

Minutes of UK Prosperity Fund working group

Meeting Date: Monday, 13 May 2024, starting at 9.00 am
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chairman)

Councillors:

S Hore
L Jameson

J Rogerson

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Senior Economic Development Officer.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on 22 February 2024, were approved as a correct record.

3 CLITHEROE MARKET UPDATE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning updated Members regarding the proposed works at Clitheroe Market. The bull ring stalls are going to be re-roofed and reboarded at the back and new gutters are going to be installed at the front and rear. One of the stalls will also be re-positioned to create a more circular layout.

Discussion took place around the resurfacing of the bull ring. The view is that the original sandstone should be kept as much as possible. However, there are a lot of areas of damage and the square paving slabs are in a poor state. It will require a lot of work and various options were being considered, for example a resin bound solution for the inner bull ring.

The Director of Community Services confirmed that the Council are considering the street furniture and propose to clean the buildings, such as the stone gables on the cabins. It was agreed that further thought would also be given to introducing some plants/trees to the site and to signage advertising the market and its location.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning confirmed that quotes are being sought for the works and the Head of Engineering Services is preparing a plan. A meeting will then take place with the market traders.

4 LONGRIDGE PUMP TRACK UPDATE

Members were advised that the consultation event had taken place and feedback had been received. The consultants had subsequently amended the scheme to increase the length of the track and to make it more challenging.

The contractors are now going to submit the relevant planning application and it will be considered by the Planning & Development Committee in due course.

It was noted that there has already been pre-application engagement with Sports England.

5 CYCLE/RUNNING TRACK AT RIBBLESDALE POOL & SPORTS COMPLEX

The Director of Economic Development and Planning advised that a proposal for a cycle/ running track had been received and circulated to the Working Group for consideration as to whether UKSPF funding would be suitable.

The Director of Community Services advised Members that there were a number of organisations driving the proposal for a cycle/running track at Ribblesdale sports complex, which included Breaking Cycles, Ribble Valley Triathlon Club, Running4CF etc.

The proposal would see the track situated on the Council's land at Edisford. It could be quite flexible in terms of positioning but would potentially depend on what happens with Ribblesdale pool. The Director of Community Services advised that he had experience of such a track being introduced at Tameside and it had been very well used. It can encourage safe cycling for children in the evenings and could be beneficial in terms of disability sports. However, potential concerns surrounded the issue of lighting a track in residential area and for dog walkers who currently use the field.

It was noted that there were currently no estimates of costs or timescales for the project and very little information had been provided. It was agreed that there would need to be further investigation into such a proposal and the contact should be advised to contact the lead for the proposals at the QEII Playing fields as there may be some opportunity to deliver a scheme as part of the wider ambitions for the site

6 REPF UPDATE

The Senior Economic Development Officer advised that there is approximately £80,000 remaining of REPF funds. There has been an additional expression of interest from Sawley Village Hall to diversify their community garden however a formal application has not yet been submitted. It is understood that this project would cost around £50,000 and match funding from Lancashire Wildlife Trust is being sought to the value of approximately £5,000.

It was noted that several voluntary organisation grant applications had previously been refused and Councillor Hore asked whether any of these had been turned into REPF applications. There had been a couple, including the Broadband scheme, but another had been ineligible.

Discussion took place around the current policy of only one application being allowed per Parish and Members felt that this was somewhat restrictive, the Group will recommend amending this restriction to two schemes per Parish at the next Policy and Finance Committee. It was agreed that there should be a further meeting in August where officers would bring a comprehensive estimate of how much of the fund is going to be spent.

7 CHARGING POINTS - EDISFORD AND LONGRIDGE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning suggested that some of the UKSPF funding could be used to install vehicle charging points on both Berry Lane and Edisford car parks. EON are delivering the charging points on the identified rural car parks and this contract could be extended to include these two car parks.

The Director of Community Services advised Members that the Council are waiting for a date when the charging points can be installed at the identified rural car parks.

The Group agreed to recommend to P&F Committee that part of the UKSPF funding is used to install charging points at Berry Lane and Edisford car parks.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members discussed the UKSPF and were conscious that the monies are spent within the allocated timeframe. Various options were considered, for example using money for Clitheroe Castle or children's play areas.

Members sought an update in relation to the Barrow Community Space Scheme and the Director of Economic Development and Planning advised that she understood that they had instructed an Architect. It was noted that planning permission would be required for a change of use but that has not been forthcoming as of yet. It was agreed that it would be useful to invite Barrow Parish Council to a meeting for them to give a formal update as to what stage they are up to.

With regards to the proposed event space in Longridge, Members were advised that it went out to tenders but unfortunately no responses were received. The Director of Economic Development and Planning is meeting with Longridge Town Council the following week and will discuss this with them.

Discussion also place as to potential schemes for Whalley and the Director of Economic Development and Planning advised that she would seek relevant updates.

The meeting closed at 9.45 am

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Jenny Martin 01200 414408 .