

## **MPAPP Meeting Minutes – 19th December 2023**

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In attendance: Fiona Toms (FT), Zara Aitken (ZA), Ray Tew (RT), Cllr Marcus Kravis (MK), Nicki Maclean (NM), Cllr Craig Palmer (CP), Cllr Andy Hadley (AH),

Apologies: Paul Matcham (PM), Maureen Smith (MS)

### **1. Devon County Council (DCC) Benchmarking Plans – Presentation from Keir Duffin (KD)**

KD reminded the group of the purpose of the benchmarking – seeking to assess progress across 9 identified towns and compare with another rural and coastal town that has similar challenges. Hoping for exchange of best practice and ideas. Ideas for the regeneration projects have come from a variety of places, both towns themselves and DCC. Some Town and District Councils have provided seed funding for projects.

AH queried whether DCC were hoping for the creation of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to generate funding. KD explained that the creation of BIDs in most towns is a way to join the business community together. Many of the proposed BIDs have come about through an organic process, rather than local authority recommendation.

MK queried if they were seeing any universal challenges across all towns. KD identified the following issues as common across most towns in the project:

- Lack of opportunities for young people
- Migration of older people from cities to smaller towns in South West – mostly 50-60 age bracket
- Working age residents moving to larger urban areas
- Lack of affordable housing – looking at Community Land Trusts for support
- Need to identify each town's main economic purpose and USP.

### **2. 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:**

#### **Action 19 - FT to look at initial actions of setting up 'educational' sub-group to take educational actions on Minehead Plan forward**

Update: No update.

#### **Action 20 - FT to take Walkers are Welcome project forward**

Update: No update.

#### **Action 21 - MCDT to speak to MTC re funding for Project Coordinator role**

Update: Conversations ongoing between MTC & MCDT. RT and ZA have met with Ben Parker, Operations Manager (soon to be appointed Town Clerk) of Minehead Town Council.

**Action 23 - ZA to rearrange meeting with Teenagers in Minehead and give update at next meeting.**

Update: Completed - ZA met with Teenagers in Minehead group to discuss youth involvement in MPAPP and Minehead Bay Festival. Positive meeting with potential to involve group in MPAPP and MCDT projects going forward.

**Action 25 - ZA to arrange meeting with MTC re Minehead Place / Master Plan**

Update: Completed – ZA and RT met with Ben Parker to discuss MTC involvement in Minehead Place / Master Plan. Discussions ongoing.

**Action 27 – FT will pull together immediate Blue Flag Award ‘quick win’ actions that will enable a fast start next year.**

Update: No update.

**Action 32 – AH & CP to review potential locations for fish sculpture on seafront**

Update: No update from AH & CP, however FT advised that MS had sent photos to FT of possible location in one of the roundels on seafront. Some objections from group regarding this location as this is where the newly refurbished sundial is located. FT advised Sally Stark from the Somerset Council Assets Team has the request and is looking into it, although the request is not specific to a location yet.

**3. Individual Updates**

**i. Minehead and Coast Development Trust (MCDT) – Ray Tew**

RT advised he would be attending a site meeting at the shelters on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. Completion date has been extended to week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Response from general public overall has been positive.

Work regarding Minehead Information Centre (MIC) financial sustainability increasing.

Discussions with Minehead Town Council (MTC) Operations Manager, Ben Parker had been ongoing re funding and Minehead Master/Place Plan.

**ii. Somerset Council – Cllr Marcus Kravis**

MK advised that he would attend a full council meeting on Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec, and another in Feb. Main priorities are financial cuts and devolution to town and parish councils for which they have received mixed feedback.

Somerset Council are also speaking with businesses as part of financial consultation.

**iii. Somerset Council – Nicki Maclean**

NM advised that Hinkley Point were planning to increase workers again. Hinkley Point are arguing that impacts in West Somerset are decreasing. ZA confirmed this was the feedback MCDT received after unsuccessful funding bid in summer 2023. MK requested ZA share Hinkley funding feedback with him.

Action: ZA to share feedback from unsuccessful HPC funding with MK.

**iv. Somerset Council – Cllr Andy Hadley**

AH advised there is a new group called Connecting Somerset based around schools and helping families. Paul Matcham (PM) is the champion for our area.

Action: FT to reach out to PM for update.

**v. Minehead Town Council (MTC) – Cllr Craig Palmer**

CP advised new permanent town clerk and deputy clerk appointed. Ben Parker (currently Operations Manager) will take on Town Clerk role from Jan 2024, and Jo Chapman will take on Deputy Town Clerk role.

Main focus for MTC is budget setting and devolution from Somerset Council. Budget must be set by end of Jan.

**4. Understory Mapping**

ZA gave brief update on Understory mapping and reviewed features in map for group via a demonstration of map. ZA highlighted ways of using the map, such as using it to identify groups to be involved in the Walkers are Welcome project. MCDT only have access to map until start of Feb 2024, due to GDPR compliance.

Action: ZA to share Understory map link with group.

**5. MCDT Project Coordinator Role Funding**

ZA gave update that National Lottery Community Fund has been successful in first round and is to be taken to second stage. MCDT now need to prepare full proposal and application with financial forecasts for 3 years. MCDT won't receive an outcome until mid-end February, which would leave a shortfall in funding of Project Coordinator role, which is currently funded until 14<sup>th</sup> February. MCDT pursuing other possibilities such as Minehead Town Council funding, and corporate sponsorship opportunities to cover shortfall.

**6. Clanville Gardens**

This agenda item will be deferred to next meeting as MS not present.

Action: ZA add to Jan agenda.

**7. MPAPP Facebook Page and Logo**

Votes received and counted. ZA shared winning logo with group.

Action: FT and ZA to work together to create MPAPP Facebook group.

Action: FT to work on comms plan to promote MPAPP in Jan 2024.

**8. AOB**

**i. Nicki Maclean - LCNs**

NM requested MPAPP group actively champion tourism at LCN meeting as a priority for West Somerset.

**ii. Ray Tew – Shelters**

RT queried whether MPAPP logo should appear on plaque on esplanade shelters. NM advised if you include logos, you must include funders too

(HPC and Coastal Communities Fund). Group agreed there would be too many logos to include.

FT queried whether any press releases or press visits had been planned for the opening / unveiling of the shelters. ZA advised this has not been planned but agreed it was a good idea.

Action: ZA to contact press when completion and opening date is known.

**iii. Fiona Toms – Somerset Chamber of Commerce**

FT advised she had set up meeting with Somerset Chamber of Commerce (SCC) re the recently released business/education report. During the consultation prior to the report, a meeting had been set up in Dunster but was not well attended. FT feels there is an opportunity for Scott Jenkins to present to MPAPP at an upcoming meeting in Jan or Feb.

Action: FT to update following meeting with SCC.

**iv. Fiona Toms – Fish Sculpture**

FT had emailed Plastic Free Minehead (PFM) group but had no reply. ZA to raise fish sculpture at next PFM steering group meeting in Jan 2024.