

Present: Councillor Paul Goodale (Chairman), Councillor Colin Woodcock (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Alison Austin, Alan Bell, Anton Dani, Anne Dorrian, Viven Edge, Deborah Evans, Martin Griggs, Neill Hastie, Brian Rush, Yvonne Stevens and Stephen Woodliffe

Officers –

The Deputy Chief Executive (Place), Assistant Director (Support Services and Partnerships), Town Centre Services Manager, Local Communities Development Officer & BTAC Grant Administrator and Democratic Services Officer.

**57 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were tabled by Councillor Martin Howard

**58 MINUTES**

With the agreement of the committee members' the Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

**59 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Anne Dorrian declared an interest in respect of item 4 on the agenda. Councillor Dorrian confirmed her employer was Haven High Academy who were subject to receipt of funding under item 4 for a 3G sports pitch and as such, Councillor Dorrian confirmed that whilst she would speak on the item, she would abstain from any determination and leave the meeting once she had spoken.

**60 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**61 PUBLIC SPEAKING SLOT**

N/A

**62 BTAC SMALL GRANT SCHEME**

The Local Communities Officer presented the report confirming she would present an update on the small grants applications from round 3 of the financial year, currently on hold due to Covid-19. Members were further advised that with the agreement of the Chairman, committee would be asked to consider an additional proposal not on the agenda, in respect moving forward with the small grant scheme into the next financial year.

Six applications had been received in Round 3 of the Boston Town Area Committee Small Grant Scheme all of which had been eligible for consideration. However, in light of the covid-19 outbreak and lockdown, the original committee meeting where the six applications were scheduled to be endorsed, had been cancelled, putting the applications on hold. When a new meeting date was considered, all 6 applicants had been contacted to establish whether, should they be awarded funding, their projects would be able to go ahead. They were given 3 options:

**Option 1:** Allow their application to be submitted for decision at the August Meeting – if approved funds to be transferred to their respective accounts for their project to be delivered straight away OR at a later stage when they feel able to do so.

**Option 2:** Keep their application on hold until later in the year, when they have a better idea of how they intend to move forward with their project into next year.

**Option 3:** Withdraw their application from the scheme and resubmit another time when they feel able to do so.

The two applicants who had chosen option 2, had both been assured that the funding allocated for Round 3 19/20 would remain available when they were able to re-submit their applications. £2,448.33 to be ring-fenced for the two applications.

The four applicants who chose option 1 for consideration at this meeting were then noted along with the suggested award agreed by the working group at its' meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### **Boston Samaritans.**

To purchase branded promotional material to aid awareness. The sum requested £706.67. The award suggested by the working group £796.67.

#### **Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Service – English Language Co-ordination Project**

To contribute towards the cost of continuing to provide a single point of access website to enable people to find appropriate English language courses – formal and informal from a number of Boston providers. The sum requested £1000.00. The award suggested £1000.00 with part of the monitoring to provide evidence of impact to support them looking for funding from other sources.

#### **Boston Hakusan City 20/21 Exchange Programme**

To contribute towards costs of providing the visiting Japanese students and their chaperones with souvenirs, trips and activities while they are here and contribute towards their Farewell Ceremony. The sum requested £1000.00. The award suggested £1000.00.

#### **Wyberton Football Club**

To contribute towards the purchase of a mower to enable them to keep maintenance of their grounds in-house. The sum requested £1000.00. The award suggested by the working group £500.00 being proportionate to the number of BTAC residents supported by the club

Committee deliberation followed which included:

Councillor Alison Austin asked it be noted that she was a trustee and director of Centrepont Outreach one of the applicants who had deferred their application until a later date under option 2.

Referencing Wyberton Football Club a member questioned if they received financial support from Wyberton Parish Council, whilst another advised that they did self-fund many of their facilities. Another member queried why only £500 was suggested when the facility was run by many volunteers and involved people from across the borough.

The member further moved that the £1000 be granted. The Chairman confirmed that the points raised at the working group meeting did assure that the no. of young people from the BTAC area only warranted the £500 as a proportionate amount. No member seconded the proposal to grant the £1000 requested.

A member sought further clarification on the Hakusan exchange programme questioning who benefitted from the funding and was advised that it was an exchange programme with young people selected from the Boston area to take part. There was a rigorous selection process and candidates had to raise their own funds in order to take part. When students from Japan along with chaperones came to Boston, they stayed with their elected family and vice versa. The funding was to allow the project to offer guest students to take part in as many opportunities and events as possible.

A further member noted that whilst the offer was to any student it was out of reach of many and although they supported the scheme, they would have preferred an easier process to take part for those children who did not have / were unable to source the finances required. The member thanked the officer for their update and expressed their delight that the students were given the opportunity.

Moving to the second part of their presentation the Local Communities Officer advised that during the period of lockdown all potential grant applicants were notified of the suspension of the scheme as well as those applicants already assessed by the Working Group, in February, for Round 3. There had been no further approaches by any new group wishing to apply to the scheme to assist with the delivery of service either as a consequence of covid-19 or otherwise. However, Boston Community Transport who had been awarded funding in Round 2 of the last financial year, had made contact to see if their funding for could be retained until they were able to deliver their project, suspended due to covid-19.

Suggesting a way to move the grant scheme forward, to maximise the opportunity afforded groups to apply to the scheme, the Local Communities Officer asked for consideration of their proposal. Members were asked to agree the continued suspension of the scheme for the current financial year, and then begin a period of promotion for applications to be submitted in January 2021 to be assessed and put to the committee in April 2021. The scheme would still ring-fence the remaining budget from 19/20 to those applicants who had decided to defer their applications, which could be potentially be picked up again in the January submissions and we would start 20/21 financial year with £18,000 which will include roll over from this financial year which hasn't been spent. Furthermore committee were asked to increase the maximum amount that can be awarded to £2,000 and highlight that the criteria for funds could be for both revenue and capital spend to assist in a group's recovery from the crisis.

The group would start 2021 with £18,000 to include rollover from the current financial year.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That BTAC endorse the following recommendation made by the working group in respect of eligible applications where the applicant had confirmed they are able to deliver their project following the covid-19 outbreak.

**Boston Samaritans. £796.67.**

**Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Service – English Language Co-ordination Project. £1000.00**

**Boston Hakusan City 20/21 Exchange Programme. £1000.00**

**Wyberton Football Club. £500.00**

2. That BTAC agree the continued suspension of the small grants scheme for the current financial year and then it begin a period of promotion for application to be submitted in January 2021 to be assessed and put to committee in April 2021.

**63 BTAC REPORT - REVIEW OF 2020/21 EVENTS AND LOOKING FORWARD TO 2021/22 EVENTS PROGRAMME**

The Town Centre Services Manager presented their report advising that their team were actively planning events from September 2020, and working alongside partners to see what was deliverable to ensure that the events would be Covid-19 compliant. Recognising that a number of Christmas events across the country had already been cancelled, the Town Centre Services Manager advised that at the current time, it was not felt necessary to do so in Boston and reassured members that all contracts would be subject to rolling over to 2021 should an event be cancelled.

Moving to the recommendations within the report committee were advised as follows:

**Recommendation 2**

Following cancellation of all events due to Covid-19 it was hoped to increase the appeal of the Christmas event by extending it a four-day event in Bargate green car-park, starting on the day of the Christmas lights switch on event. The event would be run in alpine wooden huts and officers had already had a lot of interest in such an event following some soft market testing. A small fairground ride would be included and food & drink plus an area for live music would also be available. To facilitate the extended event it was proposed that budgeted funding unspent to date, be reallocated towards such an event by increasing the budget from £14,500 to £22,000. All bookings for the event would have appropriate terms and conditions to cover a second covid 19 outbreak and should such event not happen due to government advice, bookings would be able to transfer a 2021 event. £2,000 of the reallocated budget would be used to retest the County Council lighting columns for the next two seasons, in preparation for hanging the Christmas lights in partnership with the Christmas In Boston Group and their efforts of lighting the Town.

**Recommendation 3.**

It was proposed that £13,500 of budgeted funding unspent to date, be reallocated for an Illuminate Fire Garden for the 2020 Christmas event. In 2019, Transported in partnership with Boston Borough Council had delivered a hugely successful Fire Garden located on Bargate Green car park as part of the Christmas Market and Lights Switch on event. There was an opportunity to deliver this again on a larger scale in Central Park and the Council are working with Transported and the wider Pilgrim Roots group to develop a campaign of [#onesmallcandle](#).

The #onesmallcandle event see every household being encouraged to place a (non-flammable) candle in their window as a sign of hope and celebration of Illuminate 2020, alongside 1620 lanterns displayed in locations across the Town, to replace the parade for this year.

**Recommendation 4.**

It was accepted that the overall event could not be as the previous years due to covid-19 so certain aspects had to change. Committee were asked to further agree £5,500 for the Letters to Santa projection event, which allowed children to post their letters to Santa. Members were referred to appendix F within the report which detailed the event which had been brought to the attention of the events team by on the Borough's Elected Members.

**Recommendation 5.**

Members were advised that all three options for the 2021/2022 events programme included the free family day events and the Boston Show. Additional events being considered included a potential 4 day event encompassing the Boston Bike Night and the Classic Car Club, and the Party in the Park which had been scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 had been rolled over to the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Option 1 incorporated a full range of events similar to the previous year and included both community-based events and large-scale events including the Christmas event.

Options 2 focused on larger scale events with a more limited programme and smaller scale community based events. The option did not include the Christmas event.

Option 3 focused on some large-scale events but did not provide any free community events nor any support for BBL events should the team be successful in their funding application with them.

Committee deliberation followed which has been collated in line with repetitive commenting and include the following:

There was overall praise for the report and the events team, with members noting they were impressed by the ideas and in particular, the proposed four-day Christmas event, which they felt would be a much needed boost to the residents of the town following covid-19. Members noted it was a true community event which had established itself over the years and been supported by increased attendance year on year. Recognition was paid to all the volunteers who enabled the event to take place, and the continued provision of free family events was also agreed as being important due to financial implications on families as a result of Covid-19.

Concern was raised at the proposed Letter to Santa event with members citing a previous visual show that had failed miserably and been a waste of money. Some members felt that the money would be better spent on an alternative event. They questioned the duration of the event in that it was a one-off for a limited time, which would not be available to all visitors. A member further voiced concern that the event could be seen to raise the children's expectations by putting pressure on parents, at a time when they were struggling financially.

Responding to the concerns the Town Centre Services Manager advised that whilst it was a one-night feature project, it was very different to the one used previously with a different provider. The children would post their letters in a magical post box and then would see through the projection, the elves taking the letter to the North Pole. It was an hour-long presentation and the events team were looking at ways to surround the event with carol singers and hot chocolate to make it especially Christmassy for everyone involved. For reassurance as to the quality of the production, members were referred to the appendix within the agenda, and the Town Centre Services Manager confirmed she would forward further pictures to evidence the quality of the show.

A member questioned the £2000 cost for testing of the lampposts to accommodate the Christmas lights asking if the job went out to tender or was done in-house. In reply, they were advised that the Christmas in Boston Team undertook the work, which was normally funded by businesses: in light of Covid-19 funding was not available this year. The cost was not for basic testing, it required ultrasound testing on each lamppost. BTAC would provide the funds, Christmas in Boston would source the electrician required and then provide BTAC with a receipt for the work.

In response to a question seeking assurance that sufficient funding had been budgeted to the Town Centre Services Manager advised that they had budgeted sufficiently to address all issues or ensuring Covid-19 regulations were adhered to, to enable them to mitigate where possible. Public safety would always be the primary concern with encouragement to wear facemasks, additional stewards as deemed necessary and options included a one-way system around the event to ensure distancing.

Addressing questions in respect of offering free pre advertising to local businesses, members urged caution as a number of businesses had already paid monies to the Christmas in Boston team. However, options would be explored, for future events.

**RESOLVED: that the BTAC Committee agree to:**

- 1. Note the outcome of 2020 events programme.**
- 2. Reallocate existing budget to the Christmas 2020 event increasing the budget from £14,500 to £22,000, to enable a 4 day Christmas.**
- 3. Reallocate £13,500 of existing budget to an Illuminate Fire Garden for the Christmas 2020 event;**
- 4. Reallocate £5,500 of existing budget to a Letters to Santa projection**
- 5. Agrees option 1 of an increase in budget £22,000 and recommends the decision to Cabinet for approval.**

## **64      SETTING UP A TOWN COUNCIL**

The Chairman referenced previous discussions held on the subject and advised he was seeking committee's agreement or not to move forward and task officers to produce a report to be tabled at a future meeting for full discussion.

Committee commenting followed which included the following which has been collated to address repetitive commenting:

There was overall support and agreement for the subject matter from members who had supported a Town Council for many years, along with members who deemed it unnecessary and simply another layer of bureaucracy at the previous meeting.

Events since that meeting, both locally with the ELDC merger, and nationally with the move to Devolution or Unitary Councils, had strengthened all members resolve with an urgency to proceed.

A number of concerns raised included how the existing assets of Boston, including its silverware; porcelain and historic artefacts / scrolls and its charters would be preserved for the residents of the town, once Devolution had been implemented. Further concern noted that the £20mil in reserves held by the Council, which rightfully belonged to the people of Boston. There was agreement that the reserves should not be dissipated to other areas of the County.

Members agreed the ongoing serious issues within the town of Boston warranted a structure akin to that of the Parish Council to give it its own identity and to prioritise and safeguard the inhabitants. The town was broken and the only chance of re building it back up to the proud town it once was, would be by convening a Town Council with town councillors taking over responsibility for all the BTAC ward residents.

Caution was urged that the report needed to be detailed and complete addressing issues in respect of financial matters; officers required to support the Town Council and the location for its offices, along with compliance with restrictions of local government

The Chairman concluded thanking members for their support and noted that whilst there was both devolution or unitary to consider, moving forward with the Town Council needed clear political will from members, which had been demonstrated by all members of the committee.

**RESOLVED: that BTAC agree to task officers with the work of exploring all the issues and implications involved in setting up a town council and that a complete report be tabled back to committee for consideration.**

## **65      TOWN DEAL - UPDATE**

The Deputy Chief Executive (Places) presented the update report on the Towns Fund and the allocated accelerated grant funding of £750,000. It would be delivered through the mechanism of the Towns Fund to support the delivery of capital projects in the financial year 2020/21 that meet the Towns Fund Intervention Framework and would have the greatest immediate impact to aid economic recovery.

The Town Board had been advised of the Accelerated Funding opportunity and how it could link to the emerging themes of the Boston Town Deal, with a number of potential project interventions having met the criteria set out by the MHCLG and tabled for committee deliberation.

Prior to addressing each project the Deputy Chief Executive (Places) referred committee to the appended FAQs within the report and advised a recurring question had been asked seeking confirmation if the funds were spent on projects did the cost come directly off the £25mil. They did not the funds came directly off the £750,000.

One advantage was the spend by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 which resulted in a number of good ideas came forward initially, one of which was a redundancy support hub for a collection of organisations, to support residents as the impacts of Covid-19 increased. Whilst it had been considered, it was revenue based and therefore had not been put forward.

Another idea further up the coast had been a single project with full investment of the £75,000 although it was a long-term venture. It had already been agreed it was important that the community could see the benefits of any investment to them, and that the best approach was to use capital funding to plug existing projects to allow them to come forward and complete, along with funding bespoke projects relevant to a town centre to raise the profile of the town.

Addressing the submissions for consideration committee were advised as follows:

**Haven High Academy - 3G Pitch Development Project.**

Funding requested: £120,000

The cost for a full size flood 3G pitch was in the region of £750,000 (including professional fees and contingency). The school would be using part of their capital reserves towards the project, but would also be seeking other funding to contribute to the partnership funding required. The school hoped to apply to the Football Foundation for a large contribution towards the cost of the pitch, but need to explore all other funding opportunities.

The reason for seeking support for the project was it would benefit not only students but residents across the borough as well. With a lack of 3G pitches within the borough, compared to other districts the facility would increase the offer of sports based events for all ages within the community, increasing and promoting health and lifestyle. It would support good partnership working through the town board academy key. 2 letters had been received in support of the project: one from the Lincolnshire Football Association and one from the Football Foundation.

**Boston College Digital, Transport and Logistics Academy –**

Funding requested: £182,976

The Academy was due for completion for November 2020, Boston College's Digital, Transport and Logistics Academy (the DTLA) proposed to introduce new courses that would provide skills training for Lincolnshire's established logistics and transportation industry with a focus on digital innovation and technologies for the future. The DTLA's facilities will include a transport workshop, computer rooms, a network and hardware computer room and a student break-out space. This will continue to build upon the success of the Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology centre (EMAT).

The logistics and transport industry provide approximately 40,000 jobs in the South East of Lincolnshire and is a key area of focus, together with the Port of Boston, in the emerging Boston Town Investment Plan. Whilst many of the logistics facilities were based in South Holland many of the workers lived within Boston Borough.



As part of the work of the Town Deal Board, there is ongoing consultation with the logistics industry and the Port of Boston. This valuable engagement includes working with employers to map the current and future provision to meet skills needs, both locally and nationally, to ensure that the facilities implemented and courses delivered are relevant to the employment opportunities available and enable industries to continue to grow and develop. As a result of the engagement, Boston College had identified the essential equipment required and this will accelerate the support for skills and employment not just for our young people but also adult learners, many who may need to retrain as a consequence of the impact of Covid19 on the employment market. The acquisition of the equipment and services would enable the full completion of the DTLA. The DTLA project is GLLEP funded and destined to support the skills acquisition within the key sector of ports and logistics. With the impact of Covid-19 and increased redundancies re training/alternative options of working would be a priority.

### **Boston Town Heritage Projects**

Funding requested: £277,700.

The Boston Townscape Heritage Project will significantly enhance the eastern area of the town's historic market place for the benefit of local businesses, the local community and visitors to the town. Boston's rich and unique historic environment, dating from the medieval period to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, would be explored, celebrated and conserved through a scheme of capital works and an innovative activity programme.

The project had been developed through a partnership between Boston Borough Council and Heritage Lincolnshire. It aimed to build upon the momentum gained from recent heritage led regeneration initiatives in the town through a previous Historic England supported Partnership Scheme in Conservation Areas and would also work collaboratively with other local partners on activities relating to the Hanse League membership and Mayflower 2020. To date it had successfully bid for match funding to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Lincolnshire County Council and is now putting forward a bid for match funding to the Accelerator Fund as part of the Boston Town Deal, to enable the capital elements of the project to be realised in full.

The scheme area included the eastern boundary of the market place, Dolphin Lane and Pump Square and individual buildings eligible for grant funding have been identified. Work already undertaken on the project by Heritage Lincolnshire and the Borough Council with local businesses, has resulted in the first three buildings within it, at a point that they ready to be renovated, subject to funding, and be completed by the end of this financial year (2020/21). Lincolnshire County Council was in the process of developing its highway development project for the Lane to also be delivered this financial year

Three individual projects had bid for Accelerator Fund totalling £272,250. The bid also included an amount for promotional materials and activity in support of the project totalling £5,450.

16 Market Place: The property had been granted listed building consent and planning permission. It had been out to tender and was currently awaiting a final tender return.

17 Market Place: Planning permissions had been granted, the tender process was also complete and the project was currently awaiting a grant offer so works could proceed on site.

8 Dolphin Lane: Planning permissions had been granted and it was currently out to tender. Publicity and Promotion for all of the above to include the Accelerator Fund and the Boston Town Deal within the wider project funding partnership.

The projects would significantly improve the town centre with its historic offer of the market square and the lanes. There had been a huge amount of positive feedback in respect of buildings already completed, complimenting the historic arena with being Hoppers in the market place and the improved street scene alongside the bridge. The heritage projects supported Boston as a travel destination for visitors and increased footfall for businesses in the town.

### **Experience Boston: Travel, Trade and Influence**

Funding requested: £80,000

With the wealth of assets as a quintessential and visually stunning Historic Market Town and Port Boston was uniquely poised to build on increased local, regional, national and international profile as a quality historic and cultural visitor destination, bringing all the wider benefits to local and visitor economies as well as driving increased opportunities for investment. The project would enhance our cultural infrastructure to engage and share more effectively these stories as well as Boston's historic trade and maritime associations, and the influence the town has had locally and internationally. Critically it will also orientate users to the wider retail offer of the town and give opportunity for fuller engagement with its businesses. It would further develop physical interpretation and heritage resources that are focussed on the historic environment of the town and its culture. It will also importantly build on reinforcing the placebrand of the town and orientating people through mapping solutions to the cultural and retail opportunities the town has to offer. There was significant opportunity to add to current public realm improvements within Boston, helping inform locals and visitors alike to Boston's rich Heritage. This builds on the placebrand, wayfinding and design toolkit developed in the successful HLF project 'Boston: Explore and Discover'. That project was the catalyst for a number of continuing improvements in both the public realm and the visual identity of the town. The project, through its physical legacy will continue to enhance the offer of the town both as a heritage destination and also as a place to live and work in.

The successful 'Boston: Explore and Discover' project acted as a catalyst for continued improvement and the council has invested in the town and the public realm as well as embedding the placebrand throughout the town. The town is now ready for a second phase of investment to expand the interpretative schemes and maximise engagement with the town's heritage and local and visitor economies.

### **PE21 Feasibility Funding**

Funding requested: £50K

The project had slowed due to Covid-19 and resources to facilitate it, but it was still a project and was seen as a project seen by partners as being key to the regeneration of the town centre.

Boston Borough Council commissioned AR Urbanism to undertake a master planning excise on a 10-acre under-utilised town centre location to maximise the economic potential working closely with both the public and private sectors. This catalyst place-led regeneration scheme looks to influence real economic benefits, health & well-being and social value opportunities for generations to come. There are specific sector opportunities identified within the PE21 masterplan that can harness more value added services include a new Well-being and Leisure facility, Transport Hub, hotel, work and learning provision as well as residential and extra care facilities.

However, to test and underpin the interventions, recommendations and the viability of the PE21 Master plan and more recently market demand post Covid-19, a feasibility study needs commissioning to fully understand the sustainable and economic potential the PE21 vision can deliver. The report would consider current and projected future uses and market demands, which will ensure a more robust assessment on uses, values and deliverability to enable a better and clearer policy on approach and opportunity.

### **The Sanctuary, Restore Church:**

Funds requested: £200,000

Restore Church was passionate about relationships and about the organisations and individuals that it connected with; as a consequence, the Church had a driving ambition to bring forward an exemplar project, The Sanctuary. The Sanctuary would be an inclusive community hub that would have a focus on supporting homeless and vulnerable people in the broadest sense; it would provide a range of services and opportunities that supported people into accommodation, into training, into education and into work. The project had identified a suitable premise for sale on the open market within the 'PE21' area and has begun discussion with the agent.

The project sought to provide, self-contained accommodation with support, emergency access accommodation to support the most vulnerable within the community. A Community Café that offered training and volunteering opportunities as well as a revenue source to support the wider project. A Community Supermarket, that like the café, would offer training, skills development and practical opportunities to the community, residents of the accommodation, as well as providing food schemes to help individuals and families in need. A multi-agency space where support, training, advice and advocacy could be delivered. It would provide adaptive and inclusive spaces to be used by small social enterprises and clubs. The total cost of the project had been assessed at just under £1.5 million (including contingency)

Of the total projected costs, we are seeking **£200,000** from the Towns Fund towards the purchase cost of the identified premise; the purchase cost is £650,000.

The remaining purchase costs will be funded by social investment from a provider with whom the Church have a strong existing relationship and through whose investment they have already purchased a number of supported housing units within the locality. In partnership with Restore, the Council is leading a bid to MHCLG under its 'Next Steps Accommodation Programme' (NSAP), to support conversion of the asset to provide both long term and emergency accommodation.

Discussions with MHCLG were at an advanced stage with final bid submission due on 20 August 2020, with a fast turnaround expected. Conversion costs not eligible under NSAP will be funded by social investment and ensure that The Sanctuary can become the inclusive community hub its business case intends it to be.

Concluding the overall projects, the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) further advised members that the Sanctuary project would 'level-up' Boston. The various projects all dovetailed with a golden thread running through them, linking them to support each other.

*Boston Town Area Committee (BTAC)*

5 August 2020

During the initial stages of the project a comparison had been undertaken with 10 similar size towns to Boston including Carlisle and Kings Lynn and what had emerged identified Boston as being the worst performer in respect of education.

Many people in the borough, including students of all ages, had the lowest aspirations against the other towns. The project needed to keep the students of the town by encouraging enthusiasm in learning and in moving on from school or college, to work in the community.

The work undertaken on the project had identified that feedback and engagement with partners was key. Historically Boston appeared to have worked in isolation with no connectivity with the various partners. The ethos of the Town Deal by the Government was to use it as a platform: the work undertaken with partners and future partnership projects coming forward demonstrated that the Council had used it as a platform to promote Boston.

Committee deliberation followed including the following which is collated for repetitive commenting:

Members praised the report and the projects noted therein. There was strong support for the Haven High project with members agreeing the importance of increased sports activities for all residents, noting the benefits both physically and mentally for improving lifestyle.

One member questioned the notification of a 4G pitch advising that sporting bodies did not recognise 4G pitches. A further member felt an increase in the option of activities should to be provided, to include Basketball and Hand Ball provisions for European residents.

Further all round support was tabled in respect of the college project, which members identified as being key in skills and connectivity for students. A member suggested liaison with Metsawood who had contracted all their logistics and transport to Stobarts and who were enthusiastic about Boston.

Addressing the Heritage project, members agreed that it was more important than ever to improve town centre properties. Citing the loss of Oldrids department store, following on from the loss of Marks and Spencer, it was acknowledge that both visitors and residents would be walking past large boarded up shops to get access to the lanes, with the challenge of keeping shoppers in the town becoming harder, coming out of Covid-19.

Members were pleased with the feasibility study for PE21, agreeing it would be money well spent and it would provide a guardrail moving forward.

Referencing the Sanctuary project, committee unanimously agreed the need of such a project. They recognised it would address the root issues of those members of the public who needed help, across all ages, and would give them a semblance of normality in supporting them to get back into life.

The involvement of both Mr Stuart Hellon and Mr Andy Fisher was reassuring. A member questioned which organisations were involved in the partnership and also how many units the site would provide.

Addressing the questions that had been raised, the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) advised that the pitch being sought was a 3G pitch which was the only officially recognised pitch: 4G pitches being officially regarded as new technology. Metsawood were already involved and both the college and Council had a good working relationship with them. Metsawood and the college were working on idea to provide mentoring to secondary schools for resilience in the community. Addressing the issue of empty shops, members were reminded of a fund agreed by Cabinet to allow the Council to work with the owners of buildings, which had closed due to Covid-19 and failed to re-open, to see how the buildings could be brought back into use. The Sanctuary project was a collective of several key providers in the voluntary sector within the town, including Centrepont Outreach, who had all come forward with ideas. All sectors were challenged to think about the offer, to work together in achieving a level of support from the beginning of life to the end. All age groups needed to be considered. The number of units was not known but would be sourced and advised.

One member voiced very strong concerns about the need for further collaboration between communities living in Boston and the links to educational opportunities.

It is noted that the following members left the meeting ahead of the vote on this item: Councillors Alison Austin, Anne Dorrian, Viven Edge and Brian Rush.

**RESOLVED:**

That BTAC noted and supported the following recommendations to be considered by Full Council on 10 August 2020 -

1. Notes the sum of £750,000 Accelerated Grant funding to support capital projects that respond to immediate challenges and support the economic recovery of Boston, and its inclusion in the 2020/21 Capital Programme.
2. Authorises the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) to confirm in writing to Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government by 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 of the project proposals and that they are in line with the Towns Fund intervention framework as set out in the Towns Fund further guidance.

**66 WORK PROGRAMME - STANDING ITEM**

The Lead Officer presented the report and confirmed the 7<sup>th</sup> October update report on central parks projects. There had been a proposal from Councillor Rush following the recent illegal encampment on Woodville Road requesting a report to committee for securing the open space area. Officers would gain options and report back to committee.

Members agreed the requirement for a report in respect of securing the open space on Woodville Road to include the costs of the clear-up operation following the recent illegal encampment on the site. A further suggestion for the report to cover all BTAC open space areas was agreed.

The report for the Town Council would be scheduled onto the agenda, once advice had been taken in respect of the report and a time scale for production.

Two additional concerns were raised. A member voiced strong concerns at the number of dogs at risk of being kidnapped within the area, making residents frightened to take their dogs for a walk. The member stated there had been several approaches on Spilsby Road and the problem was escalating. The Charman suggested addressing through the Police forum.

The second concern was in respect of speeding along Freiston Road and again, it was agreed it was a matter for the police forum.

The Meeting ended at 9.30 pm