



Stamford Vision Strategy Group  
Minutes of the meeting 4<sup>th</sup> June 2004

**1. Present**

John Plumb (Chairman), Srikanth Padmanabhan, Catherine Hammant, Andrew Middleton, Graddon Rowlands and Mike Sibthorp. Councillor John Smith, SKDC cabinet member with special responsibility for Town Centre Management Partnerships was welcomed as an observer.

Apologies were received from Robert Conboy, Colin Helstrip, Don Lambert, Andrew Moore and David Nalson.

**2. Minutes from the previous meeting and matters arising**

A discussion took place on strategic planning issues and how Vision 2015 and the new priorities currently being set by SKDC will work together to shape the town's future. Councillor Smith explained that following on from their recent consultation process the council is now proposing to link service delivery to the priorities established. The top five priorities, defined as category 'A', where SKDC should effect a step change in provision, are: antisocial behaviour, street scene, recycling, access to services and town centres. The second category, 'B', where incremental rather than step changes are sought, is likely to include affordable housing. The inevitable result of certain aspects being prioritised is that there will be other aspects of SKDC's provision which will be downgraded. (Categories Y and Z.) What emerged from the discussion was that within this framework Stamford must work to demonstrate the links between the realisation of the Vision 2015 goals and the main business of SKDC. Stamford's geographical location and particular nature will inevitably lead to it requiring a different emphasis in how SKDC realises its priorities. For example, although leisure provision is not a highly rated service in the future across the whole district, the lack of provision in Stamford could be linked to remedying antisocial behaviour. This in turn, would tie in with the Vision 2015's objective of developing appropriate youth provision. It was agreed that a workshop should be held in the autumn to bring together all those who hold a youth agenda to develop a 10 year plan for improvement in this area. Potential interested parties might include the police, the probation service, the officers at SKDC who recently undertook a sports survey of the town, schools and colleges, and the Youth Service from Lincolnshire County Council. Another area where Stamford is distinctly different from other areas of the district is in the importance of tourism in the economy, so whilst this is not a high priority for SKDC as a whole, it may be important in delivering a balanced economy in Stamford as well as a vibrant town centre. The issue of the Art Centre was also raised, because cultural services were not rated highly in the priority setting, however, should this facility be eroded this would have a significant impact on the quality of life enjoyed in the town and the existing youth provision through the drama, film and art workshops would be seriously compromised.

### **3. Membership of the Strategy group**

Mike Sibthorp was welcomed as the new officer support from SKDC on the group replacing Jeff Lloyd on his retirement. MS is now head of Planning Strategy and Economic Development, within SKDC, which has responsibility for town centre management partnerships. SKDC is currently considering the replacement of Joyce Gaffigan on her retirement and we hope to have a replacement elected representative at the next meeting. Discussions also took place about finding an additional private sector representative if changes in the Chamber take place at their AGM at the end of this month. SP stressed the importance of diversity in organisations and that this should be born in mind when potential representatives are being considered.

### **4. Budget for 2004/5**

The first cast of the proposed budget was circulated. In future additional columns will be inserted to make the link between the spend and the priorities which are being addressed.

### **5. Feedback on Market Towns Week**

A paper was circulated giving the break down about the events. In summary, there were 12 events over the week attracting over 4,000 people to the town. It was generally considered to be a success and there are a number of events which might be built upon next year. However, this will have to be in the context of widening the responsibility to deliver through a committee, possibly as a sub-set of the marketing group. The marketing group will be asked to consider developing a strategy for events in the town.

### **6. Welland funding and Welland Quarter study**

This has not yet been formalised but a bid has been put in to deliver further phases of the Adaptive Reuse Project, the Gateway project and the Welland Quarter. The initial findings of the traffic engineer on the Welland Quarter are expected shortly.

### **7. Liaison with the town council**

JP will produce a summary of the papers of the various groups to be distributed amongst the strategy group and the town council. The architects will be making a presentation to the town council on the plans for Sheep Market and Red Lion Square as part of the second consultation phase. SP expressed the wish to invite the town council to a more informal social event during the winter so that we can continue the useful dialogue established at the meeting in April.

### **8. Structure Plan response**

The consultation phase has now finished and the response which was sent on behalf of the strategy group was circulated.

### **9. Highways Agency meeting**

A meeting was held between the Highways Agency and their consultants, Brian Thompson of LCC, CLH and Richard Barry from the Urban Group, to see where improvements could be made on the A1 to reduce traffic coming through Stamford which is destined for

Spalding and areas to the East. The need for more positive signage for these destinations to the south of Stamford was identified and the HA agreed to work up a scheme to achieve this. The funding of such signs is extremely expensive but some budget may be found by the HA in conjunction with LCC. This is a positive step and thanks should be recorded to Quentin Davies who set this meeting up.

#### **10.AOB**

- A workshop is proposed to bring all those who have an interest on car parking issues together in the autumn.
- The Highways Agency is proposing a grade separated junction at Wittering and its impact on the potential East/ West solutions to traffic in Stamford needs to be assessed.
- LCC have published a draft Waste Plan, CLH to obtain a copy.
- GR, as chairman of the Urban Group, raised the question of the state of the Meadows and it was agreed to write to Azar Woods, the new chairman of the town council's committee with responsibility for its upkeep, to enquire as to what decision has been reached about the commitment to hold the fair in the future only if no degradation to the Meadows occurred.

**11.Date of the next meeting** 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2004 at Newage AVK SEG