

# **Warminster Camus Shadow Operations Board**

## **Warminster Civic Centre**

**Friday 5 June 9.30am to 11.30am**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Present:** Cllr. Keith Humphries (Acting Chair), Sue Fraser, Len Turner, Sarah Jeffries, Heather Abernethie, Tony Nicklin; Jacqui Abbott; Cllr. Fleur De Rhe-Philippe; Tim Martienssen; Phil Morgan

Apologies: Jim Landry, Len Turner, Chris Bell

#### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Keith welcomed all to the meeting.

#### **2. Notes of last meeting and matters arising**

All agreed the notes were accurate. Matters arising were on the agenda.

#### **3. Chair's announcement**

Keith Humphries informed the group that there had been negative publicity in the town relating to the Neighbourhood Plan which was linked to the campus in some areas. This had included demolition of the library, closure of the hospital and a link road via The Avenue. Keith wanted to make it clear that nothing had been agreed so far and the plan was simply presenting possible options & opportunities.

Keith also stated that the hospital was currently owned by Great Western Hospital (GWH) and used for the delivery of community services and community beds. Therefore there was no prospect of the hospital closing.

The financing of the campus project would largely be achieved through regeneration of the town centre and possibly other areas. Jacqui said that she would work with the group to get a positive message out regarding Warminster campus which was fundamentally part of wider regeneration project. This project presented many opportunities and all options would be considered.

Keith said that there were important conversations to be had with the police and health services. The Police and Crime Commissioner's office would very much like to discuss the campus proposals with partners. It was unlikely that the Fire and Rescue service would

move from its current location. Information would also be required regarding Kingdown School and the Leisure Centre.

The meeting heard from Tim Martienssen that he would be talking to Julie Anderson-Hill regarding the strategic discussions.

**Action: Tim Martienssen to talk to Julie Anderson-Hill in first instance  
Jacqui and Heather to work on campus messages for the public**

#### **4. Regeneration / Feasibility Study**

Tim Martienssen presented his ideas regarding possible regeneration of the central area. The car parking review and the traffic survey would be included in the feasibility study. He has also had very positive discussions with Five Rivers retail and a leading supermarket chain.

Tim informed the group that he would be working to secure additional resources to undertake further development of this work. He would be able to appoint urban designers to look at the central area and would be commissioning a feasibility study. Tim had sent an initial brief regarding the study for the group to comment upon.

**Action: Jacqui to circulate initial brief**

Tim informed the group that it was important to focus on the regeneration and redevelopment of Warminster of which the campus was only part. There were possibilities for re-configuration and re-design. The Neighbourhood Plan and Town Plan were within this overall vision as was the campus and we would be looking at needs for up to 25 years.

It was important to consider traffic and parking in the overall plans. The next steps would be to agree the brief for the consultant and appoint them to draw up options.

**Action: All to feedback comments on brief to Jacqui**

#### **5. Strategic Partners Update**

Paul had sent his apologies. The group agreed that Tim's meeting with Julie Anderson-Hill would look at the conversations that were required with potential partners as Keith had indicated above. These included the police and health.

**Action: Tim Martienssen**

#### **6. Consultation Next Steps**

Phil Morgan said that he would be pleased to assist with any consultation exercise but that it would be better to refine the "wish list" in advance of further consultation. Consultation would help to confirm the priorities of the town and villages for services and amenities. It was important to avoid raising expectations.

The group agreed that looking at needs would help to concentrate on what already exists and be creative in thinking about the opportunities.

The group discussed the issue of what is actually needed in Warminster as opposed to a "wish list".

The group agreed that an improved leisure offer was an important need in Warminster as this was not adequately met at the moment and the leisure centre was not up to standard and oversubscribed. The pool was also overcapacity.

Keith emphasised that the initial vision remained in that a campus with sports and leisure opportunities alongside health and wellbeing activities and services would be ideal. Sports and leisure opportunities could be provided as a business by the private sector as there was a definite need in Warminster.

The group has looked at leisure centre and pool activity previously.

**Action: Jacqui to locate statistics**

## **7. Local Community Engagement**

It was agreed that the group along with the Area Board needed to get the message out regarding the regeneration and redevelopment opportunities in the town and how the campus would fit within this. Jacqui suggested working with Heather in the first instance to ensure synergy with the Neighbourhood Plan. The group also agreed that the neighbourhood plan ought to be less concrete in its plans which were not yet finalised.

A major selling point for Warminster was that it was the largest town in this part of the county and was the Market Town for the Wylve Valley.

**Action: Jacqui to work with Heather to develop & communicate regeneration & campus message**

## **8. Priorities and Next Steps:**

- Tim to acquire the resources he needs
- Jacqui to work on regeneration & campus message, communication & engagement
- Jacqui and Heather to look at needs analysis
- Jacqui to source the figures for leisure, swimming pool and library usage already acquired.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 10am to 12 noon Warminster Civic Centre**