

SUDBURY STEERING GROUP

Working towards a shared vision for Sudbury: "A local destination town, providing leisure, shopping, cultural experiences and a night time economy"

AGENDA

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER

4.00 PM – 6.00 PM

THE PAVILION, THE BRIDGE PROJECT

Part 1

1. Welcome **Simon Barrett** – *Chair*
2. Apologies
3. Update and general feedback arising from the Belle Vue Consultation **Simon Barrett**
4. Town Team Update **Chris Storey**
5. Looking at the bigger picture **Lindsay Barker** – How do we want to respond to this?
6. LTP 3 Forward Plan timetable for reporting back to the Steering Group (paper update)

Part 2 - Confidential

1. Notes of confidential meeting 1st October 2014
2. Regeneration issues

**SUDBURY STEERING GROUP MEETING,
FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2014
MAIN NOTES AND ACTIONS**

In Attendance

Steering Group Members:

Simon Barrett, (SBa) - BDC Ward Member
Nigel Bennett (NB) – BDC Ward Member
Colin Spence (CS) – Suffolk County Council
Mark Bills (MB) – Gainsborough’s House
Lesley Ford-Platt (LP) – Sudbury Market Town Partnership
Chris Storey (CSt) – Sudbury & District Chamber of Commerce
Jack Owen (JO) – Sudbury Town Council

Advisory / Support Officers.

Lindsay Barker (LB) - BDC/MSDC
Sue Dawes (SD) - BDC/MSDC
Melanie Yolland (MY) BDC/MSDC
Jacqui Howells (JH) STC

Items under Part 1

1. Welcome by Chair and round table introductions.

2. Apologies – None

3. Update and feedback arising from the Belle Vue Consultation.

SBa circulated a paper outlining the rationale for the concept plan and the work of the steering Group which informed the public engagement events in July/August, together with the analysis of the responses received to the consultation. Both documents can be accessed [here](#)

SBa updated the group of interest received following the public engagement events, the first being from Barry Drury, the second being for an Asset of Community Value (ACV) bid from Theodore Bird.

LB explained the ACV process; BDC Communities Division would assess the bid and if successful would be registered as an asset. This means when the site is marketed it will ensure time is given for the interest to bid and secure funds, this being six months. However no preferential treatment is given and the ACV would be assessed alongside other bids.

SBa advised Barry Drury wanted to look around Belle Vue House after 11 November. Agreed: Arrangements would be made to accommodate this request.

SBa offered Theodore Bird the opportunity to share his bid idea which was accepted and he advised his early thinking for Belle Vue House was a port folio of businesses “A Business Embassy Hub” operating Monday to Friday, a four star marketing suite to attract businesses including ones from London, retention of the existing tenant (CAB) with relocation upstairs with community use weekends, such as weddings (marquees) and wakes, beer garden. Funded potentially through business subscriptions, expressions of interest and bid to LEP Regional Growth Fund (growth accelerator site).

The second site, swimming pool area likely to be subject to a masterplan.

SBa thanked Theodore Bird for sharing his idea and asked for feedback from the steering group.

Initial responses included how car parking issues particularly associated with wedding venue would be addressed, where marquees might be located, a reminder was given that the formal gardens and park did not form part of the regeneration area, the park is for public use and will remain so. In addition, the CAB given its elderly and disabled clients ideally need to operate from a ground floor location. Financial viability and fund raising associated with a building which is not of national significance.

LB clarified BDC is already in dialogue with the CAB to find suitable alternative accommodation.

Other items raised and discussed:

- View and appearance of Belle Vue House
- The need for hotel accommodation in Sudbury, the perceived impact on existing hotel and bed and breakfast accommodation, location of such including the need for town centre links to maximise tourism potential.

Agreed: The need to keep the momentum around the site, to develop a brief which would allow for market testing options to be undertaken whilst allowing for ACV process to be considered.

Action: SD/LB to process brief with BDC legal and asset utilisation teams and feedback to the steering group. BDC Communities Division to consider future ACV bid(s)

4. Town Team Update

CSt circulated an update paper on town team activities and potential projects aimed at encouraging Sudbury Town businesses to engage. Contact Jane Hatton, Town Centre Development Manager at j.hatton01@btinternet.com for details.

The Purple Flag scheme is not considered ideal for Sudbury MY advised approaches to link organisations remain and knowledge has been gained from the experience.

5. Looking at the Bigger Picture - How does the Steering Group want to be involved?

LB set the scene referring to key areas/opportunities for future growth plans and ambition around Sudbury with the need to place growth sensibly but sustainably.

A discussion followed to understand what the role of the steering group should be going forward:

Agreed:

This now needs to be much broader looking at Sudbury/Gt Cornard and engagement with Braintree/Halstead. Desire to plan sensibly rather than administrative boundaries.

Actions:

To start in earnest in the new year, to have the ability to input and shape development.

Future agenda item: Chilton Woods (Jan/Feb) dependent on timing of consultation ensuring involvement complements other groups work which interlink, avoiding duplication, demonstrating to the public how this works together.

LB new year start discussion, how to take forward growth, BDC thinking, SCC feasibility rail improvements and road issues.

LB/SD/SBa/NB to work up initial ideas and bring back to steering group.

Other comments from the public.

A view was expressed that a masterplan was needed to realise tourism and an offer to help facilitate this was provided. LB advised there is a move from developing Masterplans/Area Action Plans which require lengthy process time (3 years) to other alternatives and referred to St Edmundsbury's model of 'visions' with Development Framework.

Action:

LB/SD to look at how they have done this.

STC working on a long term plan which will go to full council, this can feed into the bigger picture.

Action:

STC to bring to future steering group meeting.

6. Group Membership

SBa put forward a proposal for the Sudbury Society to be represented at the Steering Group, this would increase the community representation membership. LFP seconded the proposal. No objections received.

Action: SD to invite Lorna Hoey to future meetings.

7. LTP3 Forward Plan Timetable

A brief outline of the anticipated timeframe for Belle Vue junction work was given by SD, based on the earlier indication provided by Suzanne Buck.

Concern over delays in work and impact on timeframe for spend of funding was expressed with request that feedback was not delayed beyond the January meeting.

Action: **CS to follow up with SCC.**

8. Any other business

An update on feedback via the steering group as advised by Graham Newman was requested by public attending for:

1. 20 mph zones
2. Diverting strategic lorry route link road A12-A134.

Action:

John Sayers to follow up.

Progress reports on cycle path Acton Lane to town requested – repairs/overgrown area – agreed not a steering group action, this will be covered by STC who will email Steve Merry an invitation for Mr Lloyd to attend the event was offered.

Bakers Mill, Gt Cornard, footpath/bridge BDC previous timescale exceeded work still not started, update requested.

Action:

LB/SD to check position and provide feedback.

Part 2 Confidential items – 3 items discussed.

Signed as true record

Dated