

1. Present

John Plumb (Chairman), Srikanth Padmanabhan, Catherine Hammant, Robert Conboy, Eileen Green, John Judge, Andrew Leech, Andrew Moore, Graddon Rowlands, Philip Sagar, Mike Sibthorp and Brian Sumner. Councillor John Smith and Brian Thompson also attended. Apologies were received from Andrew Middleton and Bryan Helyar.

2. Minutes of the meeting and matters arising

They were agreed as a true record.

3. Stamford Gateway update from Brian Thompson

Great progress is being made, the detailed design work is going well and Lincolnshire County Council have approved their contribution to the project subject to formal ratification. In particular they commented that they were pleased to see the quality of the proposed scheme and the partnership approach which has been adopted. The next step for LCC as an authority is the consultation on traffic regulations. They will also be producing a trial panel of the materials at their depot in Thurlby which can be used to show those firms who are going to tender the standard of finish required. LCC is the formal client and the LCC procurement system will be adopted, they will also act as treasurer to the project. The complexity of the partnership arrangements in this project has led to the innovative use of a Governance Board which runs in parallel to the design team. This Board comprises Brian Thompson on behalf of LCC, Councillor John Smith from SKDC, Catherine Hammant for Stamford Vision and the architect as lead designer, Matthew Letts.

4. Stamford Vision CIC

The company was registered on the 7th October and is one of only 20 such companies in England and Wales and probably the first in this area.

An Equal Opportunities Statement has been prepared and the committee agreed to adopt it although it will be sent to SKDC for their comments.

5. Reports on the working groups

The notes from the groups were circulated prior to the meeting.

The urban group met earlier in the week and the notes of that meeting have not yet been distributed. GR mentioned how grateful the Mill Stream group was that Newage volunteers had turned out in force to clean out the Mill Stream and to paint the railings.

6. Key priority updates

* Roads:

§ East West Road Proposals: The Chamber invited members of Stamford Vision and others to a series of discussion groups on the 12th October. The different sessions appeared to have come to slightly differing conclusions. Brian Thompson reported that whilst the Stamford scheme was mentioned in the provisional Local Transport Plan in July it is one of 28 major schemes countywide. Decision making on major road building will now take place at regional level and so county schemes will have to compete in this arena. One consequence of prioritisation, if Stamford were not given a high enough priority, would be that proposed road lines would no longer be protected because of the potential for blight. LCC led schemes would have to be protected, however, if it was a developer led solution then a different process would apply. Turning to the specific East West proposals put forward by the Chamber, assessment of the negative environmental impacts has not been done.

§ Community Travel Zone: The first scheme to be implemented following the recent priority setting exercise will be the crossing outside the hospital. The other schemes will then be rolled out over the coming months. The CTZ philosophy is enshrined in the next LTP and Stamford will benefit from this in the future once more. The thinking is that there should be coherent plans drawn up for the next phase of CTZ schemes and Stamford Vision can usefully inform the debate in this area.

* Parking:

§ MS reported that there had been limited response from the private sector to undertake any studies on whether there is a 'development led solution' to the car parking issues in town. A date for the group to reconvene has not been set. It was agreed that the Stamford Vision policy statement be circulated for the benefit of new members to the group.

§ Councillor Smith informed the committee that SKDC is reviewing the car parking charges imminently. The results of the strategic car park review will inform a major review which is probably some two years away.

* LDF: The Issues and Options paper has been distributed. It was agreed that the group should form a view on this and to help in the development of this AM, JP and CLH will meet to produce a draft response. This will then be circulated among the group for comment. MS confirmed that the response from SV could follow the next strategy group meeting.

* Welland Quarter: CLH set out the further steps which are required to fully understand the potential of this site. The initial action is to call together interested parties to a workshop looking at what potential land uses the site could be put and how these would impact on the overall economy of the town. There is significant interest at regional level in master planning exercises and it seems sensible for Stamford Vision and SKDC to work with the Welland SSP to develop a proposal to take the future of this site forward through the planning process.

7. Budget and requests for funding

The up-to-date situation was circulated. It was agreed to jointly fund the refurbishment of the welcome signs to the north and south of the town. SV would like to see the Town Council acknowledge this partnership in any publicity.

RC mentioned the rotary club wish to complete their library project by renovating the outside of the building. The question of supporting this will be raised at the next meeting when further information is available.

8. AOB

CLH circulated the CIC Communications paper. It was agreed that this is something which we as a group need to prioritise and some advice needs to be sought as to the best way to go about it.

Michelle Feasey will be made mayor in waiting in January; JP undertook to meet her to update her on the work of the group and an invitation will be extended to her to come to strategy group meetings in the run up to mayor making.

Dates of future meetings

The annual review will take place on 13th December.

18th November,

20th January

17th February

24th March

28th April

26th May

23rd June

28th July

22nd September

27th October

24th November