

## STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Recreation & Environment Committee of the Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stocksbridge on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

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PRESENT:- Cllr. R Crowther (Chair), Cllrs. M Whittaker, S Abrahams, K Davis, J Staniforth  
IN ATTENDANCE: A Holmes, Communications Officer, SCC (Stocksbridge Towns Fund) – Item 4  
G Silverwood, Town Fund Board – Item 4

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1. Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence  
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. J Grocutt, A Law, J Wood.
2. Exclusion of Press and Public  
There were no items for exclusion of press and public.
3. Declarations of Interest  
Cllr R Crowther declared an interest in part of item 4, being on the board of Governors, High School.
4. Towns Fund  
The Chairman welcomed A Holmes and G Silverwood to the meeting who had requested an invitation in order to update members on the Towns Fund projects.  
AH noted that a planning application had now been submitted to SCC for the Stocksbridge 519 project, being the library/community/commercial building and the public realm surrounding the building.  
AH informed that the building will house a new library, office space for business to rent, a community space, space for a café operator, purpose-built classrooms to deliver adult education and skills, space for pop up banking services and other local community facilities. Cllr SA expressed concern that the community space would be in direct competition with the many community facilities the area already has. It was noted that the space is not a comparison for the larger venues/halls in the area.  
In response to questions raised it was noted that the building will initially be owned by Sheffield City Council, but the intention is that this will transfer to community ownership with a structure yet to be determined.  
A memo of understanding has been entered into with Northern College with respect to post 16 education.  
Phase 1 of the project is for the new building (Stocksbridge 519), Manchester Road Placemaking, which will comprise of a new town square and parking, and a hopper bus service. The Towns Fund board would like to explore with the Town Council the possibility of developing a market within the square.  
The building will incorporate a number of green issues such as solar panels, rain gardens and a blue roof (to hold and reuse excess water).  
Cllr SA noted some questions/concerns she had received from members of the public/local groups and had passed these to AH prior to the meeting for her information.  
With regard to the hopper bus, there has been some delay over the concessionary fares funding from the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority. This appears to have now been resolved and it is hoped that the project can progress further, with tenders for the service being sought. The bus will travel around the area, timing to link with other bus services along Manchester Road.  
AH will be talking to local businesses over the next week or so with regard to parking in the town.  
Phase 2 of the project will incorporate a 3G pitch facility, location yet to be finalised; Shop front refurbishment along the precinct; tracks & activities project. These will commence once certainty of phase 1 funding has been established.  
The Little Don project and the Hydrotherapy pool will now no longer be going ahead.  
AH also informed of the work that has commenced on the Oxley Park improvement project and the sports grants to Stocksbridge Park Steels and Stocksbridge Rugby Club to improve facilities for both clubs. AH noted the various options for communication regarding the Towns Fund projects.  
The Chairman thanked AH & GS for their attendance and informative presentation.

There being no further business the meeting closed.