

Minutes of UK Prosperity Fund working group

Meeting Date: Monday, 11 December 2023, starting at 9.00 am
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Fletcher
S Hore

L Jameson

In attendance: Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Strategic Planning and Housing and Chief Executive

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Rogerson.

2 SPORTS CENTRE/COMMUNITY PARK, WHALLEY

The Director of Economic Development and Planning outlined that a pre-application submission had been due by 1st December from Jonathan Smith/Harrisons for a reduced scheme but unfortunately this had not been forthcoming. It was understood that they would also be looking to utilize s.106 monies that have not yet been received yet, and likely will not be received for some considerable time.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning clarified that no monies had been allocated to this proposed scheme. There was still £275,000 available for projects in Whalley, and if the money was not utilised, it would be lost. The Sports Centre/Community Park could be considered again in the future. The Director of Economic Development and Planning had also heard a suggestion of a Pump Track in Whalley, but as of yet has not seen any details for such a scheme.

It was agreed that proposals for any potential schemes for Whalley going forward would be considered if/ when they were submitted.

3 ROEFIELD

Ribble Valley Sports and Recreation (Roefield Leisure) had requested funding to support the delivery of a spinning room at the leisure centre. The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that this fell under Intervention E2 – Community and Neighbourhood infrastructure projects and outlined the suggested outcomes and outputs of the scheme. The project would cost £80,000 and the construction work could commence in January 2024.

Members were in agreement to recommend the scheme for approval to the next Policy & Finance Committee on 23 January 2024.

4 CLITHEROE SCULPTURE

Dandy Crowdfund had requested funding of £1,000 for a public sculpture on Booth's land opposite the Clitheroe Market Entrance.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning had suggested to Dandy Crowdfund that an application for a culture and leisure grant may be more appropriate in the circumstances, rather than UKSPF monies. They came back with intervention details and outputs but this hasn't changed the Director of Economic Development and Planning's view. Councillor Fletcher suggested that any guidance that could be offered to Dandy Crowdfund so that they could make the most appropriate application would be helpful. This position will be reported to Policy and Finance Committee.

5

BARROW COMMUNITY SPACE

Policy & Finance Committee had already agreed to allocate £25,000 for the Barrow Community Space, which would include allotments and a community building.

Councillor Birtwhistle had now advised the Council that there was an opportunity to obtain the former pub from those who were building the Care Home at the rear. The Parish Council is now looking at a much larger scheme which would include refurbishing the former pub and resurfacing the car park, creating office space and an allotment. It was noted that no costings have been provided for such a project as of yet.

It was confirmed that the car park is owned by the Council and is leased to the Parish Council. The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that the resurfacing proposed would be very similar to the work undertaken at Mardale, Longridge. The car park is a community asset and is very popular. Resurfacing it would improve useability.

It was noted that Councillor Birtwhistle had attended a previous Planning & Development Committee and informed Members that the developer was going to pay for a substantial amount of the car park element of the project. The Director of Economic Development and Planning's understanding was that the request related to the cost of materials.

After discussion, Members were in agreement that they were supportive of the car park resurfacing element of the scheme. This will be reported to Policy and Finance Committee.

With regards to the former pub, it has been empty for some time and would require a lot of work. Formal costings would need to be obtained

Members raised questions as to whether the Parish Council would have sufficient funds to maintain the building going forward, and it was felt that this needed to be considered further. The Chief Executive did feel that that the Parish Council should seek independent legal advice as to whether they can take this on.

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Resources recommended that a feasibility study be carried out and the costs implications really need to be considered.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that a structural survey has been insisted upon by the Parish Council.

Councillor Hore pointed out that in principle it would provide a real benefit to have a community centre in Barrow. There had been a massive increase housing, without any additional facilities available for the community.

Members agreed that this scheme would be considered at a future working group once formal feedback had been obtained from the Parish Council as to how they would maintain the building going forward.

CLITHEROE MARKET

The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that the tender was due to go out that week and the Head of Engineering Services was in discussions as to the formal procurement of that.

Members expressed confusion as to what was happening and also with regards to the layout of the proposed stalls. The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that at Policy & Finance Committee, Members had agreed option 2, namely:

To remove the casual stalls, resurface the whole bullring area (creating a central area of open space with new planting and electric points) and erect a block of new casual stalls (not dissimilar to the current offer). This option may allow for the resurfacing works to be extended along the pedestrian routes between the existing cabins (budget permitting).

The Director of Economic Development and Planning further clarified that the 'casual stalls' would be physically attached to the ground and the term 'not dissimilar to the current offer' meant that visually they would look similar.

She advised that once the tenders are received, there would still be freedom to move things around. It would be possible to put permanent stalls around the outside area and the tender will include provision of new stalls.

The Chief Executive suggested that having a model of the proposals would provide more clarity and Members agreed with this.

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

The Director of Economic Planning and Development advised that the Household Support Fund had proved to be exceptionally popular, so much so that the Council had stopped accepting further applications. Unfortunately, the funds available would not cover all the eligible applications that were received. Lancashire County Council had already informed the Director of Economic Development and Planning that there was no more money currently available under this fund.

Members discussed the administration of the fund going forward and the legal implications of any decision made. It was agreed that the vouchers would be awarded to those who were eligible in order of who applied first. The Council would write to the remaining applicants, advising that the money had run out. However, if further monies are released then they would be first on the list.

The meeting closed at 9.58 am

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin at jenny.martin@ribblevalley.gov.uk.