

**Notes of a meeting of the  
Ashford Strategic Delivery Board  
Friday 25 October 2019 at 10.00am**

**Present:**

**Board Members**

Cllr Gerry Clarkson (Chairman) – Leader, ABC  
Rt Hon Damian Green MP  
Cllr Paul Clokie – Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Corporate Property, ABC  
Cllr Neil Shorter – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Development, ABC  
David Smith – KCC, Director – Economic Development  
Paul Harwood - Highways England  
Michael Claughton - Chairman, Ashford Access  
Tracey Kerly - ABC

**Non Board Members**

Cllr Peter Feacey, ABC  
Cllr Jessamy Blanford, ABC  
Stephen Gasche, KCC  
Ben Lockwood, ABC  
Christina Fuller, ABC  
Paul McKenner, ABC  
Andrew Osborne, ABC  
Len Mayatt, ABC  
Simon Cole, ABC  
Tom Swain, ABC  
Keith Fearon, ABC

**Also Present**

Susie Gray - (Dallas - Pierce - Quintero) (for item 3 only)  
Alan Hodson - (Hodson Developments) (for item 3 only)

**Apologies**

Michael Payne, Barbara Cooper, Cllr Neil Bell, Chris Moore, Charlotte Hammersley, Sally Anne Logan, Rebecca Spore

<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Action</b>

1.	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all those present.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Ashford's Big 8 Projects</b></p> <p>The Chairman gave a presentation on the current position on progress in terms of the initial Big 8 projects which were transforming Ashford. He explained that the Borough Council would maintain a watching brief over these but he was pleased to report that the Outlet extension would be formally opened on 7 November and that a shuttle bus service had commenced between the Outlet, the town centre and Ashford Railway Station. In terms of the Elwick development, Macknade's would be opening before Christmas and arrangements had been made for users of the cinema to be reimbursed for their car parking charges and furthermore the car park would be free after 3.00pm.</p> <p>The Chairman further explained that ABC was developing a new Corporate Plan to be adopted in 2020 and had identified the most important projects and themes for strategic delivery. The projects were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Carbon Neutral Borough <u>before</u> 2030</li> <li>• Chilmington and South of Ashford Garden Community (Chilmington - Court Lodge - Kingsnorth Green)</li> <li>• Ashford Town Centre Masterplanning</li> <li>• Strategic Parks (Victoria/Conningbrook/Discovery)</li> <li>• Vicarage Lane development and Multi-Storey Car Park</li> <li>• Integrated Transport Strategy (road, rail and passenger)</li> <li>• Newtown Works- development of Railway Sheds</li> <li>• Cultural Centre (theatre/art gallery/museum/conferencing)</li> </ul> <p>In response to a comment about the use of acronyms in the Board papers, the Chairman said that in future reports would include a glossary of terminology.</p>	ABC
3.	<p><b>Presentation – Chilmington/South of Ashford Garden Community</b></p> <p>Susie Gray of Dallas-Pierce-Quintero gave a presentation titled 'Creative Chilmington – a Strategy to embed arts, culture and creativity within the life of Chilmington'</p> <p>Susie Gray explained that given the Community</p>	

	<p>Management approach being adopted at Chilmington, there was strong potential for the community to take a lead role in local cultural development in the future. The presentation set out in detail the Strategy which was being adopted, at the heart of which was the creation of a healthy sustainable community which was well connected to the wider Ashford area. The presentation also included case studies and timelines for Phase 1 and 2.</p> <p>In response to a question, Susie Gray confirmed that the definition of 'culture' had been taken from the Arts Council 10 year strategy. She also advised that in terms of funding, in the region of £750,000 of S106 money was available over the life of the project. Damian Green (DG) referred to the success of the establishment of the arts centre in Margate and said that it would be good for Ashford if it was able to offer some space for touring national exhibitions. Paul Clokie (PC) referred to the ABC project to look at establishing a Cultural Centre in Ashford which he suggested could accommodate space for such exhibitions.</p> <p>Ben Lockwood (BL), in his capacity as Chairman of the Chilmington Management Organisation explained the work being undertaken to date which included the stewardship model and in terms of the garden community, work with the stakeholder group. He also explained that 3 properties were now occupied and a further 12 properties would shortly be completed by Hodson Developments. A temporary site for the premises for the CMO would be opened in November and recent site visits by KCC Members and ABC Members had generated positive feedback. Work on the first primary school would commence by the end of the year or early next year. BL also said that a meeting had taken place with Homes England to discuss the Garden Community.</p> <p>In terms of the A28 improvement works, BL said that a working group had been set up and work was being undertaken to establish when it was estimated that 400 completions would be reached which was a trigger for a bond payment to KCC for the required highway works.</p> <p>Neil Shorter (NS) advised of the continued discussions with Southern Water regarding the provision of the permanent foul drainage system and said that he was pleased to say that Southern Water had a plan in place for this to be ready by March 2021.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Susie Gray for her presentation.</p>	
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4.	<p><b>Presentation – Ashford College and Station Spurs</b></p> <p>Andrew Osborne (AO) gave a brief presentation on the current position in terms of Ashford College and the Ashford Spurs Project.</p> <p>In terms of the college, AO said that East Kent College were currently going through due diligence and the bid included Phase 1a, but that there were still challenges over funding of this phase. It was hoped that the new college operator would be in place by February 2020.</p> <p>AO further explained that the Contactor and Train Detection system for the Ashford Spurs Project would be installed by the end of December 2019 and the Eurostar Velaro trains would be reintroduced from January 2020. AO also said that further information on future changes to Eurostar services would be made in January.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Presentation – Ashford Town Centre</b></p> <p>AO gave a presentation which included information on progress with the Ashford Town Centre framework and the response to the residents survey undertaken in 2018. He also outlined the review of town centre activity and gave figures for footfall and shopping centre performance. He also drew attention to the ‘Illuminities’ programme of activities which were planned to be undertaken in the town centre in December.</p> <p>In response to a question about the location of the town centre market, AO advised that discussions had taken place with traders and that officers would be looking at a whole series of options. In terms of the cobbled surface of the lower High Street, the Chairman said that this should be looked at and he asked David Smith to raise this issue with the new KCC Portfolio Holder for Environment and Transport.</p>	<p>ABC</p> <p>KCC</p>
6.	<p><b>Big 8 Project Updates</b></p> <p>The report enclosed with the agenda set out the latest position on progress in respect of the new Big 8 projects.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Watching Brief Projects</b></p>	

	<p>The report enclosed with the agenda set out the latest position in respect of the Watching Brief projects.</p> <p>With reference to Junction 10a of the M20, Paul Harwood (PH) confirmed that the east facing slip roads and link to the roundabout on the A2070 would be available for HGV's to access the proposed custom clearance facility being provided at the Truck Stop site. He said that this work might, however delay the proposed improvements planned to be undertaken at the Orbital Park junction. He also explained that the whole of junction 10a would be open to all traffic by Spring 2020.</p> <p>NS referred to problems on the A20 in the vicinity of the Pilgrims Hospice which caused vehicles to back up to Junction 10. PH undertook to look into this matter.</p> <p>David Smith referred to the Shared Space and advised that the Highway Team had developed a maintenance and replacement plan which it was currently intended to commence in March 2020 and which would take 10 to 12 weeks to complete.</p> <p>In terms of the Conningbrook Country Park, Tracey Kerly advised that ABC were in negotiations with KCC regarding the purchase of the depot. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.</p>	HA
8.	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 at 10.00am</p>	

Queries concerning these minutes? Please contact Member Services  
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