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SEATON REGNERATION PROGRAMME BOARD ACTION POINTS FROM A MEETING HELD AT SEATON TOWN HALL, SEATON ON TUESDAY 13 DECEMBER 2011

Present:

Councillor Graham Godbeer	GG	EDDC
Councillor Andrew Moulding	ATM	DCC
Councillor Peter Burrows	PB	Seaton Town Council
Councillor Heather Sanham	HS	Seaton Town Council
Councillor Carol Rapley	CR	Axmouth Parish Council
Councillor Stephanie Jones	SJ	EDDC
Councillor Jim Knight	JK	EDDC
Lisa Timberlake	LT	Estates Surveyor, EDDC
Edward Willis Fleming	EWF	Axe Riverside Co.
Jenny Nunn	JN	Seaton Tramway
Tony Le Riche	TLR	Seaton Town Clerk
Richard Cohen	RC	Deputy Chief Executive, EDDC
Nick Stephen	NS	Communications Officer, EDDC
Chris Lane	CL	Democratic Services Officer, EDDC
Charlie Plowden –	CP	Countryside Manager, EDDC
Marcus Hartnell	MH	Seaton Chamber of Commerce
John Lees	JL	Kensington Taylor
Richard Cord	KW	Kensington Taylor
Robert Aspland	RA	LDA Design
Alan Stone	AS	Highways, DCC
Steve Turner	ST	DCC
Andy Carmichael	AC	Principal Planning Officer, EDDC

Apologies:

Donna Best	DB	Principal Estates Surveyor, EDDC
Kate Little	KL	Head of Economy, EDDC
Ian Harrison	IH	DCC
Amanda Newsome	AN	Natural England
Terry Dinham	TD	Tesco's

The meeting started at 9.15am and finished at 11.50am.

Item	Notes/Decisions	Action
1.Introduction	Welcome and introductions.	
2.Notes of meeting held on 23 June 2011	The notes of the meeting held on 21 September 2011 were agreed as a true record.	Noted
3. Matters Arising	There were no matters arising of items that were not on the agenda.	
4. Seaton Seafront Enhancement	The Board received presentations from Kensington Taylor and LDA Design on their ideas for regeneration of Seaton Seafront. Both presentations had been prepared in consultation with Alan Stone from DCC Highways as land owners.	

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During discussions the following points were noted:

- The aim was to provide a better experience for the visitor and to overcome the challenges of the sea wall;
- Need to explore the potential of the seafront;
- Importance of retaining some car parking, but reconfigure what was already in place;
- That some funding such as S106 might could be put towards improving the public realm in Seaton;
- Possibility of creating viewing platforms on the seafront;
- Development of Tesco's and the management of Seaton Town Hall have been success stories for the town;
- The DCC Local Transport Plan budget had significant limitations and the County priorities for Seaton were development of the Visitor Centre and the Stop Line Way;
- A possible source of funding for the seafront improvement project was the Coastal Regeneration Fund at DCC, which will be available from April 2012;
- Issues with the quality of buildings along the seafront;
- Discussions was needed on the best way to start the seafront improvement project going;
- The object for Marine Place was to create a great public space;
- Improve the attraction of the area to visitors and reclaim spaces for pedestrians by reducing the size of the roads;
- Possible funding streams through the Community Infrastructure Levy and the 300 homes that were due to be built next to the Tesco building;
- Visitors wanted to be able to see the sea;
- The need for destinations along the seafront, such as the Harbourside;
- Linking up all the destinations along the seafront;
- The neighbourhood planning process would be a way forward;
- A successful Visitor Centre depended on improving the current seafront offer in Seaton;
- Seaton Town Council had discussed ways to improve the seafront and had put funding in a budget for this purpose.

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	<p><u>Wetlands</u></p> <p>CP reported that good progress was being made with the Wetlands project. There was a launch two weeks ago of the new Axe Wetlands Classroom. Income streams from the sites activities were being investigated, including from secondary schools and the University of Exeter.</p> <p>A new volunteer programme was being launched this winter and those volunteers chosen would require training. Funding of £150k had been achieved from the EA to help develop the proposed southern extension. There was a need to achieve planning permission for some the works and it was anticipated that capital work would start this financial year.</p> <p>In response to a question whether the Axe Estuary Wetlands Nature Reserves could become a national scheme and attract visitors who would require overnight stays. CP responded that the scheme already attracted such visitors but more beds were needed in Seaton to accommodate these visitors. This could be achieved by the provision of a Study Centre at the Wetlands.</p> <p>The planning application for the extension to the Stop Line Way had been approved. The Countryside Service was working with DCC on this project. It was expected to start in Spring 2012. JN confirmed that the Tramway were keen to pursue the Black Hole Marsh Holt project but were hoping for grant funding. The possibility of making the Tramway Depot a working museum was also discussed.</p>	Noted
6. Town Management Project Update.	<p>Discussion followed about the recent loss of the Seaton Town Manager, the position the town was now in and what to do next. The loss of the Town Manager had occurred at an unfortunate time as the positive momentum created by the Tesco development could be lost. EDDC was considering whether it was appropriate to use the opportunity to pause for a moment about the best way forward and whether there were better uses for the money. EDDC would like to think about how best to support the town's business community with a minimum of delay. A report would be made to Cabinet on 11 January 2012 with proposals to move forward.</p>	Noted

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	<p>TLR reported that Seaton Town Council was urging partners to continue with the post of Town Manager. Including making the most of the opportunity to continue with the positive momentum within the town going forward for next summer's tourism season. MH reported that the Town Manager issue would be discussed at the following evening's Chamber of Commerce meeting.</p> <p>The website that was advertising Seaton Town Management activities was still open. NS agreed to produce a holding statement for the site and also post on the site details of the press release arising from this meeting.</p> <p>JN discussed developing the brand of 'Natural Seaton' and whether this could be an item for discussion at the next meeting of the Programme Board.</p>	NS
7. Wider Seaton Update.	<p><u>LSE2</u></p> <p>AC reported that there was a public exhibition at St Clare's by developers for land at the north end of Seaton on LSE2, which was currently allocated solely for employment and recreational use. The proposed outline planning application included employment land, housing fronting Colyford Road, football pitches and a multi use play area. The scheme was out for public consultation and would facilitate a Business Development Unit (B1 use) and 170 houses.</p> <p>HS reported that Seaton Town Council was seeking to respond to the latest draft of the LDF. The current plan did not recognise the proposal for the LSE2 site as the new proposal would be seen as a departure from the plan.</p> <p><u>Seaton Heights</u></p> <p>AC updated members that he anticipated that there would be a revised planning application made for development at Seaton Heights. The planning application made on the site some 4-5 years ago, had been agreed by the LPA but never implemented, due to the S106 agreement not being signed by the developer. The new application would involve revisions to this scheme.</p> <p><u>Seaton Hole</u></p>	Noted

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	<p>Members were reminded of the importance of the coastal offer of Seaton Hole.</p> <p><u>Public Art</u></p> <p>HS reminded Board members of the importance of providing public art in Seaton from S106 money.</p>	
8. Any other business	<p><u>Mission Statement for the Board</u></p> <p>EWF requested that the terms of reference of the Board be circulated to all members.</p> <p><u>'Natural Seaton'</u></p> <p>JN emphasised the importance of developing the brand 'Natural Seaton' and also emphasised the provision of greater support for the Chamber of Commerce and businesses in the town, now that the Town Manager had resigned her post.</p> <p><u>Tesco Store Manager</u></p> <p>SJ reported that the Tesco Store Manager had been unavailable to attend this meeting of the Programme Board.</p>	CL
13. Date and time of next meeting	<p>It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 9.15 a.m.</p>	All