

**SUDBURY STEERING GROUP MEETING  
THE PAVILION ROOM, THE BRIDGE PROJECT  
FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016  
MAIN NOTES AND ACTIONS**

**In Attendance**

**Steering Group Members:**

Simon Barrett (SBa) - BDC Ward Member  
David Holland (DH) – BDC Ward Member  
Nigel Bennett (NB) – Sudbury Town Council  
John Sayers (JS) – Suffolk County Council  
Lorna Hoey (RD) – Sudbury Society  
Chris Storey (CS) – Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Bills (MB) – Gainsborough’s House  
Lesley Ford Platt (LFP) – Sudbury Market Town Partnership

**Advisory / Support Officers.**

Sue Dawes (SD) - BDC/MSDC

**Other attendees**

Robin Drury (RD) – Sudbury Society Sub Group member and sub group member for Heritage and Culture Strategy  
Sarah Batten – The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT)

**1. Welcome and introduction by Chair.**

**2. Apologies and substitutes**

Lindsay Barker, BDC/MSDC, Jaqui Howells, Sudbury Town Council and Melanie Yolland, BDC/MSDC

**3. Notes from the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January agreed. No matters arising.**

**4. Wider Vision for Sudbury – Heritage and Culture**

**Gainsborough’s House Museum**

An update was provided by Mark Bills on recent publicity for the museum and to support the town and its Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid.

**Publicity**

- The international collaboration with the Rijksmuseum Twenthe, museum and gallery in Enschede, Netherlands.
- The launch of Gainsborough’s Sudbury (launch event 4<sup>th</sup> March) the map identifies what Gainsborough would have seen in the local area it is being distributed in London and regionally and hoped to draw cultural tourists to the town. Mark thanked Cllr John Sayers for his contribution for this project.
- Unveiling of the bronze bust of Thomas Gainsborough by Anna Wintour from

Vogue Magazine and designed by and sculptor Nicole Farhi.

#### Lottery Bid

- 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016 is the decision date for National HLF bids under this round. The funding bid for Gainsborough's House is £4.6m with an overall project cost of £7.6m. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

#### **St Peters Church Project**

Sarah Batten, The Churches Conservation Trust provided an introduction to her role, the relationship with the Friends of St Peter's and the proposed regeneration to the Church itself which will be subject to a HLF bid. Full presentation is attached to these notes.

Main points on why St Peter's has been chosen as a regeneration scheme: repair liability, opportunity and location, strong volunteer group and is a viable project.

#### Identified project aims:

Whilst the venue is used and valued by all with c60k people visiting the site through events. There is a need to maintain and develop the offer and improve sustainability for the site.

Demographically the centre attracts an older generation and there is a need and opportunity to develop events to attract younger groups, school programmes, reach unreachable users such as commercial and also needs to tell the heritage story linking to the key assets of Sudbury including Gainsborough's House and the wool industry.

The HLF bid is in its early stages with the first round being June 2016 the bid will be a £1.2m bid for repairs with the CCT and Friends of St Peter's needing to raise £400k.

The Steering Group were very supportive of this proposal, recognising the importance of this community facility in the key priority area of Market Hill and also being key to the developing Culture and Heritage Strategy for Sudbury and it's associated action plan. A range of support was offered from the representatives of the steering group.

#### **Key Actions:**

**SD: to ensure key linkages between CCT and BDC to include heritage, communities is provided to expand the offer.**

**NB: to take back to the Town Council regarding access to the Churchyard area which is STC owned.**

**SD to arrange for BDC and Steering Group letters of support for the HLF bid.**

#### **Wider Vision for Sudbury – Working towards a Heritage and Culture Strategy.**

The skeleton document was discussed and it was agreed it needed further work from the sub group members set up earlier to progress. Some key issues raised:

- Clarification on its purpose, original discussions referred to a Heritage and Culture Tourism Strategy – suggested leisure and landscape aspects need adding.
- Needs buy in from all, with potential to explore funding opportunities.
- Shorter version, more user friendly, a succinct document with buy in and a clear action plan.
- Cohesion is vital to ensure the town benefits. Discussions are important with the town council and Sudbury Society.
- Need to have a collaborative approach, bringing together or working in parallel with key partner and to other key documents and wider vision/plans
- How will this be managed and promoted, sponsored? Who will have overall responsibility?
- Need to link to aims of Gainsborough’s House and St Peter’s Church.
- Tourism needs to have a Sudbury context but needs to feed into the Stour Valley DMO. Whilst Sudbury itself is not included within the Wools Town Initiative activities to support the wider areas which are could be potentially considered for funding)

**Key Actions:**

**MB, NB and RD to meet to progress further the strategy; develop the terms of reference and an initial action plan to be presented at the next meeting.**

Open for Business Event 20<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Flyers and details provided.

Date of next meeting tbc (update next meeting date Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May venue The Mayor’s Parlour, Sudbury Town Hall)

*Signed as true record .....*

*Dated*