

# Seaton Stakeholder Meeting

**15 June 2022**

1.0.1 Online meeting

1.0.2 Attendees:

- Sophia Mosely – Seaton Gateway
- Steve Waite – Seaton Tramway
- Eleanor Carr – Seaton Eats/Uniqueboutique
- Carl Northcott – Northcott Contractors
- James Tribble - Pebbles
- Cllr Jack Rowland
- Cllr Dan Ledger
- Cllr Cheryl Wood
- Cllr Marcus Hartnell
- Julia Mutlow – Seaton Town Council
- Paul Johns – Seaton Town Council
- Gareth Jones – Hardisty Jones Associates (HJA)
- Alison Hayward – East Devon District Council
- Linda Perry - East Devon District Council

Apologies:

Cllr Amrik Singh, Mayor of Seaton

Cllr Nick Hookway, Portfolio Holder, Culture, Sport, Leisure and Tourism

1.0.3 These notes identify the key topics that were discussed during the meeting.

## 1.1 Presentation

1.1.1 Presentation by Gareth Jones– Introduction to Devon Towns Urban Renewal project in Seaton. Slides are attached.

1.1.2 Issues discussed in response to these:

- The demographic profile of the town, and loss of working age population

## 1.2 Public Realm improvements

1.2.1 A number of opportunities were discussed:

- Pedestrianisation of the seafront to improve accessibility and help promote active lifestyles amongst residents. This is linked to the works proposed under the current LUF bid, so needs to be linked to these
- A new larger town square, through making use of enhancements to the roundabout which would provide space for events

- Improve the connectivity around the town and accessibility between key locations including the seafront
- Better provision of public toilets and amenities
- Investment into the seafront as a place of leisure
- Provision of a town map to promote tourism and accessibility

1.2.2 Potential quick win ideas were suggested surrounding the re-submission of planning applications for pedestrianisation of the seafront. This needs to be considered in light of the outcome of the LUF bid.

## 1.3 Employment

1.3.1 A number of opportunities were discussed:

- Encouraging use of retail residential units to improve the feel of the town centre and provide employment opportunities
- Retail offer is gravitating toward the seafront, so regeneration strategies should consider this to maximise benefits from tourism
- Improve infrastructure to facilitate changes to home working following Covid-19 such as internet cafes, flexible workspaces, and suitable networking environments with reliable Wi-Fi and suitable desks
- Important to learn from notable successes and failures of The Lighthouse in Sidmouth, a previous co-working space
- Potential opportunities for workspace in the Town Council office building- could offer ease of delivery as TC already in ownership (although restriction on uses) . (Potential quick win opportunity for a feasibility study, although this is already being investigated by the Town Council). Noted that a previous bid for funding for flexible workspace was unsuccessful
- Business estates and more employment land are necessary to facilitate employment growth- engagement and coordination are needed with EDDC who are in ownership of two industrial sites
- The importance of economic activity and employment opportunities less reliant on summer months, a potential focus on food and boutiques
- Improving the evening economy leisure offer in Seaton to attract younger demographics and people of a working age

## 1.4 Education

1.4.1 A number of opportunities were discussed:

- Improved public transport links and a focus on accessibility for students to surrounding further education services such as Exeter College
- An increased focus on vocational training for young people, including in areas such as plumbing and electricians to prevent the out-migration of skilled young people
- Increased access to a wide range of skills and training, through improved transport links or possible online hubs in Seaton town centre for further education courses

## 1.5 Residential

1.5.1 A number of opportunities were discussed:

- Affordable housing for young people to avoid out-migration
- Possibility of social rented housing
- Importance of respecting that Seaton is a retirement destination - appropriate housing needs to be provided for the elderly but need to avoid excluding other demographics.

## **1.6 Other observations**

- 1.6.1 We note that the opportunity for the future use of the former Jurassic Coast visitor centre was not discussed. We understand that this is currently the subject of a marketing exercise by EDDC to find a new operator.
- 1.6.2 Two documents setting out thoughts on potential approaches to urban renewal (not specific to Seaton) are attached for information, and to encourage thinking about potential projects.