



**SWADLINCOTE TOWNSCAPE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND
BOARD MEETING
21ST NOVEMBER, 2016, 10AM TO 11.40AM**

ATTENDANCE:

Councillor Peter Watson (Chair) (PW), Councillor Pat Murray (PM), Councillor Trevor Southerd (TS), Councillor Steve Taylor (ST), Kate Allies (SDDC Environmental Development Manager) (KA), Gail Archer (Tourist Information Centre Manager) (GA), Alex Gilbert (DCC Conservation & Design Section) (AG), Emma Hancock (SDDC Townscape Heritage Project Officer) (EH), Katie Maude (Urban Green) (KM), Zoe Sewter (SDDC Open Space & Facility Development Manager) (ZS), Richard Shaw (SDDC Design Excellence Officer) (RS).

1. APOLOGIES, MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

Adam Lathbury (DCC) and Nicola Lees (SDDC) sent apologies. The minutes were approved by TS and seconded by PM.

2. FINAL DESIGN OF DIANA GARDEN:

RS reported that some minor changes had been made to the design after comments were received since the previous meeting. The garden had been opened up to better connect the main spaces.

AG stated that DCC's Conservation and Design Section was still unhappy with the design. As it stood, DCC was not prepared to provide any further financial assistance to it from the fund allocated. If the designer wanted to meet with DCC, they were agreeable to that. DCC felt that too much was being crammed in to the site, which itself was too compartmentalised. They felt it could encourage future anti-social behaviour. The space should function as a polyfunctional and multifunctional space, similar to Sheffield's Peace Gardens, which was a far simpler design.

RS said an internal meeting was happy with the design, which responded to the local consultation. AG replied that consultees weren't designers, who knew best because of their knowledge and experience. The scheme as it was could be a future burden. EH added that the Peace Gardens was a different thing altogether and PW said there was no resemblance between the two areas.

PW asked what effect DCC not giving financial support would have. EH replied that the project was grateful to DCC for its support, which was £40,000 out of a total of around £550,000. TS said no-one had contacted him regarding the issue. EH asked if the £10,000 a





year was still secure and AG replied that it was. TS asked how radical DCC's changes to the scheme would be compared to what had been put in front of the board. AG, while pointing to an alternative design presented to the board, replied that it would be simpler and that trying to compartmentalise three spaces into such a small space concerned DCC.

RS stated that the biggest thing the public wanted to see was a lot of colour in the garden and there wasn't a lot of colour in DCC's scheme. AG replied that what he had presented was an indicative scheme. TS asked if the officers had tried to reach a compromise. AG said he felt there wasn't enough compromise to validate the scheme from DCC's point of view.

PM stated that the idea was to make the area something to walk around. He was shocked that the board had been told DCC was not going to support the scheme. The situation needed ironing out.

ST said he could understand the ASB perspective from DCC. ZS reported that the area was fairly overgrown and not well used. There was a duty to follow up consultation with local people. The scheme had to give local people a say and not ignore their opinions. A local CCTV network could be accessed to address ASB concerns. GA added that local people had always seen the area as a jitty or pass-through. People wanted a garden area and if CCTV was a problem then the Sharpe's system could have a camera added to it. TS said that DCC's design was better if the area was to be used as a thoroughfare. PM added that most residents saw the area as somewhere that didn't go anywhere. ST concurred with PM.

PW said he was disappointed that DCC had presented an alternative – which was a thoroughfare – at such a late stage. The scheme had gone to public consultation and the public view had to be considered.

DECISION: The board voted 5-1 to approve the original scheme.

TS added that the scheme put forward by DCC was not a garden.

3. AGREE REPORTING FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

PW asked for an extra meeting with EH to discuss reporting. He felt the amount of reporting was an administrative nightmare and over the top for a £550,000 scheme. Money was being spent on the reporting procedure and not the landscape. TS asked to be included in the separate meeting to give a DCC perspective.

4. GRANTS UPDATE

EH reported that the situation remained similar to when the previous board meeting was held a month earlier. Work on 79, High Street, was just about completed. Detailed joinery





sections have been requested for the timber faced building in Midland Road. Timms, in West Street, was a little more complicated and it had been agreed at the October Grants Panel.

TS asked when work would start on the Diana Garden. KM answered that February was the target date. EH added that an opening event would be held. PW said it was best not to commit to an exact date yet. EH said picture boards would be placed around the garden while work was taking place showing the public what was being built. PW agreed it was an excellent idea – but insisted they go up at the start of construction and not, as was typical, shortly before the scheme was finished.

ZS said that herself, KM and RS were going to go through pre-tender documentation.

PM asked that if DCC decided not to award any further grant money, would it make any difference to the scheme. ZS replied that no DCC allocation had been built into the budget. PW asked for the figure of what was in the original £550,000.

ACTION: EH to circulate approved scheme costs.

5. ACTIVITIES UPDATE

KA updated on the appointment of a town crier for Swadlincote. KA also reported that the heritage trail for Swadlincote was at the point of shortlisting. She asked if board members wanted to be involved. The idea was something similar to a plaque trail around the Conservation Area in the town centre. A public consultation had been done on what should be included, throwing up 30 suggestions. However, there was hardly any money for it – with only £700 available for the plaques. A funding application was needed. It could be that the scheme would start with only a couple of plaques and then be expanded. The community wanted things celebrated which might not necessarily merit a plaque. The Rink Dance Hall, for example, often came up as a building where a lot of people had met their partner. In terms of heritage it didn't meet the requirements, but the feedback from people was that they wanted places and events commemorated as much as individuals. The scheme would be in a position to be launched by June 2017.

PW said that Shardlow had just invested in black and white plaques for the villages and that £700 wouldn't go very far.

DECISION: PW, PM & ST to be involved in plaques scheme.

KA asked if the board was happy for two budgets to be merged into one to help fund the plaques.

DECISION: The board agreed to merge two budgets.





PW asked for a very simple bullet point report on the situation with the plaques.

ACTION: KA to provide a brief report on plaque scheme.

EH asked the board if a monetary value could be put on decisions to be taken without board approval.

6. SWADLINCOTE ACTION PLAN

PW asked for an explanation of financial implications for the Diana Garden. EH replied that the proposal could go over budget. Tweaks could be made to meet costs, including on materials used. The scheme would be within budget, she said. PW said the line in the report had rung alarm bells. EH said extra funding could be sought if the scheme went over budget. TS said a hard copy of the costings would be useful. PW asked that if the project was over budget in January, how would the board make a decision regarding going out to tender ahead of the start date in February. If it went over budget, the board would have to convene to discuss it.

EH reported that the Medicine Man talk at the library had not been a success. KA stated that two events in the Delph went well, but the one at the library had no bookings.

KA reported that educational activities would take place in the Diana Garden. TS added that getting children into the garden would give them a sense of ownership of the location and would be very positive.

EH wanted more of a push on buildings maintenance in 2017, perhaps involving a celebrity using the cherry picker. KA suggested Des Coleman, the TV weather presenter from Derby.

EH said she had tried to get taster days for buildings maintenance delivered at Burton & South Derbyshire College, but hadn't got anywhere with them. GA asked if she had considered Calke Abbey as conservation days were held there.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

June 27th, 2017, 10am, in the Council Chamber, South Derbyshire District Council.

The meeting closed at 11.40am.

