project, with MPAPP being added as a stakeholder within the initiative.

xx. Pursue Blue Flag Beach Award

Project Status: Keep open

MCDT keen to take this forward. Feasibility study completed in 2022 which indicated Blue Flag Award is unachievable for Minehead due to Wessex Water infrastructure update requirements which will not be completed until 2023. Seaside Award is a more realistic goal.

Action: ZA to share Blue Flag Feasibility Study with MPAPP

xxi. Promote Walkers are Welcome brand

Project Status: Keep open

FT has undertaken research regarding Walkers are Welcome accreditation and membership. Membership fees are £90 per year. There are 6 criteria to meet for accreditation. 5% of community must vote for membership. Could engage with local walking groups to achieve this.

Action: FT to share research with group which details next steps. Attached with minutes.

xxii. West Somerset Coast & Country Tourism – Joint Promotion

Project Status: Ongoing

Visit Somerset and Visit Exmoor taking the Somerset and Exmoor Coast Strategy forward which includes the Somerset and Exmoor Coast Festival, a group of itineraries to market the area, as well as networking events and marketing promotion with a new website.

xxiii. Minehead Museum

Project Status: Ongoing

ZA advised the museum is continuing to fundraise and look for a new premises to permanently relocate the museum.

xxiv. Minehead Climate Resilience

Project Status: Keep open

The group felt that Minehead Town Council should be added to the list of Proposed leads and stakeholders.

xxv. Minehead Ecology Recovery Network

Project Status: Keep open

MS advised that West Somerset Green Forum can take this forward. Minehead BioBlitz events continue with next event on 28th October.

xxvi. Minehead Circular Economy

Project Status: Keep open

FT advised Minehead Shed are happy to run a Repair Shop but are looking for volunteers. May consider hiring out tools as a benefit of membership but not considering setting up a “Library of Things” currently.

xxvii. Minehead Spend Local

Project status: Keep open

A business group would be needed to take this project forward. FT advised that it seems the Minehead Gift Card can no longer be purchased.

xxviii. Community Water Refill

Project Status: Completed

xxix. Local Food Production and Use

Project Status: Keep open

Discussion was started around the current allotment numbers and waiting list, potential opportunity for a new green space and Clanville Gardens. FT to develop proposals for potential options and discussion at next meeting.

Funding for MCDT’s Project Coordinator Role – Post Meeting Addendum

Application for National Lottery Community Fund submitted. HPC Open Grants programme bid was unsuccessful. MCDT will apply again to HPC Small Grants Programme for a smaller amount. Outcome of Steel Charitable Trust bid is expected in October.