

SUDBURY STEERING GROUP NOTES OF MEETING

28th September 2020 (4pm – 6pm) LOCATION: VIRTUAL TEAMS meeting

ATTENDEES: Cllr Michael Holt (MH) (Chair), Cllr Jack Owen (JO), Simon Barrett (SBa), Oliver Forder (OF), Robin Bailey (RB), Cllr Peter Beer (PB), Cllr Andrew Reid (AR), (TL) Cllr Ellen Murphy(EM), Mark Bills (MB); Guests – Simon Slater (HBS); Chris Carolan (WSP)
Officers in attendance: Ciaran Griffin, Rachel Price (RP) (STC), Fiona Duhamel (FD), Richard Hunt (RH), Jacqueline French(JF), Suzanne Buck (SBu)

1. Welcome and introductions:

Apologies received from: Tracey Loynds, Peter Funnell, Ken MacDonald

Cllr MH welcomed the Steering Group and public guests to the meeting and set out the opportunities for public observers to ask questions in relation to specific agenda items.

2. Terms of Reference

The Steering Group agreed the revised Terms of Reference circulated as part of an annual review.

Action: The Terms of Reference were adopted and will be updated on the Sudbury Vision Steering Group web page.

3. Belle Vue and Hamilton Road Quarter masterplan development

FD introduced the presentation from architects HBS. Particular emphasis was made that the plans presented were very early stages and were work in progress.

The direction given for this work was to reset proposals in a more integrated masterplan for the town centre, linking up Belle Vue and Hamilton Road Quarter (HRQ) schemes. The emphasis has been on greater town centre connectivity. For HRQ this included connectivity from the station through the site to Market Hill, with the potential for courtyards and interlinked spaces for commercial and residential purpose.

For Belle Vue 3 options were presented incorporating improved access, visibility and linkage through park entrances, and the development of retirement living accommodation space. Options for a community space, toilets, and café were included in options.

The Steering Group were asked for feedback on the direction of travel to develop preferred options.

Action: The clear preference from the Steering Group at this point was to develop further thinking and designs for option 3, and to a lesser extent option 1, along with more information around costings and viability.

The key feedback areas from the Steering Group included;

The preference for delivering lower height elevations for the retirement living block

Traffic access on Newton Road was considered with SCC highways. Further information around the economic case was modelled, noting that option 1 and 3 entrances were more expensive in accommodating the access to the parks differing ground levels. Setting back of the site will enable more space for pedestrian and cycling use. SBU added that at the roundabout junction this also would enable a pedestrian crossing option.

The presentation and early concept plans are available on the Sudbury Vision web page.
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/business/economic-development/town-centre-development/sudbury-steering-group/>

4. Market Hill Redesign concepts

The phase 2 redesign proposals for the Market Hill were progressed following the feedback from the “What Next for Sudbury” event in January 2020, and Sudbury Vision Steering Group feedback on phase 1 outline plans. The phase 2 work has developed 3 concepts building on this work, introducing elements of greenery, and creative use and flexible use of areas of space across the 675 square metre space.

Design input has been received from engagement with business, retailers, traders, performers, taxis, and transport operators.

FD introduced the presentation from CC of WSP. The Steering group was asked to give a preferred option for further development and consultation.

Action: The Steering Group strongly supported option B the “Bookend concept” to move forward as preferred option.

There was a strong level of support for the transformative and positive potential of the “Bookend” concept that included a cultural square with seating and planters, civic area, and greened shaded areas (tree grove).

The presentation and preferred option is available to view on the Sudbury Vision web page.
<https://www.babergh.gov.uk/business/economic-development/town-centre-development/sudbury-steering-group/>

Feedback from the Steering Group included

The Cultural square was welcomed as transformative and relevant to the regenerative projects at Gainsborough’s House and St Peters and vision for cultural tourism. Options for a coach drop off were noted by SBU.

The need to accommodate existing and growth of the Sudbury market within the space – this was confirmed.

Further work was noted reviewing blue badge holder space, parking permissions and taxi ranks or pick up points.

The design has taken into account the needs of the main A131 and the Friars St junction will be specifically checked. Plans do not encompass any traffic calming. Wider footpath options were welcomed on south side of St Peters.

Concerns regarding tree roots and maintenance. SBU confirmed SCC requirements in place relating to trees placements and roots, and that the concept developing may be more about “greening” than just trees. Shading planning remains important.

Disability parking and accessibility to remain in concept development.

Important to join up the cyclist and walking routes to and from Market Hill.

The importance of signposting and wayfinding alongside the concept.

Progress on wayfinding will be reported at the next meeting.

Cllr PB recorded that he did not support any of the options on the basis of the impact of parking space removal from Market Hill, and the ability of residents from neighbouring communities to visit and park in Sudbury.

Cllr MH reminded the group that any developed option would be open to public consultation.

5. COVID-19 Recovery

The Virtual High Street was presented to the Steering Group. The Virtual High Street Sudbury will launch in October as a pilot before extending across the District. The platform will enable independent businesses access to a Sudbury Virtual High Street, offering another channel for trade, with promotion and online ordering and payment available. The collective “town” Virtual High Street will also enable the build of local loyalty and shop local behaviours that have grown in the emergency, along with online purchasing.

Further information would be available on the web page around the launch.

6. Sudbury Vision Delivery Programme

The programme update was circulated to members and will be updated on the Sudbury Vision Steering Group web page.

The meeting closed at 6.15pm with Cllr Holt thanking the Steering Group and public guests for their contributions to the meeting.

Date of next meeting: 30th November 2020