

Seaton Project Group Meeting

10.30am, 11 October 2023

Meeting Notes

In attendance:

Cllr Paul Hayward, EDDC (Chair); Cllr Marcus Hartnell, EDDC, Ward member, DCC Councillor; Cllr Matt Hall, EDDC, Economy Portfolio Holder; Cllr Amrik Singh, Mayor, Seaton Town Council; Sophia Moseley, Seaton Gateway; Eleanor Carr, Unique Boutiques/Seaton Chamber; Carl Northcott, Seaton Chamber of Commerce; Richard Betts, Seaton Chamber of Commerce; James Tribble, Pebbles café/Seaton Chamber; Keir Duffin, DCC Economy Service; Julia Mutlow, Seaton Town Clerk; Jo Hemery; Alison Hayward, Project Manager, PAC, EDDC

Apologies:

- Cllr Nick Hookway
- Cllr Cheryl Wood
- Jenny Nunn

3. Purpose of Meeting. - Discussion.

AH opened a discussion on this. Principally, the purpose is to **support the delivery of projects from the Regeneration Strategy** which had been completed earlier in 2023. List of projects with Lead Stakeholders identified. Need to ensure that the meetings are of value to members.

The Councils role (applies to any of the 3 councils)

- Could be Lead Stakeholder for some projects.
- Signposting other organisations where they are the Lead Stakeholder. Maybe enabling, facilitating where possible – e.g licence/lease agreements for use of land.
- Ensuring proper governance of projects where there is involvement of public assets, of financial support, directly or indirectly.
- Fair and transparent processes for all. Marketing opportunities, procurement.
- Protect the various councils' position's regarding risk, e.g. health and safety matters where use of different council land.

Detailed discussions about projects can happen off-line. This is not about secrecy but is required where there are commercial sensitivities for 3rd parties, or because it is practical to do so where the level of detail requires lengthy discussions not relevant for this Forum.

Noting also, - expectations need to be managed in relation to whether support can be offered for projects. Council resources, and the constraints (as above) will dictate the level of involvement.

The Regeneration Strategy has identified a list of projects and it is this that will be monitored and evaluated.

The Chamber offered comments on how it would like to be involved. It wishes to pursue some other projects (not in the Regeneration Strategy) and will email Cllrs or Alison in the first instance regarding these ideas.

The Chamber is proposing to deliver another Shipshape event to be held by the chamber in April 2024 that focusses on the businesses in Fore Street and encouraging them to improve their shopfronts.

Concern was expressed by councillors regarding the Shipshape events held this summer which had been held at short notice and without sufficient risk assessments being in place and public safety had been put at risk through these activities.

Councillors/officers emphasised the need for all the necessary approvals and insurances to be put in place, and risk assessments completed and implemented satisfactorily in advance in relation to the use of Highways or other public/private land, and the use of machinery or equipment. To avoid risk to public and operatives safety.

The **Chamber can contact Devon County Council in relation to the use of Highways land.** This includes pavements and any road closure that might be required. (Note – info has now been provided to the Chamber on contact at DCC).

It is recommended that contact is made **6 – 8 months ahead of wanting to hold any events** to allow sufficient lead in time for securing any necessary approvals.

For the Grizzly event in March 2024 the Chamber may consider an evening event as the Sunday daytime is quiet in the town with activity/people on the course. Chamber to send a business case to Cllrs Hall and Hayward in relation to any financial support required for hosting this event. **(See information on ACED below)**

Chamber to email Alison Hayward in relation to how they might want to support concessions on the seafront next year.

Funding Sources.

- Seed funding is available from EDDC for a first year, to support events such as Gate to Plate - recently held in Axminster.
- Contact Cllr Hayward for more details. Specific criteria for use of funding. Funding applications/business case will be required.
- For other information on any other EDDC funding see the council's website.
- Also, sign up for grant funding notifications from a number of other on-line sources.

ACED - Arts & Culture East Devon.

- See website: www.aced.org.uk See details of the **Creative East Devon Fund**, part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. **Applications by 15 November.**
- ACED newsletter, where information is shared on details of future events and training opportunities: [East Devon District Council - ACED Newsletter sign up \(govdelivery.com\)](http://East Devon District Council - ACED Newsletter sign up (govdelivery.com))
- You can view upcoming events here: [Events | Arts and Culture East Devon \(aced.org.uk\)](http://Events | Arts and Culture East Devon (aced.org.uk))

DCC Funding support and advice

- Cllr Hartnell, in his capacity as County Councillor, has a small amount of **Locality Funding** available. Contact Cllr Hartnell for more information on the use of this fund.
- **Devon County Council** - sign up for email bulletin with details of various funding opportunities: jasmine.jones@devon.gov.uk

4. **Update on Regeneration Strategy Projects.**

- Shop Front Improvements. The Chamber to pursue this next year, through the ShipShape event in the spring.
- Seaton Moridunum Toilets. EDDC finalising with agents re: inviting bids from interested parties.
- Seaton Workspace. EDDC progressing with options report.
- Outdoor market. A business case has been submitted to the Chamber and is being worked on but no further progress has been made.
- Pavement and Bus-stop relocations. The Chamber has engaged with the Town Council and DCC on this. Chamber advised that the Streetscene Team is aware that some remodelling of the gardens at Seafeld Gardens may be required.
- Cllr Hartnell has received interest under the **Active Travel Programme** for an alternative route for the southern end of the Stop Line Way (to rear of overspill car park on Underfleet, rather than the pavement). Cllr Hartnell working with officers on this. AH to check EDDC land holding. (Note – land is not owned by EDDC).

5. **Marshlands.** STC awaiting availability of contractor to complete the work to the available space within the building which will be made available for commercial hire.

6. **E-bikes.**

Following the failure of the Co-Bikes company, there has been no progress on this project. The Chamber remains interested in considering this. AH to circulate contacts for other e-bike operators to the Chamber.

7. **A.O.B.**

EDDC Toilet Disposals. The Chamber has submitted proposals to the District Council in relation to taking leases of Marsh Street and Harbour Road public toilets. EDDC is finalising the Heads of Terms for issuing shortly.

Sophia Moseley asked a question concerning the use of the Seaton Jurassic capital receipt. The capital receipt received for Seaton Jurassic is confidential, commercially sensitive information. For further detail see: [13 October 2023 - Future of Seaton Jurassic Centre to be considered - East Devon](#) Cllr Hartnell confirmed that this had been a complex negotiation involving the councils and 3rd party funders and Seaton Tramway and had received cross-party support. Cllr Hayward clarified that the initial Seaton Jurassic project had **not been funded** entirely by public funds. It was a combination of S.106 funding, central government grants, lottery funding, EDDC, DCC and STC funds and various charitable trusts.