



Sudbury Steering Group Meeting (Closed Meeting)
18/01/2021 4:00pm-6:00pm, Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Cllr Michael Holt (**MH**) (Chair)
Cllr Peter Beer (**PB**)
Cllr Ellen Murphy (**EM**)
Cllr Jack Owen (**JO**)
Cllr Andrew Reid (**AR**)
Oliver Forder (**OF**)
Simon Barrett (**SBA**)
Robin Bailey (**RB**)
Zoe Banthorpe (**ZB**)

Mark Bills (**MB**)
Fiona Duhamel (**FD**)
Jacqueline French (**JF**)
Tabitha Runacres (**TR**)
Ciaran Griffin (**CG**)
Rachel Price (**RP**)
Suzanne Buck (**SB**)
Lee Carvell (**LC**)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome

Cllr MH welcomed the Steering Group, and introduced Tabitha Runacres as the new Town Centre Vision Co-Ordinator taking over from Arthur Tizard.

Apologies received: Peter Funnell, Tracey Loynds.

2. Opportunities to better improve the effectiveness of the Steering Group:

- Key terms of reference and purpose of the steering group reestablished, to steer on issues and inform the delivery group.
- The need to be able to steer by having key information available before meetings to consider them. Always aim to send out information if able but this can be difficult as some information commercially sensitive or confidential as project progress.
- Suggestion of a youth representation on the steering group, many of the issues will affect younger generations in Sudbury.

Action – how can this be achieved and recruit a youth representation.

3. **Commercially sensitive information**
4. **Commercially sensitive information**
5. **Sudbury Vision Delivery Programme Updates**

Cultural and Creative Programme

- Silk Festival: Funding bid to Arts Council England underway, ideas for wider cultural festival moving forward and positive.
- Gainsborough House: Building work continuing, some impact from Bulmer brick company during COVID-19 but still aiming for Spring 2022 reopening. Speaking to range of cultural organisations worldwide including The Netherlands and Russia for art exchanges. Acquired a new Gainsborough artwork.
- St Peter's Church: Little change, still planning 2023 reopen after redevelopment. (Date of reopening incorrect in last meeting minutes.)
- Creative Wayfinding commission: Plans to start as soon as possible working with Sara from The Public Art Company. Specifically focusing on walking and wayfinding through walking in Sudbury.

6. COVID-19 Recovery

Virtual High Street (VHS)

Update on progress in Sudbury. About to begin next phase, £90k funded 2 years through Suffolk Inclusive Growth Investment Fund, their highest amount awarded. This includes roll out to other 4 towns, software development including easy accessible data for businesses to see their progress, and e-commerce through the website. £25k of this for Digital Skills for Businesses offering tailored support and training for retail and hospitality businesses.

Survey to go to all businesses signed up in February.

Appointment of Town Centre Business Liaison Officer – to provide direct link and support to businesses for roll out in Stowmarket, Hadleigh, Eye and Needham Market. Other towns do not have this role within their Town Councils. Sudbury ahead of the curve.

Survey and feedback from Sudbury will feed into sustainability model for the future of the VHS. Sudbury Chamber of Commerce keen to link together with VHS.

Business grant support

Steering group members asked to share news with businesses that grants are now live for the National Lockdown, others still open as well. Grants a large ongoing piece of work.

7. Any Other Business

FD gave update on appointment of new Sustainable Travel role. To begin 1st February. Review of cycling routes in Sudbury over next 12 months. Role includes all public transport.

MH – COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions has brought walking and cycling to the forefront. Connectivity key.

Action: Active Travel to be included as agenda point for next meeting. (TR)

Action: Solar car ports to be added to next agenda. (TR)

Date of next meeting – 22/03/2021, 4-6pm