

Re-imagining Newhaven Board

Minutes of Board Meeting

Tuesday 16th July 2024

10am to 11am via MS Teams

Attendees:

Chair

Chris Ketley (CK)

Lewes District Council

- Christine Robinson (CR)
- Rob Cottrill (RC)

Members of Houses of Parliament and Lords

- Baroness Janet Whittaker (JW)
- James MacCleary (JM)

East Sussex County Council

- James Harris (JH)

Community, Education and Business Representatives

- Alison Turner (AT)
- Annie Lorys (AL)
- Penny Shimmin (PS)

Newhaven Town Council

- Ken Dry (KD)

Newhaven Enterprise Zone

- Corinne Day (CD)

Guest Speakers

- Marc Stephens, LDC (MS)
- Joe Hill, Towner Eastbourne (JH)

Secretariat (provided by Lewes District Council)

- Bryn Mabey (BM)
- Dan Fairbrother (DF)
- Anna Salmon (AS)

Apologies

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| ○ Zoe Nicholson | ○ Sarah Burge |
| ○ Duncan Kerr | ○ Emma Smith |
| ○ Andy Hill | ○ Graham Amy |
| ○ Lisa Rawlinson | ○ Mike Shorer |
| ○ Ian Fitzpatrick | ○ Ben Anderson |
| ○ Dick Shone | ○ Nigel Stewardson |
| ○ Rebecca Conroy | ○ Dave Collins-Williams |

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| 1 | <p>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>CK welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair expressed thanks to Maria Caulfield for her representation on the Board and welcomed James MacCleary as the new MP for Lewes.</p> <p>The Chair announced the Look Again Supergraphics Festival has been an unprecedented success, changing perceptions of the town and creating a real buzz. Overwhelming positive feedback has been received during the festival, including people's interactions in the town centre. Residents and visitors are currently providing feedback to assist with evaluation: https://www.lookagainnewhaven.co.uk/feedback</p> <p>Abyss Brewing have been at The Sidings since June 1st, the day of the festival launch. The launch attracted around 1,500. All festival events have been well attended and have helped test new uses and further public engagement. Abyss will remain until at least the end of August. The festival has also coincided with Mamoosh' new tenancy within the Marine Workshops – it's been a very exciting few months for Newhaven.</p> <p>The events programme has been extended through July to keep the momentum going, and to help support use of The Sidings over the summer: https://www.lookagainnewhaven.co.uk/events</p> <p>Video showcasing the Supergraphics Festival: https://www.lookagainnewhaven.co.uk/</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes of Last Meeting held on 21.05.24</p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>No declarations were declared.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Newhaven Square update</p> <p>The Newhaven Square proposal and the scheme was approved by LDC Cabinet this month.</p> <p>MS described the location of each of the properties within the Newhaven Square scheme.</p> <p>Planning approval has been given to the upgraded car park lighting scheme on the top deck, works are now under way and the majority of the top deck will reopen in September.</p> <p>MS shared scheme designs and detailed plans from the planning application, especially the changes to 10 Newhaven Square (former Co-op) to create flat roof sections for additional light wells for natural lighting into the building. This will allow all the treatments to have natural light and opening windows. A new central entrance will be formed to the property.</p> <p>Alongside the GP surgery, there will be treatment and consulting rooms and new primary care network. Shared spaces can be used by other GP practices and healthcare organisations e.g. physio, dieticians, providing additional healthcare services in Newhaven.</p> <p>Upgrades to Seahaven will include a new large gym, two new studio spaces and an Innerva suite, which provides rehabilitation for people that have said</p> | |

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| | <p>had an accident or a stroke and need supported equipment to support exercise.</p> <p>The Creative Hub on the lower ground floor has been designed as open space, once expressions of interests have been received from the market, the space could be broken down into either smaller studio spaces or smaller collaborative working spaces.</p> <p>Green walls have been included on the planning application for the car park and the Seahaven side of 10 Newhaven Square, adding biodiversity and softening what is currently large expanses of brick.</p> <p>CK asked whether the hoardings will be used to publicise plans and timeline for the scheme? MS explained they are currently working with the contractor to agree where the Look Again paste-ups can be retained, some sections will be used by the contractor for site security and information, as well as information about the scheme and QR codes linking to the Council's website to provide regular updates.</p> <p>PS asked about the ring road air pollution and if there is anything this scheme can help address? MS explained that from a planning perspective, there were not any specific requirements in terms of the number of residents travelling to the site. The new green walling will contribute towards absorbing pollutants. MS is open to advice from Board members on additional measures for consideration.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Eastside Recreation Ground update</p> <p>KD announced this project completed on 21st June 2024.</p> <p>The Eastside Recreation ground was devolved to Newhaven Town Council in 2019.</p> <p>The project originally set out to reinstate the allotments, demolish the existing sports changing facility, renovate the existing playground and provide a community building.</p> <p>Initial consultation was carried out in 2019, based on the feedback, a masterplan for the site was designed. Part of the master plan included relocating the playground and providing a small car park, but unfortunately, as time went on, there was an increased amount of resistance from local residents.</p> <p>The quotes for the entire master plan exceeded the amount of grant funding available, therefore a phased approach was initiated.</p> <p>The first phase focused on delivering new allotments and a hard standing footpath from the entrance, over the existing public right of way to the allotments.</p> <p>The old allotments were very ramshackle consisting of various temporary structures and different crop types. The project encompassed demolishing and removing everything from the site, which included doors, windows, broken sheds and greenhouses. New infrastructure has now been put in place e.g. water supply pipes, water troughs, sheds, hard standings and fencing for each allotment.</p> <p>The project included ecological challenges, especially the sightings of Great Crested Newts which required an ecological consultant to be on site. The project also experienced delays due to weather and some building materials supply issues.</p> | |

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| | <p>It is still the intention of the Town Council to refurbish the playground in its existing location in a future phase.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Marine Workshops programme of creative activities</p> <p>JH, Director of Towner Eastbourne and Chair of Creative Newhaven Group presented an update to the Board on the BN9 creative programme which supports creative activity in and around Newhaven, supports the gallery on the High Street and the Edgeland Modern exhibition on the top floor of Marine Workshops which tested out the gallery space.</p> <p>The Sidings has a programme of activities for every Friday night and Saturdays throughout the day. Friday nights are focused on music, cabaret and possibly a Ceilidh. On Saturdays there are activities for families e.g. workshops, games, circus training programme and a pirate day.</p> <p>A mail drop leaflet detailing the events and activities taking place in the Sidings and Marine Workshops will shortly reach every property in Newhaven.</p> <p>The top floor of the Marine Workshops is currently being redesigned with temporary walling to create gallery and exhibition spaces, and will be supported by a programme of activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newhaven photography • Newhaven Open Call • Hospitable Environment with their knowledge exchange, in partnership with University of Sussex, looking at design for town centres and cities • Newhaven Art Club really active • The Sussex Contemporary, which was previously housed at the i360 in Brighton. • Makers fairs • And more exhibitions as well. <p>This huge programme of activities will enable the spaces to be tested to see what works well.</p> <p>There are also plans to develop a creative collaboration with Vietnam and to commission a major Vietnamese artist to develop a new exhibition of work at the Marine Workshops for 2025.</p> <p>The creative sector, nationally, contributes more than the aeronautical and the automotive industries to the economy. It is a huge growth area and provides an opportunity for Newhaven. Hundreds of creative businesses can no longer afford to site their business in London and Brighton and even Lewes. Towner Eastbourne will be working closely with LDC and the Newhaven Enterprise Zone to carry out feasibility on creative workspaces across Newhaven.</p> <p>Newhaven is already being perceived as an example of good practice of where the community has helped shape the programme.</p> <p>Now that the evaluation data strongly evidences the impact, the next step is to seek Arts Council investment in Newhaven.</p> <p>JM offered to campaign for future investment in Newhaven.</p> <p>The previous government had an initiative called Creative Opportunity Zones, which are investment vehicles for creative industries. JH asked JM to discuss how to get a more national focus on building a Creative Opportunity Zone in Newhaven, Eastbourne and possibly Bexhill.</p> <p>JW questioned if the programme of activities will be advertised beyond Newhaven? JH confirmed that the programme will be promoted through all of Towner's communication channels. BM also confirmed that the Council will promote the programme.</p> | <p>JH to email JM about the Creative Opportunity Zone</p> |

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| | <p>JW asked if the Hillcrest Community Centre has been involved in the plans? JH explained that the Creative Newhaven Group usually meets at the Hillcrest and has been used to host talks. JH agreed to reconnect with the Board and consider inclusion in the feasibility work.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Re-imagining Newhaven Programme updates</p> <p>AS referred to the Programme Dashboard that was circulated with the agenda. Due to time pressures in the meeting, AS will circulate the project update slides with the minutes of the meeting.</p> <p>AS provided a summary of the Round 1 Business Grants Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 businesses received £204,536 of grant funding • Grants ranged from £1,300 to £15,000. • A list of all the grant recipients was presented to the Board • Underspend from Round 1 due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 businesses not claiming ○ Some businesses part-claiming (they did not end up purchasing all the items) ○ 1 business paying the grant back to LDC. <p>AS referred to the Round 2 Finance Briefing Paper circulated to the Board with the agenda which proposed a budget of £250,000 which would include the ESCC management and administration fee and LDC legal fees. The budget for Round 2 would consist of the Round 1 underspend and the Ferry Terminal inflation allocation which NPP have confirmed they will not be claiming.</p> <p>The Board unanimously approved the budget for delivering Round 2 of the Newhaven Business Grants Programme.</p> | <p>AS to circulate the project update slides with the minutes.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Newhaven Enterprise Zone (NEZ)</p> <p>CD explained the marine sector is one of the core components of the NEZ business plan is to enhance and test out. The Marine report was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. The report sets out an evidence base and identifies opportunities and an action plan for the next 18 to 24 months with a post that will support it.</p> <p>The Town Centre Revitalisation Fund is the latest grant funding programme to be delivered by the NEZ. The Design Guide for the town centre will support applicants to assess their shop fronts, what needs to be done in terms of conservation and also the design aesthetic.</p> <p>JW referred to the Marine report and asked for the focus on skills to be integrated into the other programmes e.g. into the theme of green technology. Also, the inclusion of the road network as well as a focus for transport connectivity. JW expressed that Newhaven has three assets, passengers, fishing and freight and requested a focus on the synergies between them.</p> | <p>JW requested for the inclusion of skills throughout the themes and road network to be a focus within the transport connectivity section of the Marine report. Also, a focus on the synergies between passengers, fishing and freight to be included.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Government Strategic Update</p> <p>An update will be circulated via email.</p> | <p>ES to send MHCLG strategic update to AS for circulation.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>None.</p> | |

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| | Date of next meeting: 30 th September 11am -12pm on MS Teams. | |
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