

Millom Town Fund

Minutes of Board Meeting held on Friday 22 January 2021 at 10:00am

1. Meeting Protocol

All participants were reminded of the virtual meeting protocol, to remain on mute unless speaking and to use the 'hand up' function to indicate a wish to speak. Board members were also requested to think before committing anything to social media as it was important to ensure that a consistent message was put forward and the advisors were here to help with that.

2. Attendances and Apologies

- Robert Morris-Eyton (Chair) – Becks Construction Ltd
- Cllr Felicity Wilson (Deputy Chair) – Copeland Borough Council
- Leanne Bolger – Parliamentary Assistant - Deputy for Trudy Harrison MP
- Craig Ivison – Cumbria LEP
- Jenny Brumby – Around the Combe
- Marion Giles – Millom Recreation Centre
- Cllr Keith Hitchen – Cumbria County Council
- Cllr Bob Kelly - Millom Town Council
- Pauline Preston – Morecambe Bay Health Trust
- David Savage – South Copeland Partnership
- Gavin Towers – As if by Magic Ltd
- Elliot Burrow - Youth representative
- Matt Savidge – Millom School
- Joe Martin - BEC.

Also Present

- Gillian Elliot – Cumbria County Council
- Martin Allman - Cumbria County Council
- Lauren Newby - Hatch Associates
- Mark Foster - Optimised Environments (OPEN)
- Naomi Hollows - BEIS
- Lorraine Smyth – ACT
- Mike Starkie – Elected Mayor – Copeland BC
- Pat Graham - Copeland BC
- Sarah Mitchell – Copeland BC
- Diane Ward – Copeland BC
- Councillor Doug Wilson
- Marc Watterson – Hatch Associates
- Sangeetha Banner – Optimised Environments (OPEN)
- Stephanie Shaw – Copeland BC

- Clive Willoughby– Copeland BC
- Andrew Clarke – Copeland BC

Apologies:

Apologies for Absence were received from Keely Woodburn.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held 21st December 2020

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21st December 2020 were considered and agreed.

4. Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items

Jenny Brumby declared an interest due to being the Copeland BC Shop Local Co-ordinator and trustee of Around the Combe Health and Wellbeing Alliance.

Marion Giles declared an interest due to being Director, Trustee and Chair of Millom Recreation Centre

Councillor Fee Wilson declared an interest due to being President of the Discovery Centre, member of Hodbarrow Lighthouse Committee and patron of the Nicholson Society.

Gavin Towers declared an interest due to being Director of As if by Magic.

Joe Martin declared an interest due to being Head of Energy and Funding at BEC.

5. Town Investment Plan

Lauren Newby provided the Board with a recap on the journey taken by the project over the last five months.

The work undertaken had ensured compliance with the intention of the fund and had resulted in a robust, compelling and an investable bid.

It was stressed that community support was vital and therefore the bid reflected local priorities.

Pat Graham then paid tribute to the Board and the work that had already taken place. The link between Millom residents and tourism was stressed and how these linked in to the themes set in the Government's criteria.

Pat felt this was a strong and compliant bid and that the Millom community had the capability to deliver.

Mayor Mike Starkie thanked all those who had taken part in producing this bid, particularly the Chair. The Mayor emphasised that this was a once in a lifetime opportunity and therefore asked that everything that the Board wanted to see, was reflected and captured in the bid.

Mark Foster (OPEN) then presented to the Board, the latest visual version of the Town Investment Plan document and explained the colour coding, use of photographs and text. He also explained that some of the content was still work in progress and that this would be fine tuned before submission.

Views of the Board members on the Town Investment Plan presentation were then invited.

Gavin Towers stated that this was an exciting and robust document that conveyed the feeling and beauty of the area together with the aspirations of those involved.

Leanne Bolger liked the idea of including a photo of the Board members, which conveyed the idea of the project being locally owned by local people. Leanne would however, like to see more photos included of dilapidated buildings.

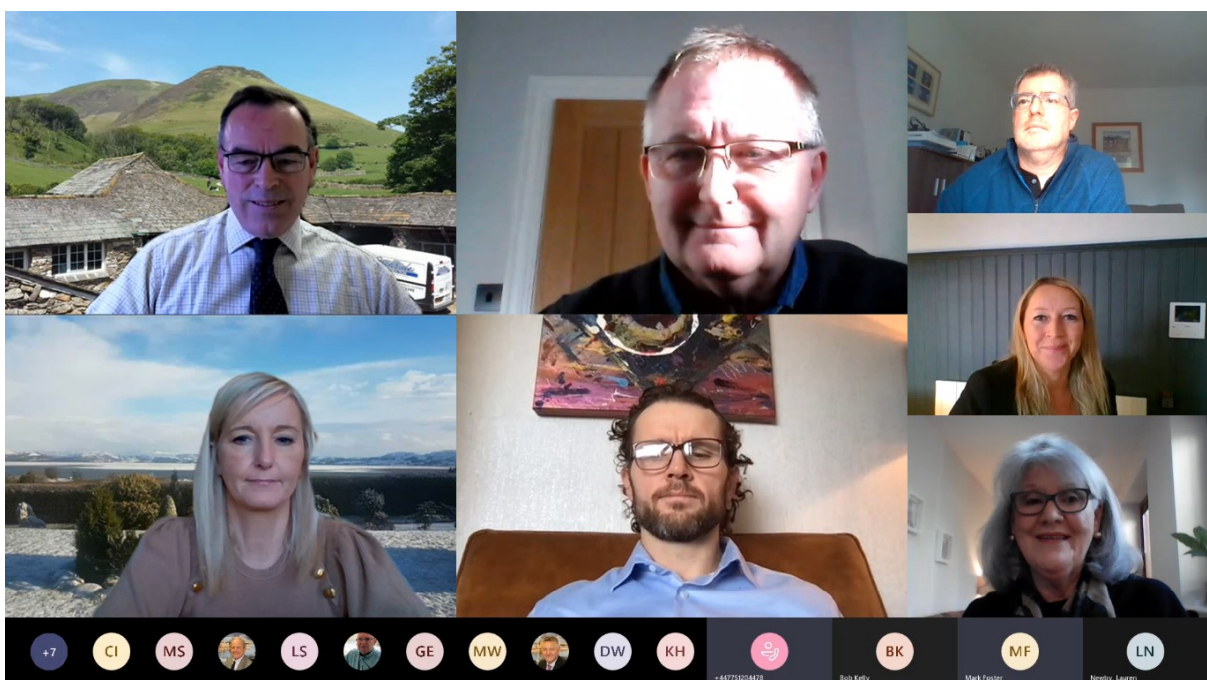
Keith Hitchen referred to The Iron Line and asked if the disabled could be included in the visual and was advised that the disabled access would be included in the symbols used.

Marc Watterson stated that the graphics worked well and like the large photos. He suggested that as the photos had been supplied by local people, this should be acknowledged.

Cllr Bob Kelly was impressed by the positive image and asked if enough was included of the Deprivation and Isolation of Millom.

The Chair concluded the comments by stating that he was delighted with the document.

At this point, a screenshot of the Board Members present was taken.



Lauren Newby then provided the Board with an updated Funding Profile. This showed that the Towns Fund ask against each project was as follows:

- The Iron Line - £7.91m
- Reactivating Heritage Buildings - £4.12m
- Activating Community Health - £6.61m
- Connected Millom and Haverigg - £5.37m

This provides a total of £24.01m

The Chair confirmed he was comfortable with the figures and that the overall figure was within the £25m maximum.

The Board were asked if they had any further questions.

Pauline Preston asked if enough had been included regarding Covid and Long Covid, which was likely to be with us for some time. It was noted that the projects, particularly the Iron Line, would help greatly with Covid recovery.

Jenny Brumby questioned the population figure used and was advised that the figure used had to include the Millom and Haverigg parish population.

It was agreed to look at the various figures available and to use the best fit.

Jenny also suggested that although the distances are shown to Whitehaven and Barrow, it would be helpful to also include the travel times.

The Concept Leads confirmed they were comfortable with their sections of the bid and totally supported it.

In conclusion, Lauren asked that any final comments, tweaks, etc, be forwarded to her by noon on Monday 25 January 2021.

A vote was then taken and it was,

RESOLVED: – unanimously that the Millom Town Investment Plan be agreed, with the final sign off, including any minor amendments, being delegated to the Chair.

6. Next Steps

It was explained to Board members that the next step in the project would be communication. A joint statement will be published by Copeland Borough Council and the Millom Town Deal Board which will outline the Towns Deal Plan. More details will be provided to the public following feedback from the government to the plan.

RESOLVED: – That the next steps in the project will be a communications statement.

7. Chair's Closing remarks

The Chair summed up by stating that this is a very exciting plan and that he looked forward to receiving the feedback from Government.

He continued to thank everyone for a fantastic team effort, by the Board Members, Advisers, the Copeland team and Hatch.

In particular, the Chair thanked Lauren and Diane for guiding him and the Board through the process.

Mayor Mike Starkie thanked the Chair for his contribution, commitment and dedication to the project.

Councillor Doug Wilson thanked the Board and all those involved in putting together a very professional plan and presentation.

Meeting closed at 11:30 am