



Aylesbury Garden Town Board Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8 June 2020

PRESENT: Cllr Bill Chapple (BC) (Chair), Cllr Steve Bowles (SB), Cllr Clive Harriss (CH), Cllr C. Paternoster (CaP), Ian Thompson (IT), Lisa Michelson (LM), Steve Hill (SH), Clare Manders (CM), Ulrika Diallo (UD), Gerry McIlwaine (GM), Ceri Perkins (CeP), Paul Brockway (PB), Richard Jeremy (RJ), Robert Majilton (RM) (NHS CCG), Amy Burbidge (AB) (Homes England), Neil Iredale (NI), (Homes England) and Sally Harrop (SaH), (Minutes).

APOLOGIES: Cllr Angela Macpherson (AM), Emily Catcheside (EC), Hilary Chipping (HC), Richard Harrington (RH) and Fionnuala Lennon (FL).

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Bill Chapple welcomed all to the meeting, this is the last AGT Board Meeting in its current status. Apologies were given as recorded above.

2. Minutes and Actions from Last Meeting

Members in attendance at the meeting agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24 February 2020.

3. Procedural Update

BC – What a year this has been, elections cancelled, COVID19, VALP with the inspectors. The Joint Shadow Executive (under special powers) became the Cabinet for Buckinghamshire Council, there are 17 Cabinet Members. Elections will take place in May 2021.

The SPD is being written but will not be completed until the VALP has been signed off, which may be the end of 2020. The Masterplan and the Governance Report have been to Informal Cabinet, go to Formal Cabinet on Tuesday 16 June 2020 and then go to Full Council as this is a major strategy.

This is the last meeting of the 'old AGT Board' and the last meeting I will chair. Cllr Steve Bowles is the Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration and AGT is part of his portfolio. SH – we are sad to hear you are standing down but look forward to working with Cllr Steve Bowles. SB - I have a 'hard act' to follow, I am pleased to have AGT as part of my portfolio and look forward to taking the Masterplan through Cabinet. AGT has an excellent Team. BC – are there any questions?

CP – I am a bit worried about the delay with VALP, what happens if there is another inspection? Will this hold up the AGT Project. BC – Not really, we have replicated VALP. SH

– the Masterplan is divorced from the SPD. Projects can move forward and the overall AGT Masterplan can continue. BC – this is an important question. CP – the delay with VALP has had an effect on Woodlands and Hampden Fields. I hope this delay improves transport strategy. The Hampden Fields Action Group may cause issues and hold things up. LM - We can invest and develop the Gardenway, Town Centre and Community Initiatives, these have no issues with VALP. The SPD will continue to be written we can wait until this causes a problem with the SPD. As long as the Masterplan is approved; we should be okay. BC – we have an active HIF fund of £170 million, what will happen if the VALP is not approved. IT – we should check that the HIF bids are for roads that are part of planning applications, we can then secure spending of the money. BC – Hampden Fields and Woodlands need the roads building before the houses, we should check this. IT – I can check on the latest timescales for planning applications. BC – does that answer your question? CP – yes, thank you.

4. Update on Masterplan and Revised Governance

SH – the Masterplan has made good progress through the decision-making process. The Masterplan, Governance Report and Community Engagement Report have all been put on the AGT website last Friday. The Masterplan and Governance Report documents go to Formal Cabinet on 16 June 2020 and Full Cabinet on 15 July 2020. This is a good place to be so we can move forward with the Masterplan. BC – the new governance says that relevant Cabinet Members can attend AGT Board as needed. BC – asked for any questions, there were none.

CM – the Masterplan has detailed comments to inform projects going forwards, additional words have been added about the governance and a section on climate change. We have also added a section on COVID19, the Masterplan addresses challenges resulting from COVID 19. BC – asked for any questions, there were none.

5. Projects Update and Priorities Report

UD shared her screen with the Projects presentation open.

UD – Introduced herself, I joined the AGT Team in January 2020 as Project Lead. We held a Gardenway workshop which generated many good ideas and took advice from Homes England on urban design. We pre-called 8 potential bidders and have now reduced these to 4, we hope to appoint in September/October 2020. This will give us a better idea of costs. We are setting up a working group and plan to have a charrette in February/March 2021. This is a community led project, we have looked at examples of Gardenways at home and abroad.

CM – the town centre is a key priority for residents and stakeholders. We are focusing on Areas 1 and 2 as highlighted in the Masterplan. For these areas we will prepare a detailed plan starting with a Socio & Economic Report to identify the effects of COVID19. The Masterplan highlights opportunities and delivery for the town centre. The Infrastructure SPD will be completed after the Masterplan and VALP have been signed off. The overall aim of the SPD is to provide a guide and framework delivery plan for the infrastructure. This looks at roads, schools, socio economic needs and how HIF can be delivered in a timely manner. UD – COVID19 response is led by Transport Strategy Team. They are looking at reallocating road space to walking and cycling, road closures to allow social distancing and school access via walking and cycling. They will compare the baseline to the new (after implementation of changes). A response was sent to the Government re funding last week and a more detailed response with costings is being prepared. On receipt of this Government Funding projects must be completed in 3-5 weeks.

CeP introduced herself as the lead for community projects. We have developed a Community Funding Pot and a Stakeholders/Partners Funding Pot. Responding to COVID19

we have set up a Facebook group Lets Get Growing. This is a network of people who already grow food or who want to grow food, they support and help each other. Lindengate is a therapy garden in Weston Turville, COVID19 means they have lost 80% of their funding. They offer a tranquil space for the NHS, key workers, the bereaved and those with mental health issues, at the end of their visit they take home a bag of fresh produce. We want to set aside a £10k to support other projects to get the 3rd sector people back on track. Hampden Hall Care Home has a Community Food Growing Project, other organisations e.g. help in this project. We are looking to see if we can offer any support. Last year we supported 9 projects; spending just under £25k from the Community Funding Pot.

GM – introduced herself as the Comms & Marketing Lead for AGT. I organised the campaigns for community and stakeholder engagement for the AGT Vision and the Masterplan that are now coming into the delivery stage. I have built a stakeholders list to ensure we target all the correct people during these projects. I have been looking at the new Buckinghamshire Council and updating the stakeholder list.

UD – are there any questions. AB – in the standards there is a chapter you would find useful Ulrika.

Cllr Clive Harriss has left the meeting, he will catch up with SB/BC/SH/CM outside of the meeting.

SB – I will do a regular blog on the AGT website.

BC – thanked UD, CM, CP and GM for all their hard work.



Project presentation
08.06.20 final - new c

6. Budget Report

SH – Over the last year the focus was on progressing the Masterplan, this took a lot of resource both staff and financially. We also started a number of projects. The budget for the next two years is focussed on project delivery, on the basis that the Masterplan will be approved at Formal Cabinet and Full Council. We are working on implementing the transformational Gardenway, working with the community and erasing inequalities. The new round of funding will help promote projects but will not fund implementation of projects. Other funding needs to be sourced including capital funding. BC- we are doing lots of work with ADEPT on Fairford Leys; but recognise the flux we have been in for the last 3 months due to COVID19.

BC – any questions, there were none.

7. Homes England Update

AB – Neil Iredale has joined us today; he will be your contact at Homes England as I move to a different role. I will be there to support Neil and AGT when needed. BC – welcome to the AGT Board Meeting. Thank you for the information so far; it has been useful to reflect on AGT's journey. I am leaving to do a Design Quality/Master Developer role on big sites. I have loved working with you all. NI – I have been with the Agency for 10 years supporting Garden Towns through planning. I will link you to the Garden Communities Programme, training and funding. I bring experience that I will share with you.

AB – there is no news on budgets yet, I have no timescale for this, Neil will let you know as soon as we know due to COVID19, Garden Town Projects will need double the time or be able to put in simple bids. For projects that have been in the programme for some time, capacity funding was 'seed' funding this may change as we move into implementation. AGT

is moving in the right direction, where AGT had capacity funding and this increased capacity AGT has clearly set this out for Homes England. Neil will keep you informed. We have 2 forums per year, the plan was for a forum in Watford in April 2020. Instead we are running a series of webinars throughout the year. Fionnuala Lennon is keen for ADEPT to be featured on the transport webinar (towards the end of this summer). UD – the webinars are really helpful. BC – thanked Amy and Neil for their update, this has been very helpful. AB – I will give Neil a full briefing on AGT.

Thank you; Amy for all your support over the last two and a half years. Neil, you will find a very enthusiastic Team in AGT. Five councils have become 1 unitary authority Buckinghamshire Council. COVID19 has been the number 1 priority. We are happy to share our ADEPT programme with you and others. AS retiring Chairman; I know that you will still have an enthusiastic Team. SB – I am really enthusiastic about AGT and look forward to working with Homes England. NI – thank you, I am looking forward to working with AGT. SH – I will catch up with NI outside of the AGT Board and give him an update on AGT. Is there confirmation that there is still a capacity fund? AB – there is a meeting at CLG; they are not moving away from Garden Towns/Garden Villages. We are happy to help Fionnuala Lennon with ADEPT.

8. AOB

BC – please feel free to raise any other business.

SH – we thank you for your Chairmanship, you have been brilliant. Thank you for all your help and support. CP – thank you and I wish good luck to you all in AGT.

BC – closing remarks as retiring Chairman – I could not have done any of this without all your help. Thank you all for your support. You have all played your part and I could not have done this without you all. You made my job easy.

Actions from the meeting held on 8 June 2020

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| For Hampden Fields and Woodlands check on the latest timescales for planning applications. | IT |
| Catch up with NI and give him an update on AGT | SH |