

# STRONGER HEREFORD

## Notes from a meeting of the STRONGER HEREFORD – PROJECT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (PDG) MEETING held on 16 July 2025 from 8.30 – 9.30 am via MS Teams

<b>Members:</b>	Frank Myers MBE Graham Biggs James Newby Paul Stevens	FM GB JNe PS	Chair Councillor, Herefordshire Council President & CEO, NMITE Hereford City BID
<b>Attendees:</b>	Christian Dangerfield Ben Proctor	CD BP	Rose Regeneration (RR) Councillor, Hereford City
<b>Guests:</b>	Ivan Powell	IP	Wyeside Project (item 4 only)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ivan Annibal Abigail Appleton MBE	IA AA	Rose Regeneration (RR) Principal, Hereford College of Arts (and Chair of Hereford Stronger Towns Board)
<b>Notetaker:</b>	Jan Bailey	JB	

ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	<b>New Declarations of Interest</b>  None	
2.	<b>Notes of Previous Meeting</b>  The notes of the PDG meetings held on 14 May 2025, 28 May 2025 and 9 July 2025 were all approved as a correct record.	
3.	<b>Legacy Planning</b>	
3.1	Attendees discussed at length the process for inviting expressions of interest from parties interested in receiving any monies unallocated by #StrongerHereford and the national Stronger Towns Fund at the end of the Programme.	
3.2	Based on these discussions, JB will draft a proposal for consideration at next week's PDG meeting.	JB
3.3	GB stressed the importance of #StrongerHereford sharing its experience of managing the STF programme, for example learning on how projects might prepare themselves to be successful with future bids for funding.	
4.	<b>Wyeside Project</b>	
4.1	IP provided an update on the current position with this project, highlighting three elements that he is committed to deliver within the reduced project budget previously agreed at Board.	
4.2	Regarding the crane element of the programme, IP advised that he had engaged the services of an environmental consultant to liaise with Natural England on the project's behalf. She had advised submitting a planning application and was confident that mitigations could be put in place to resolve any environmental issues that arise.	

<p><b>4.3</b></p> <p><b>4.4</b></p> <p><b>4.5</b></p> <p><b>4.6</b></p> <p><b>4.7</b></p>	<p>Regarding the two footpaths that are part of this project, IP advised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highways Agency had advised to proceed with the footpath whose path had been diverted to accommodate the crane, regardless of whether planning permission for the crane is granted. This is because the deviated route had now gone through the planning process without objection and is now the designated official path. Although the deviation could be reversed, this would have to go through another planning process which would cause unnecessary delays to project completion. IP confirmed that the Hereford Beer Festival had raised no objections to the route of the diverted path.</li> <li>• With regard to the plans for resurfacing of the existing footpath, IP argued that this would be beneficial for the local community and would improve access. He said he was keen to proceed with this work as soon as possible.</li> </ul> <p>Following discussion, members unanimously agreed to the work on the existing footpath to be progressed.</p> <p>GB, BP, JNe and the Chair agreed for work on the diverted path construction to proceed. PS said he would prefer to wait until planning permission for the crane was granted before this work commenced but would accept the majority decision.</p> <p>All agreed that there were issues to do with project governance, particularly when decommissioning or rescoping original plans, that needed to be learned from the Wyeseide project experience.</p> <p>The Chair asked for clarification regarding the process for drawing down funds from Wyeseide's remaining budget. This will be subject to discussion outside of today's meeting.</p> <p><b>IP then left the meeting.</b></p>	<p>FM/RR</p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>None.</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meetings</b></p> <p><b>PDG</b> – TBC</p> <p><b>Board</b> – Friday 1 August, 8.30-10am (hybrid and in person at Hereford College of Arts, College Road campus).</p>	