



Walsall Council

ACTION NOTES

Title of Meeting: Bloxwich & Walsall Town Deal Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday 13 August 2024 14:30 – 16:00pm

Venue: Microsoft Teams ‘Virtual’ Meeting

Quorum - Minimum of 6 voting members, with at least one representative from: Private, Local Government and Communities membership categories, together with Walsall Council.

VOTING MEMBERS – Via Teams

Present:

Manjit Jhooty – Jhoots Pharmacy (Chair)
Tarra Simmons (TS) – The Midcounties Co-operative
Dave Brown (DB) – Walsall Council
David Moore (DM) – Walsall Council
David Benge (DB) – OneWalsall
Rupert Fairfax (RF) – Fairfax Saddles / Chair of Bloxwich Advisory Board
Karl Woodward (KW) – Reach All Ltd / Chair of Walsall Advisory Board
Jatinder Sharma (JS) – Walsall College
Ray Flynn (RF) – University of Wolverhampton
Shaun Darcy (SD) – Walsall Council
Mark Lavender (ML) – Walsall Council
Councillor Andrew (CLR A) – Walsall Council
Kevin Davies (KD) – The Vine Trust

MEMBERS – Via Teams

Elizabeth Connelly (EC) – Walsall Council
Alison Guerra (AG) – Walsall Council
Richard Ackerley (RA) – Walsall Council
Kelly Valente (KV) – Walsall Council
Natasha Mann (NM) – Walsall Council
Claire Wills (CW) – Walsall Council
Helen Kirk (HK) – Walsall Council
Eleanor Cooper (EC) – Walsall Council
Kaye Davies (KD) – Walsall Council
Isabel Clark (IC) – Walsall Council
Surinder Kaur (SK) – Walsall Council (Note taker)
Matthew Lloyd (MLO) – Walsall Council

Town Deal Board – Annual General Meeting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The first part of this meeting would be in public session for agenda items 1-6, then the meeting moved into private session.

(Exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Local Government Act, 1972) (as amended)

1. Apologies / Introductions

James Norris, Deb Rajania, Alison Guerra, Helen Kirk, Robert Judson, Hannah Cashmore.
Guest Shine Duggal: Walsall Arts introduction of the upcoming event Maker Feast

Manjit Jhooty stated this part of the meeting would be recorded so that it can be shared with the public through our web site. There were no objections, so this part of the meeting will be recorded.

2. Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for 2024/25 – Mark Lavender (14:30 – 14:35)

Chair

Recommendation 24/TDB/14/R

Mark Lavender (ML) asked the Chair and Vice Chair to step down so that the election of these roles could now take place, which they duly did.

ML asked Manjit Jhooty if he wished to be considered for continuing as Chair for the following year, which he confirmed that he was.

ML moved the recommendations to the vote by way of asking for a raised hands if a Board member wished to come forward and be considered, or objected to this appointment by a raised hand, silence to be taken as agreement for Manjit to continue as Chairperson. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Town Deal Board appoint Manjit Jhooty as Chairperson of the Town Deal Board for the year ahead.

Recommendation 24/TDB/15/R

ML asked Cllr Andrew if he wished to be considered as Vice Chair for the year ahead, which he confirmed that he was.

ML moved the recommendations that were put to the vote by way of asking for a raised hands if a Board member wish to volunteer or objected to this appointment, or silence to be taken as agreement for Councillor Andrew to continue as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was subsequently declared carried and it was Resolved (unanimously) that the Town Deal Board appoint Councillor Andrew as Vice-Chairperson of the Town Deal Board for the year ahead. Manjit Jhooty chaired the meeting from this point onwards. Councillor Andrew Confirms will continue as Vice Chair.

3. Acceptance/amendments to the Boards - Chair (14:35 – 14:40)

- Terms of Reference
- Policies
- Decision Making Process
- Membership

Recorded & Shared Meeting Sessions – FINAL VERSION

Above papers accessible through the link below or through any net browser.

[Town Deal Board governance | Walsall Council](#)

Chair: Regarding the A point of terms of reference and policy, has everyone looked at them and I had an e-mail from Central Westminster to guide us to have all the reference points in place? Mark, could you go through them so that everyone understands the importance of this.

ML: The meeting notes include a link to the TownDeal Board website, which includes all of the information we are required to keep, as required by government including our terms of reference, our policies, our decision-making processes and Town Deal Board Membership.

There are other documents in there that reference, such as the Nolan principles, which are about honesty and behaviour, Members are expected to adhere to. Also, on the website other requirement that we maintain the funding, the flow of funding from Government as accountable body which is Walsall Council. We are required to comply with their assurance framework and their methods of working and those are included on the website. Every year we are required to check the website to make sure it is compliant, which we have done and believe that our website is compliant with all requirements.

Discussion/Comments

CLR A: *It is important to comply, we receive this email annually, the ministry was clear, 93% were not compliant, we are part of the 7 % that we are compliant.*

TS: *We need to minute that we are very thankful and confident in the administration that Mark has led through the Town Deals Board because is important and give reassurance to us as Members we are aware of all the details and have the faith that everything is in good order.*

Town Deal Board - Public Session

1.Welcome and Introductions

Shine Duggal to share the Maker feast event taking place in September 2024 joined the meeting

2.Declarations of Interest

Chair: Declarations of interest, everyone has completed these in the past, can as an action for next time make sure that they are up to date, governance is important and if you through the previous minutes for us and a congratulations Mark and to the team and the executive officers in the Council.

Action 24/TDB/079/ML/SK To ensure the declarations of interests are accurate and up to date.

3.Minutes (Public) of the Previous Meeting

Surinder Kaur shared public minutes from the last meeting on 01 May 2024. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record by Manjit Jhooty and seconded by Karl Woodward.

4. Walsall MakerFest programme Update

(Aim – Shine Duggal update Board members on this exciting initiative)

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Shine Duggal updated members:

- Exciting time for Walsall, major Town Centre regeneration, redesign of Gallery Square, In addition, over £4.9 million from Arts Council England through the ECOG for Development Fund to renovate and repurpose the Guildhall into a centre for creative Industry in excellence. Alongside this there are three strands of activity, a creative start up programme where we are supporting 15 Creative businesses this year and another 15 next year, there is a trainee programme where we will be nurturing talent and investing in that talent.
- This September, from St Matthew's and The Crossing to Saddlers Shopping Centre and Gallery Square, Walsall will be transformed into a festival of creativity, showcasing diverse talents from across the borough.
- Walsall MakerFest 2024 opens on Saturday 7 September 2024, from 11am to 5pm. The event promises live music, dance, storytelling, hands-on workshops, pop-up shops, fashion shows, street food, a makers' market and much more. It will be a wonderful celebration of the rich and diverse creative community within Walsall and the Black Country.
- The jam-packed schedule for the day will include Makers' Market - Alongside Walsall's usual Saturday traders, the Makers' Market will showcase creators from across the Black Country. Expect a diverse array of street food, ceramics, jewellery, beauty products, prints, and more.
- Innovative Workshops - Participate in workshops featuring recycled robots, prosthetic make-up, leather crafting, and music made by mushrooms!
- Dynamic dance showcases featuring Bhangra, break dance, Bulgarian folk, and street dance performances.
- Storytelling and Making - Experience readings from Wolverhampton's Poet Laureate 2022-24, Dr. Kuli Kohli along with stories being told by and for all generations.
- Fashion Extravaganza - Fashion show presented by Walsall College students and jewellery making demonstrations by Birmingham prestigious School of Jewellery, Birmingham City University.
- Performance and Parades – This will include a performance and a parade from Autin Dance Theatre's 'Out of the Deep Blue' featuring a giant puppet inspired by themes of the climate emergency. There will also be choreographed flash mobs, street theatre and a few performance surprises along the way.
- On Sunday at the Arboretum, we will be having let's fly kite's events, culminates from a series of workshops that will be going on around the borough to Co creation with community groups and school groups and the summer holidays where they will be making kites and then coming together at the Arboretum on Sunday to fly those kites.
- Flag making with African Caribbean elders through Walsall Black Sisters, interesting way to get older people involved in the festival

Discussion/Comments

***DM:** Very exciting for the, for the borough. it ties in well with the we are 2040 to add vibrancy into the town centre and certainly as the board will hear some of the project works that are going on in Walsall town centre is exciting for the borough.*

***KD:** Encouraged by this event, been talking about this type of activity and to see and hear all the partners involved to try and make this happen, will very much want to support this and hopefully this could be a regular annual occasion.*

***TS:** Diverse array of activities which should really help with community cohesion, which is amazing*

Recorded & Shared Meeting Sessions – FINAL VERSION

and checking Natahsa from a comms point of view, not seen anything come through and have we included businesses in the town centre and all the business owners aware of this event.

Shine Duggal: *We went live with our press release on Friday, the posters were also published on Friday, a visual presence of the Maker feast, huge yellow posters.*

We also have secured through one of our ambassadors, to advertise the event on the large Walsall Football Club screen. Our social media campaign will go live this week and our programme is being published and will be distributed on the 16 August 2024.

NM: *We are in the process of putting together a formal invite that you will all receive as well as other stakeholders and we will be contacting Town Centre businesses.*

Shine Duggal: *There are so many organisations and community groups and individuals that are supporting the festival and are really invested in it. The ambassadors have invested in it, busy building relationships with those for next year Hopefully this will be an annual event. We do have funding for another Maker Feast next year and look forward to and I welcome all the support and please do push this publicity, we can get a fantastic audience Into the Town Centre.*

KW: *What about those without that digital connection, I appreciate posters are obviously there if people are actually able to go out and see, can I suggest if you have a local free magazine that can advertise the event and use a local magazine for residents which is usually free for everyone.*

Shine Duggal: *We are using the obvious marketing methods, but also linking with community groups. We have got interested groups who we can share publicity with. We have a campaign, be doing some radio interviews.*

This is a free event, and it is accessible, will have volunteers putting it to have access, support, skills and experience.

NM: *The free magazines, it is something that was on our list, but unfortunately because they are published every other month, we have missed the publication deadline, although we are actively looking at the other opportunities.*

TS: *Have you engaged with the local schools, got a vast number of schools within the borough, and this is a good opportunity for schools to encourage this. Have we reached out to schools and education network also reaching out to parents to get their youngsters involved in this activity.*

KD: *Part of our Mercian Trust has got nine schools, six of them which are in Walsall. we can certainly make sure it will communicate to the six schools which are town centre based.*

Clir A: *Will be beneficial to the public from other local boroughs such as Sandwell.*

This will encourage and will bring different cohort of people into Walsall Town Centre and to share all our exciting plans and we want to try and capture that new cohort.

Shine Duggal: *Through New Art Gallery and their education department, we will be mailing all the schools as on holiday at the moment. we are going to be mailing all the schools and pushing the fact that this is a free event.*

Recorded & Shared Meeting Sessions – FINAL VERSION

Project Updates

5. Bloxwich Advisory Board – Chairs Update

(Aim – RF to update Board members on the work conducted at previous AB meetings)

Rupert Fairfax provided an update:

Since the last Town Deal Board, the Bloxwich Advisory met on the 08 August 2024.

All projects are on track and are confident the spend will be executed by March 2026. Some funds have moved around to utilise all the funding. Main purpose of the projects which are to provide economic regeneration, improve the lives of people in in Bloxwich area and we all felt very good about that and how the projects tie in with the overarching aim.

6. Walsall Advisory Board – Chairs Update

(Aim – KW to update Board members on the work conducted at previous AB meetings)

Since the last Town Deal Board, the Walsall Advisory met on the 09 July 2024.

We had a great presentation from the officers and the team giving us updates on each of the projects headline for us was in terms of the financials that we had about £6 million worth of spend for the 23/24 period, which was all looking positive, plenty of challenges within some of the projects However, each of the projects is either in a progress of, on track, or complete, we are moving into the completion stage of some of these schemes.

Active public spaces almost completed, making good progress.

The Community Capital programme the team have responded to try and support the Community groups and try to make sure that they capitalise on those opportunities.

I was given the opportunity to go and visit on the 16th of July 2024 opening of the community garden opening, very minimal amount of expenditure on an extension on a relatively tight footprint of a building, there was this garden space, creativity centre for the local community.

I would like to thank David and Richard and the various management team, they are juggling multiple complexities in terms of programmes, initiatives from planning perspectives and regulations, some of those regulations not always easy. The update from the board point of view, very content, would like to see more future Community representation. Finances are being shared, nothing of concern currently.

Date and time of Next Town Deal Board Meeting 25.09.2024 – @14:00
Shared Session closed at: 15:05