



## Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 July 2020

**Attendees:** Cllr Bill Chapple (BC) (Chair), Cllr Steve Bowles (SB), Cllr Clive Harriss (CH), Cllr Warren Whyte (WW), Cllr Mark Winn (MW), Lisa Michelson (LM), Steve Hill (SH), Paul Brockway (PB), Clare Manders (CM), Ulrika Diallo (UD), Gerry McIlwaine (GM), Ceri Perkins (CeP), Dave Furze (DF), Cllr Richard Lloyd (RL), Keith Gray (KG), Cllr Simon Carter (SC), Anthea Cass (AnC), Cllr Sheila Cotton (SC), Cllr Andrew Clark (AC), Adam Poland-Goodyer (APG), Richard Harrington (RH), Chris Williams (CW), Robert Majilton (RM), Fionnuala Lennon (FL), Neil Iredale (NI) and Sally Harrop (SaH), (Minutes).

**Apologies:** Cllr Carole Paternoster (CaP), Ian Thompson (IT), Cllr Sue Severn (SS) and Noreen Shardlow (NS).

#### 1. Election of Chair

BC - Aylesbury Garden Town Team (AGT) have been working hard since Aylesbury was awarded Garden Town status in 2017. I would like to propose Cllr Steve Bowles as the Chair of Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board. RL – I second this. I declare Cabinet Member Cllr Steve Bowles as the Chair. SB – the AGT have worked hard to get us to where we are now. The Masterplan went through the Full Council, last night. I am looking forward to working with you all and moving the Masterplan and Vision 2050 forward. SB then talked the meeting through protocols to be observed.

#### 2. Election of Vice Chair

SB – I propose Cllr Bill Chapple as Vice Chair, this will give continuity and retain his experience of AGT. RH – I second this. Congratulations Bill you are Vice Chair. BC – I would like to say thank you for my farewell gift, a lovely plant and card; with so many lovely messages. SB – it was well deserved. All attendees introduced themselves.

#### 3. Welcome & Apologies

SB – welcomed all to this, the first meeting of the Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board. Apologies are as recorded above in these minutes.

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

SB – AGT Board held on 8 June 2020, there are no outstanding actions; the minutes were agreed.

## **5. Homes England Update**

FL – I am looking after the delivery of the Garden Town Programme and work with the Ministry of Housing. The Programme has been running for 5 years and currently has 49 projects (Garden Towns & Garden Villages). These are transformational projects; supporting and learning from each other. Capacity Funding of approximately £9 million has been announced for the delivery of Garden Towns/Village, this is about delivery and quality homes in places that people want to live in. The programme has cross party support. Large scale projects are not easy to deliver; we recognise the challenges particularly through local plans. Support is there to help work through these issues. There are great opportunities; AGT has done some great work around LiveLabs. Garden Towns and Villages are achieving planning milestones. Bicester has a focus on 'wellbeing and placemaking', this has helped them cope with COVID19. Many Garden Towns and Villages have been successful through the HIF process some in acquiring land. Bicester and Didcot are very mature in governance. If you need any support please come to us, I am interested in monitoring how AGT moves forward successfully. NI – I bring knowledge & experience and can signpost you to 'best practice'.

SB – thanked FL and NI for joining us today and for their update.

## **6. Governance Report**

SH – presented the Governance Report  
Questions

BC – there are a lot of new members in the Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board meeting, I like to hear comments so don't feel shy in coming forward. This is a new chapter for Aylesbury Garden Town. SB – I agree, this is a partnership. SH – at the next Board Meeting we will cover the Town Centre Action Plan in more detail. We, as a Team, value the Board challenging us.

AC – Speaking for Parish Councils we look forward to going forward. It would be helpful if we understand how we got here, if you could arrange a presentation of the Masterplan.

SH – I am happy to distribute the Masterplan and attend meetings/do a presentation as required.

## **7. Break**

A ten-minute break took place.

## **8. Programme Overview Report**

The AGT Team presented the Programme overview Report.

UD – introduced the presentation and presented slides 1 to 4 the Gardenway.

CM – presented slides 5 to 7 the Town Centre.

PB – presented slide 8 AGT Framework & Infrastructure SPD.

UD - presented slide 9 HIF & the link road network.

CP – presented slides 10 and 11 Community Partnership Projects.

GM – presented slide 12 Current Communications Focus.

Questions

MW – this is a really interesting project especially the Gardenway. What is the ongoing maintenance for the Garden way, Milton Keynes have a Gardenway Trust? UD – the Gardenway Commission will look at different models of maintenance.

How will parks be managed that the Council do not own? CM – we have set up a Technical Working Group with colleagues from Property, the Town Centre and landowners, we will start mapping this.

The dates in the slide on the link roads are not up to date. UD – we are working with HIF and will update slides.

Are we putting logos on Aylesbury Garden Town projects? GM - we do brand where possible on planters and we have a banner at our first food growing project. Place branding for the town is complex as many stakeholders have an investment in place. Managing place branding would be something that Buckinghamshire Council would manage in the future; as the regeneration of the town continues.

BC – the slide on the AGT Framework & Infrastructure SPD has a lot of acronyms on, we need to go through these and say what they are. The Gardenway pictures of elsewhere in Europe, we need to make sure the footpath is wide enough for use by families and there is demarcation between walking and cycling. UD – this will be confirmed through the design process, the minimum is 3 metres, but land availability may cause some restrictions.

The red line around the Station Quarter does not encompass any of Morrison's car park, we should have a corridor where people can set up cafes etc. to welcome visitors. CM – the initial piece of work, over the next 2 months, will define the red line, make sure the right area is covered.

AC – this is an observation; we are in mid COVID19 pandemic future society will be different. Will Aylesbury be a commuter station in the future, we need to keep 'in touch' with future trends. SB – I totally agree there has been a move to online shopping, this is why we have commissioned a socio and economic report. CM – this is part of the initial piece of work; to assess the lasting effects of COVID19 and to see what opportunities this presents. SH – these are challenging times we need to see habits and changes are promoted through sustainable change e.g. walking, cycling, shopping locally and the opportunity to carry on the momentum. We have been looking at short term funding from COVID19 and working with the public. Public transport is a challenge; how do we achieve this.

AC - The Gardenway tends to get into areas privately controlled, we should consider the toughness of sanctions we can give. The Gardenway in Stoke Mandeville and Weston Turville have not been included in any Planning Applications.

AC - The SPD detail is dealing with issues that should legally be dealt with by VALP.

MW – the Gardenway stewardship/management is critical. I am not looking for proposals for this now, I want to involve all partners including Buckinghamshire Council and Parish Councils. We should look at how spaces along the Gardenway can raise revenue e.g. cafes.

Work with planning colleagues, the Masterplan complies with the VALP some aspirations around the Gardenway may go into the next local plan. UD – we need to understand where the challenges are. RJ – how can we use COVID19 funding for empty units in the town

CP –we work in partnership, with the Town Council, on maintaining what we put into place e.g. planters. It would be useful to have a chat with you. RJ – the challenge is who looks after what, the cost dependencies between the Town and Parish Councils. SH – we need to work in partnership re empty units and use initiatives for better cross working. The socio and economic assessment will assess how deep the recession is for Aylesbury and

across which sectors. What are the future sectors that may come into Aylesbury? FL – community interventions are absolutely fantastic, how are you encouraging people to participate and what is the social impact. CP – DF has been working in this sector for a long time. DF – it is an important part of projects that we can show the impact they have had. At the moment people are wary of going out. We are keeping records; the longer-term involvement is about mental and physical health. CP – in the Care Home project we have interacted with Public Health, the home has a high percentage of dementia patients. SH – the community work is relatively new; we want to continue this work and add more projects. We are working with Gary Tucker (Taylor Wimpey) as to how you create a community in a new development.

WW – there are good opportunities to develop fantastic facilities and new ways of working. It is a great way to find a way for maintenance. Is the Gardenway an enhanced right of way or is it a highway? How we include biodiversity is really exciting, hedgerows, trees and water features. How we protect and maintain the Gardenway is important. In Milton Keynes new facilities use community buildings. Should the 'Welcome Pack' for new residents include a tree to plant. There are a number of school children and shoppers that use the railway line, link with East-West Rail. SB – elements of the Masterplan could be used across other towns in Buckinghamshire. UD – re biodiversity the brief says that it should be a haven for wildlife. The Gardenway is not a highway. SH – sustainable biodiversity and nature encourages cycling, walking and movement. We will require consultants on the next piece of work to go out into the community and see what residents want.

APG – the Gardenway is great. Will designers engage with Parish Councils? UD – absolutely, Parish Councils will be included.

APG - Using existing cycleways; are there plans to improve cyclability across Aylesbury? UD – we will not deal with the Gemstone network as part of this commission, but we have already looked at the current cycle infrastructure. SH – we have used some funding to look at improving the Gemstone network. This came out as part of the consultation. AC – looking at the Greenway it is fully inclusive, I am happy to discuss this.

CW – the National Environment Project has long been promoting a greenway, this is more ambitious not just a cycleway. The NEP would like to contribute to the scoping meeting. Link the green ring in the south to Wendover woods, giving more opportunities for residents. The Town Centre, this is a good start, there are a series of squares and there is a missed opportunity of linking these by green routes and more squares. Each square could have a specific function with greening, new plants, vertical farming and greening alleyways. SB – all Councillors in Wendover, Halton and Stoke Mandeville agree the need to link into AGT, from Wendover you already can. We see AGT as a linear park not a tarmac route for cyclists. This must be fully inclusive and respect and improve the environment. CW – looking at the area between Aylesbury, Wendover and Weston Turville, this has the largest area in the country of black poplars. UD – we would absolutely link with the NEP. CP – there is a piece of work being done for Market Square and Kingsbury Square for improvements. Aylesbury Garden Town are part of this project. CW – the virus has changed the landscape completely. If you want to be a destination place the focus should be on the environment. SB – we are looking at living walls in restricted areas. AC – we are looking at biodiversity for our local plan, opening up of the canal. CW – enhance planting along hedgerows etc.

NI – with reference to the Community Funding Pot; where did the funding come from. The Gardenway linear park has created quite an impression with me. CP - we allocated part of the Capacity Funding to Community Funding. When allocating Community Grants; they

have to measure the benefits and improvements. We would like to roll out Community Funding again.

**9. Future Meeting Dates**

28 September 2020 at 14:00

30 November 2020 at 14:00

1 March 2021 at 14:00

**10. AOB**

SB – I did an interview with BBC South yesterday this included Aylesbury Garden Town and an interview with Mix96 this morning on Aylesbury Garden Town.

SB – thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

**Actions from the meeting held on 16 July 2020**

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| 1. | Attend Parish Council meetings/present the Masterplan as required.   | SH |
| 2. | Send a link to the Statement of Community Engagement to the Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board.   | SH |
| 3. | Send out presentation of Programme Overview Report to the Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board.   | SH |
| 4. | The slide on the AGT Framework & Infrastructure SPD has a lot of acronyms on, compile a table of acronyms for the Aylesbury Garden Town Strategic Oversight Board. | SH |