

MINUTES

Barnard Castle VISION

MEETING:	Barnard Castle Vision Board	DATE:	5th December 2008
VENUE:	The Witham Hall, Barnard Castle	TIME:	1.00pm

PRESENT:	APOLOGIES:
Deborah Jenkins - Chair	Bob Ward - DCC
Sue Berresford - TDC	Emma Speight - ONE
Simon Owens - LSP	Richard Betton - TDC
Anne Allen - BC Vision	Will Weston - BC Vision
Shaun Stuart - WTEA	
John Topliss - ONE	
Andrew Walker - DCC	
David Blackie - Business Representative	
Bill Oldfield - TM	
Neil Stokell - TDC	
Gavin Scott - Durham City Council	

Item No		To Action
1.0	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 31ST OCTOBER 2008	
1.1	These were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
2.0	MATTERS ARISING	
2.1	Startforth Park – DJ/AA had met with Jenny Mooney, Governor of HMYOI Deerbolt to discuss offender training opportunities and social housing development. She confirmed that although there would be no opportunities to be involved in an offender training scheme, HMYOI had a 'green' agenda and were interested in eco friendly scheme within the prison boundaries	
2.2	HMYOI Deerbolt had agreed, in principle, to explore the use of part of their car park for 'park & ride' schemes for key town events, and to consider renting some spaces in their bottom car park for car-owners working in the town and prepared to walk from Deerbolt.	ANW
3.0	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
3.1	None.	
4.0	UPDATE FROM CHAIR	
4.1	ONE had given the Vision a clear steer on the need to concentrate on one major project at this time, namely the Witham. However, DJ reassured members that this would not affect the progress of all other projects or of the overall strategy.	
4.2	County Councillors Neil Foster and Eddie Tomlinson had joined a meeting of the Sub Group on 28 th November, following a tour of the Vision project sites in the town led by Bob Ward and Andrew Walker. DJ gave a presentation on the Barnard Castle Vision and this included the Witham Hall proposals. The County Council Members had indicated their support for the Vision.	

Item No		To Action
<p>5.0 SHAW BANK</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p> <p>5.6</p>	<p>Since the last Board meeting AA had arranged meetings as follow</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit with stakeholders to look at access issues and shared use provision. Following further checks with Land Registry, a second piece of land under private ownership had been identified. Land ownership was proving difficult to identify as not all land is registered. • Discussions with representatives from the town's football and rugby clubs and Steve Howells (Durham Sport). May be an opportunity through Sport England to upgrade current sports pitches. • Discussions with Paul Wilding (TDC), Keith Jones (TCR) and Phil Hughes (TCR) to look at rail line as possible access road route. TCR pursuing original site for hub location. <p>It was agreed that the way forward was to continue to work with TCR through Phil Hughes, however there were still concerns over the lack of project management and there was a possibility that TCR may submit a planning application outwith the Master plan partnership. In reply to SO's suggestion that liaison with Clare Vasey and David Williams (Children & Young People's Services) was needed, AW reported that he had flagged up issues with Bob Ward and that further discussions were to take place between Bob and senior management in CYPS to discuss issues around the project management and the project generally. SO's offer of contacting senior decision-makers at DCC was gratefully received, but following discussion it was agreed that this should be held in reserve for the event that planned meetings failed to provide clarity</p> <p>BC Vision to send a letter of congratulations to TCR Board on funding award, together with an historic chronology of partnership working with TCR (including all meetings, minutes, agreements, guidance/advice given).</p> <p>AA and Phil Hughes were to undertake research on old railway line/access at Durham Land Registry.</p> <p>A definitive Master Plan would be completed and submitted to TDC for approval before the end of the month.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p> <p>AA</p>
<p>6.0 AUCTION MART</p> <p>6.1</p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p> <p>6.4</p> <p>6.5</p> <p>6.6</p>	<p>AA/GS had recent site meeting with developers – site larger than originally thought.</p> <p>AA investigating restrictive covenant on site and independent valuation arranged.</p> <p>Report to be commissioned from Chris Smith on costs of changes needed to existing Auction Mart and need to relocate (quotation and CV received).</p> <p>AA and Auction Mart directors had visited Welshpool mart development site and new build under construction and had met with Town Clerk.</p> <p>Retail impact assessment currently being undertaken by TDC/Sedgefield BC would highlight impact of new supermarket on site.</p> <p>During considerable discussion, members reiterated concern that a potential supermarket development could have particularly negative consequences in view of the current severe economic situation and the precarious nature of most independent retailing in Barnard Castle.</p>	<p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p>

Item No		To Action
7.0	<p>APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECT & DESIGN TEAM FOR THE WITHAM</p> <p>7.1 Adverts were to be placed in early January inviting expressions of interest and an interview panel had been selected.</p> <p>7.2 SB had submitted a Capital Project bid to DCC – potential match funding for the Witham project.</p>	WW
8.0	<p>CASTLE ACCESS PROPOSALS</p> <p>8.1 'Heritage Centre' – Teesdale Marketing had agreed to take on 2 year lease of Harmoni Shop. Topographical Study completed and building works were being costed. The Bowes Museum had agreed to manage centre staffing, English Heritage to co-ordinate ticket sales and TVHC had expressed an interest in office space and offered assistance with staffing.</p> <p>8.2 English Heritage had agreed plans in principle, details to be drawn up for planning application.</p> <p>8.3 AA researching Leader funding EOI.</p>	AA
9.0	<p>THE BOX</p> <p>9.1 Installation scheduled for early January following liaison with Health & Safety officials. Local haulage company Toulson's transporting The Box from Smiths Grove Works and a qualified electrician would be on site on the day. An official launch event was to follow.</p>	
10.0	<p>PROGRESS REPORT FROM ASSISTANT TO BC VISION</p> <p>10.1 Overseas Market Information Service UKTI – Leadership Forum international contacts:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with French FCO contact in Paris arranged (AA). • Application to CABA scholarship for Dutch market visit. • Inward mission from France to discuss craft proposals. Consider invitation to French Ambassador. <p>10.2 Shop Front Scheme:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop held on 27th December with Boyes store fitter, Mike Hein-Hartmann and two local craftsmen. Tim Bailey was drawing together information for a draft Barnard Castle Guide. <p>10.3 Retail Guild:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas event to be held on 6th December. Retailers all very positive and working well as a group. Thanks were extended to DB and Sue Ellwood, WTEA for their contribution. <p>10.4 1,000 Voices:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the initial posting of 1000 invitations, 100 people had replied. Follow up letters had been sent. • First event scheduled for 7th February, 12.00-6.00pm, Witham Hall. • Second batch of 1,000 invitations to be posted. 	CS

Item No		To Action
10.0 10.5	<p>PROGRESS REPORT FROM ASSISTANT TO BC VISION cont'd</p> <p>WiFi:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One North East circular received agreeing broadband implementation for region. Eversheds report in progress to be completed by end January 2009. • AA had emphasised the importance of the project at CDEP regeneration working group meeting. • Outcome of two studies by ONE and DurhamNet awaited. • SO extended thanks to AA/SB for their contribution. • Brief to be circulated to Helen Goodman MP. 	AA/DJ
11.0 11.1 11.2 11.3	<p>FUNDING BIDS</p> <p>11.1 Townscape Heritage Initiative Lottery bid submitted for £763K (5 years). Successful bids notified in April 2009. Thanks extended to ANW for the submission.</p> <p>11.2 106 Monies – agreed for Town Park Project.</p> <p>11.3 Hole in the Wall – DCC Access funding may be available to improve/redesign access (DDA) onto Newgate.</p>	
12.0 12.1 12.2	<p>BC VISION PROJECT EVALUATION TENDER</p> <p>12.1 A brief was being drawn up and would be put out to tender in due course.</p> <p>12.2 Possible inclusion on National Rural Agenda.</p>	
13.0 13.1 13.2 13.3 13.4	<p>LETTING OF LANDSCAPE STUDY & ARCHITECTS TENDERS</p> <p>13.1 Landscape Study - following a tendering/interview process Christ Burnett Associates had been appointed.</p> <p>13.2 A Landscape Briefing meeting and 'town walk around' was held on 3rd December with Chris Burnett Associates and a group of invited specialists. A Landscape Project Team/Landscape Circle was to be formed, incorporating specialists identified at the meeting. WW had flagged up bridge proposals.</p> <p>13.3 Architect panel recruitment – following a tendering/interview process, Harris & Irwin, Mosedale & Gillat and xsite had been appointed</p> <p>13.4 Architectural Advisor – following a tendering/interview process, xsite had been appointed.</p>	
14.0 14.1	<p>OPERATING PLAN</p> <p>14.1 SB circulated an updated report in which she had outlined the Vision's business year 2008/09 which highlighted projects undertaken and progress made. Suggestions for inclusion were: milestones, membership of 'circles', aspirations for 2009/10 and a delivery team work plan.</p>	

Item No		To Action
15.0	BC VISION PROGRESSION	
15.1	DJ invited members to comment on progress so far:-	
15.2	SS - could improve communication of achievements to enhance public perception.	
15.3	SO – disappointed with deferment of broadband project and with funding levels, however applauded team on achievements so far.	
15.4	BO/DB – would like Vision’s support for rope bridge project and requested that it be revisited.	
15.5	BO – disappointed with perceived lack of public awareness.	
15.6	JT – outcome of Destination Management Action Plan could give Vision a reason to support rope bridge being brought forward.	
15.7	NS – although infrastructure was being put in place, there were no visible signs of this yet. Implementation of the Shaw Bank and rope bridge projects would have been demonstrable achievements.	
15.8	Rope bridge – next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination Management Plan • Include in Local Plan • Transport Plans for region • Circulate paper to full Board asking if project should be included as a priority. 	
16.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
16.1	LGR Planning issues - GS was championing BC Vision as a key strategy within DCC and reported that new members had picked up on the Vision’s efforts. Work on the Local Development Framework had stopped, with work now progressing on a county wide Local Development Scheme.	
16.2	Glaxosmithkline – following news of proposed job losses, SS had been in discussion with GSK regarding re-training possibilities. DJ to meet with site manager Roger Connor.	DJ
17.0	DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
17.1	Friday 13 th February 2009, 1.00pm at Enterprise House, Barnard Castle.	
	THE MEETING ENDED AT 3.30PM GMB 5 TH DECEMBER 2008	

