

STRONGER HEREFORD

Notes from a meeting of the STRONGER HEREFORD – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG) MEETING held on 30 April 2025 from 8.30 – 9.30 am via MS Teams

Members:	Frank Myers MBE	FM	Chair
	Abigail Appleton MBE	AA	Principal, Hereford College of Arts (and Chair of Hereford Stronger Towns Board)
	James Newby	JNe	President & CEO, NMITE
	Paul Stevens	PS	Hereford City BID
Attendees:	Roger Allonby	RA	Herefordshire Council
	Ivan Annibal	IA	Rose Regeneration (RR)
	Christian Dangerfield	CD	Rose Regeneration (RR)
	Judith Faux	JF	STF Board Member
	Rachael Sanders	RS	Herefordshire Council
Guests:	Ivan Powell	IP	Wyeside Project (part)
	Cliff Woollard	CW	Encore Project (part)
Notetaker:	Jan Bailey	JB	

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	New Declarations of Interest None	
2.	Notes of Previous Meeting The notes of the PDG meetings held on 9 April and 23 April will be considered at the next PDG meeting.	
3.	Wyeside Project	
3.1	The Chair welcomed IP to the meeting.	
3.2	IP referred to a document that had been circulated to members in advance of today's meeting. This outlines the current status of the project and includes anticipated financial costs in relation both to the installation of the crane (including path diversions to accommodate the crane) and additional works relating to separate footpath improvements. He reminded PDG that planning had initially been refused to instal the crane but a revised resubmission was planned.	
3.2	IP outlined his understanding of the current budget available to the project, as supplied by RS. This showed the amount agreed by Board to wind down the project, including provision to complete the crane installation and associated footpath deviation.	
3.3	The Chair confirmed that a decision had been taken by Board and it was agreed with the previous project lead to agree a sum to wind down this project. This sum was agreed to complete outstanding works however this did not include any provision for the additional footpath improvements proposed by IP.	

3.4	AA asked for clarification regarding the need for a rerouted footpath if planning permission for the crane was not agreed. IP stated that rerouting would not be needed if the crane wasn't installed but a complication is that the revised route had already been agreed and was now designated as the new legal route of the path. He agreed to seek clarification on the legal implications if planning for the crane is not approved and the rerouting is no longer required.	IP
3.5	The Chair and PS asked for clarification regarding electrical connections at the site. IP confirmed that two points had already been installed and operating (rugby club) and another was in progress and budgeted for (rowing club). Three further electrical points on Bishop's Meadow were decided against due to excessive costs.	
3.6	The Chair re-stated the current position: that the Board had agreed the closedown of this project and the principle of an associated final budget. The outstanding funds that had previously been allocated to this project have been returned to the overall programme budget. At a later date all projects would be invited to apply to any funds remaining, which could include the Wyeseid footpath improvements proposal.	
3.7	It was agreed that Wyeseid would proceed with its planning application for the crane and, if approved, would progress to its installation and creation of the associated footpath rerouting. These costs will be met by the agreed closedown budget. The other footpath improvements would not be approved but could be subject to further discussion by Board. IP then left the meeting	
4.	Encore Project	
4.1	The Chair welcomed CW to the meeting.	
4.2	CW provided a verbal update on progress by this project to find new premises, following the decision not to proceed with the purchase of St Nicholas Church. He said that he had viewed several premises, with the help of Herefordshire Council officers, and had identified two premises that may be suitable. He said that he and the Encore Board's preference is to purchase rather than lease their future property.	
4.3	The Chair raised a point for clarification. As the budget provided by #StrongerHereford is for capital expenditure only, would it be possible to use this for property refurbishment rather than purchase. IA said that he thought this would be the case and members agreed that a precedent already existed in previous plans by the project to lease premises at Maylord Orchards and Hereford Town Hall. This was possibly a moot point in any case as the project's clear preference is to purchase rather than lease a premises.	
4.4	CW advised that the Encore Board had recently been strengthened by the appointment of two new trustees and another youth trustee, who is about to start. CW then left the meeting.	
5.	Legacy Fund	RR
5.1	The Chair referred to discussions at last week's PDG regarding legacy for the #StrongerHereford project, in particular to highlight all that the programme had achieved, outcomes and to ensure continued public engagement with the projects.	
5.2	IA advised that he had held discussions with government officers who had indicated that STF funds could not be used for revenue costs.	
5.3	It was agreed that RR will develop a paper for discussion at May Board. This will outline a potential process and principles around expenditure of all monies yet to be spent on projects. A draft will be brought to the next PDG meeting.	

6.	Revision of Rose's Responsibilities and Revised Payment Mechanisms	
6.1	These items were deferred to the next PDG, pending further discussions with RS.	
7.	Any Other Business None	
8.	Date of Next Meetings PDG – Wednesday 14 May 23 April, 8.30am via Teams. Board – Friday 16 May, 8.30-10am (hybrid and in person at Hereford College of Arts, College Road campus).	