



## Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 1 March 2021

**Attendees:** Cllr Steve Bowles (SB) (Chair), Cllr Bill Chapple (BC), Cllr Carole Paternoster (CaP), Cllr Clive Harriss (CH), Cllr Warren Whyte (WW), Cllr Mark Winn (MW), Cllr Richard Lloyd (RL), Cllr John Watson (JW), Cllr Andrew Clark (AC), Richard Harrington (RH), Chris Williams (CW), Lisa Michelson (LM), Steve Hill (SH), Paul Brockway (PB), Clare Manders (CM), Ulrika Diallo (UD), Ceri Perkins (CeP), Dave Furze (DF), Rebecca Dedman (RD), Fionnuala Lennon (FL), Sian Carter (SC), Robert Majilton (RM) and Sally Harrop (SaH), (Minutes).

**Invited Guests:** Rob Butler MP (RB).

**Apologies:** Ian Thompson (IT), Keith Gray (KG), Gerry McIlwaine (GM), and Emily Catcheside (EC).

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies

SB – welcomed all to the meeting and welcomed Rob Butler MP.

RB – the Garden Town is a fantastic concept with the progress and ideas that Aylesbury needs, and a great example to other towns. The minister is really interested in the e-scooter trials and how this fits with Aylesbury Garden Town.

A roll call of members, in attendance, took place.

#### 2. Minutes & Actions of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed; and actions completed.

BC – asked for a meeting outside of this meeting to discuss the Gardenway.

#### 3. Aylesbury Town Centre – brief for Town Centre Delivery Plan

CM – presented on the contents of the draft brief and the timescales for selection and appointment of consultants.

##### Questions and Comments

MW – Asked if E-W Railway coming to Aylesbury? Improvements to the bus station are welcomed. Recognised that the town centre has significant potential, particularly cultural.

CaP – Questioned when the A41 might be moved and pointed out that E-W Railway is not just a link to Aylesbury, it is part of a bigger picture and a Govt announcement is awaited.

BC – congratulated the team on the progress made with the Garden town programme and now focussing on the town centre. The A41 dual carriageway cannot move until we have built the link road.

RB – Acknowledged that E-W Railway is essential for Aylesbury and he is seeking a debate in parliament, for which he would welcome AGT support.

AC – Encouraged consultation with Parishes as plans emerge. AC also encouraged that accessibility is taken into account right from the earliest stage.

RH – Welcomed the focus on the train station as an arrival point.

SB – Asked if there is liaison with Property.

SH confirmed that Property have been fully engaged.

FL – Asked what type of consultancy will be envisaged?

CM – we will use a multi-disciplinary consultant who has commercial insight, design and planning skills.

SH – we are familiar with 'briefs' undertaken elsewhere; this is key to getting the right consultants. Soft market testing will be undertaken in advance of issuing the brief.

CW – when you look at historic Aylesbury it is a series of Town Squares, there are opportunities to create another square at the train station. There was a previous scheme for the Bus Station/Railway Station hub, which there is merit in re-looking at. We should see Aylesbury Town Centre as a leisure and cultural facility and use Gala Bingo as a music venue. Some of the A41 ring road should be removed and used for 'greening'.

LM – Confirmed the commission is looking to be cohesive and comprehensive, also covering economic, tangible investment projects. Property colleagues are undertaking an audit of commercial offers that may be out there for Gala Bingo. We will consider all options and bring this back to the AGT Board for discussion.

#### **4. Review of AGT Programme 2020/21 and Priorities for 2021/2**

RD - shared her screen with the presentation.

SH - with the support of the AGT Team talked the meeting through the Review of AGT Programme 2020/21 and Priorities for 2021/2. There has been inclusion and involvement from a wide range of partners.

UD – talked the meeting through the Gardenway slides. There will be a presentation on the Gardenway at the Board Meeting to be held on 26 April 2021.

##### **Gardenway**

RB – I have also had representation about segregating walking and cycling. Where will e-scooters go; in one of the two lanes or will there be a third lane.

MW – I like the bit along Quarrendon, the consideration of flooding is good. When you have to cross a major road; how do you do this?

UD – with a controlled crossing, we are looking at other ideas too.

CH – it is important that we have 'short routes' along the Gardenway. Segregation, of use, is a must. I am happy with the idea of 'Friends of the Gardenway'.

AC – we all welcome the Gardenway and short routes. Parishes are concerned about stewardship along the route. Parishes must have some control over the stewardship as it passes through their area. There should not be one Management Company for the whole route. Segregation, of use, is a must, a physical segregation.

UD – re stewardship, we want to do community engagement, 'one size does not fit all'. The next phase will look at enhancing existing cycle routes. We are looking at the Gardenway for shorter journeys and local loops.

BC – we welcome a list of design principles; we should keep to these not design to a budget. All the route should be accessible all the year round. Crossing the railway needs to be looked at carefully, there should be a 'green bridge' over the railway. People will walk so far along the Gardenway and then back again, they will go as far as they are comfortable to. It is important the route is separate from the roads.

We will look at these issues at the next Board Meeting.

**Town Centre**

SH – we have already covered this in Agenda Item 3.

**AGT Framework and Infrastructure SPD**

SH – explained what the Framework and Infrastructure SPD is.

CM – talked the meeting through the slides. We will bring the Framework and Infrastructure SPD in 'draft format' to the Board Meeting on 26 April 2021. A Design Taskforce will support key sites that are coming forward.

**Community Project Work**

SH – introduced Community Project work.

CP – talked the meeting through the Community Projects slides.

**Sustainable Travel**

SH – talked the meeting through the sustainable travel slide. The e-scooter trial has been incredibly successful. We have an economic workstream that is in alignment with the ADEPT programme.

**Comms and Engagement**

SH – talked the meeting through this slide.

AC – I am involved in the detailed planning for AGT1. Parishes are looking very carefully at this; to have a poorly planned dual carriageway will affect current and new communities.

This means that as a whole Aylesbury Garden Town will not be delivering on the AGT Masterplan. This is a 'partnership' exercise. In this case the Government and the 'on the ground' AGT project will not be delivering what we want.

**5. AGT Budget Report**

SH - we are awaiting confirmation of the Capacity Funding. There is some underspend of the budget this mainly relate to the Town Centre. This commission will go into the 2021/22 budget. We have started to profile the budget in according to priorities and will bring this, in detail, to the next Board Meeting.

**6. Highlight Report, Risk Register and High Level Programme**

SH – I am happy to take any questions on these reports. The key risks are highlighted in red. There is a lot of work to be done re the design process, especially in AGT1. The Hampden Fields approval shows that we can achieve quality and work together.

**7. Action Log and Forward Plan**

SH – we have Purdah starting towards the end of this month, we can hold a Board Meeting in April 2021. This will be the last Board Meeting ahead of the elections.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

26 April 2021

SB – there is lots happening, lots to do but we have the Team to do this.

**9. AOB**

There was no AOB.

**Actions from the meeting held on 1 March 2021**


