DOVER COASTAL COMMUNITY TEAM

Minutes of meeting held at Dover Town Council, Maison Dieu House
Thursday, 7 January 2016 at 3pm

In attendance:
Bill Fawcus (BF) Chairman
Kevin Charles (KC) Project Manager
Brian Flood (BFI) Dover Transport Museum
Terry Sutton (TS) Dover Society
Joanna Jones (JJ) Dover Arts Development
Martina White (MW) Dover Big Local
Jeremy Cope (JC) Dover Big Local
Jon Iveson (JI) Dover Museum
Allison Burton (AB) Dover Town Council
Charles Bicker (CB) The Bay Trust
Richard Christian (RC) Port of Dover
Sue Jones (SJ) White Cliffs Country Tourism Alliance
Jules Gomez (JG) Battle of Britain Memorial to The Few
Mark Rose (MR) Cultural Hub
Glynis Farthing (GF) Guston Parish Council
Simon Crowley (SC) Dover Town Team
Cllr Pam Brivio (PB) Dover District Council
Sandra Killick (SK) Dover District Council (Minutes)

1. Welcome and introductions

   BF welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence:

   Chris Valdus   Fort Burgoyne (The Land Trust)
   Gareth Wiltshire National Trust
   John Angell   Dover Town Team
   Stuart Jaenicke Dover Maritime Skills Academy
   Lucy Hutchings Dover Castle (English Heritage)
   Cllr Keith Morris Dover District Council
   Dave Atkins   Dover Transport Museum
   Brian Philp   Roman Painted House
   Trevor Skelton Red Zebra Community Solutions
3. **Agree minutes of last meeting**

It was proposed and agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were a correct record.

4. **Matters arising**

Item 5 – No details as yet on the £40m Discover England fund – hopefully this will provide additional funding. SJ advised that seems like a lot is for Visit England/Visit Britain to increase Chinese market.

Item 6 – Bid successful to Coastal Revival fund for Dover Town Hall. Survey work starting next week as have to spend money by end of March. Bid for Fort Burgoyne also successful and liaising with them.

Western Heights – Judicial review has found in favour of the applicants but Council for Protection of Rural England has appealed.

Blue Bird Heritage Trail – Lottery fund have given go ahead and hope to open in September.

Item 7 – Market Square Public Realm – need to get some more information on this.

Item 8 – YMS Travel not come back yet with more ideas and costs – AB to chase up about this.

5. **Project Updates**

- **Roman Painted House**
  Revised project received and documentation circulated. Was agreed that key anchor of town centre as part of proposal. BF thanked BP for hard work on this, look forward to working with him in future and group will support in any way they can.

- **The Bay Trust - Connected Clusters**
  Paper circulated on local projects and outputs etc. detailed. Project links in with aspirations on Skills & Education and Heritage.

  All were happy that links into plan.

- **Western Heights**
  Project discussed but will have to wait and see what happens with regards to appeal. KC asked in terms of being a project whether it goes into the plan now or later. JC felt there was scope to include Western Heights in some form or another.

- **Fort Burgoyne**
  KC advised that the Prime Minister had announced plans to bring forward delivery of new housing on the Connaught Barracks site. This should help the plans to open Fort Burgoyne to the public.

- **Others**
  Cultural Hub – MR advised that have £300,000 secured on PR which would give huge match funding. Was agreed will need confirmation from DDC that approve proposal and once outcome known can revise plan.
RC advised that looking at two areas at Cruise Terminal 1. Roof has just been refurbished so looking at Covent Garden approach in CT1 whether it be boutique shops etc. Hope to be a positive way of bringing building alive and will get some more details about the project.

Gun Turret is other heritage asset looking to see if can make improvements to. Will get information and share as soon as possible with group.

Team considered number of options for connectivity of town to Western Heights/Dover Castle. KC to include in plan, body of work on connectivity for heritage assets.

New project – Dover Transport Museum Ferry Heritage proposal - document circulated and outline given by BFl. Without £125,000 to buy car park the whole plan will not work. BF advised that had agreed before in principle that DTM be supported.

6. **Local Economic Plan**

Draft plan is overview of what want to achieve. KC said that key is visitor numbers and have spoken to JI on getting the organisation that provided these figures to appraise plan and advise if visitor numbers can be increased.

Existing projects to come back to KC with current visitor numbers and expected visitor numbers after project has been completed.

**Context**

Template came from DCLG and the following sections were highlighted:

(5) Local area focus on connection to Europe, importance of port and location to Europe, realising potential of passing trade and HS1

(6) Topography presents a challenge but also huge asset with River Dour situated at bottom of valley, need to attract more working age families

(7) Dominance of port, leakage to other area such as Canterbury/Westwood, tourism big degree of seasonality, some tradition of manufacturing

(8) Opportunity to link to other plans within the report

(10) Fourth most deprived district, income deprivation affecting children

Any comments come back to KC, even with regard to individual projects.

**Agree ‘Ambition’**

Separate appendix. Must be positive statement of aims and objectives of plan and what it achieves. JJ said that cultural tourism as a specific could come in there.

Second 5-year period of plan includes UNESCO World Heritage status. JJ advised that did look at before under Defence and Gateway. As lot of defence already on list looked at gateway but under status would mean another planning level for port. Was agreed that further research needs to be done before include in plan.
Discussion held on whether ‘to bolster high street retail performance’ should be included as some members did not think projects would necessarily bolster retail. SC thought plan should include retail as town team should be supporting but retail does not have to be in ‘conventional’ way it has been. BF advised that Coastal Communities funding is unique as does include retail and this was included as want to increase footfall. If funding successful, and as plan evolves, can look at process of how this will be delivered.

Comments, updates, improvements on own particular projects and SMART measures to KC by 17 January 2016.

7. **Date of next meeting**

   27 January 2016 at 3.00pm – Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, National Memorial to the Few, Capel-le-Ferne, CT18 7JJ

8. **Any Other Business**

   None.