

DISCOVER ASHFIELD BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 14th February 2024 9am – 11am

Hybrid – Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Urban Road & Microsoft Teams

AGENDA	Page

- 1. Welcome / Introductions / Apologies Martin Rigley
- 2. Reflections of Previous Meeting Martin Rigley
 - a Meeting Minutes
 - b Action Log
- 3. New Declarations of Interest ALL
- 4. Major Projects & Funding Update Sarah Daniel
- 5. Theme Lead Reports Theme Leads
 - a Succeed in Ashfield Martin Rigley
 - b Love Where You Live Liz Barrett
 - c More to Discover Darron Ellis
 - d Be Healthy, Be Happy Pete Edwards
- 6. Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update Hollie Maxwell-Smith
- 7. Board Member Updates All
- 8. Any Other Business All
- 9. Date of Next Meeting Friday 5th April 2024

	A	TTENDEES	
Name	Position on Board	Position/Organisation	Present
Martin Rigley OBE	Chair / Theme Lead – Succeed in Ashfield	Business Development Manager	V
Louise Knott	Vice Chair	Vice Principal, West Nottinghamshire College MA2020 Representation	$\sqrt{}$
Darron Ellis	Theme Lead – More to Discover	Historian, Sutton Living Memory Group	
Liz Barrett OBE	Theme Lead – Love Where You Live	Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE)	V
Pete Edwards	Theme Lead – Be Happy, Be Healthy	Chair, Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership	$\sqrt{}$
Claire Ward	Board Member	Chair of Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	
Clare Hitchings	Substitute for Tim Hepke	Communications Lead, ITP Aero	$\sqrt{}$
Christopher Baron	Substitute for Lee Anderson, MP	Office Manager, Ashfield & Eastwood MP's Office	
Cllr Helen-Ann Smith	Board Member	Deputy Council Leader, Ashfield District Council	
Cllr Julie Gregory	Board Member	Scrutiny Representative, Ashfield District Council	V
Cllr Matthew Relf	Board Member	Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning, Ashfield District Council MA2020 Representation	
Cllr Keith Girling	Notts County Council Representative	Economic Development and Asset Management, Notts County Council	V
David Ainsworth	Board Member	Director of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust	
David Williams	Substitute for Jean Sharpe	Partnerships Manager North Nottinghamshire DWP	√
Edward Johnstone	Board Member	Assistant Principal (Development), Portland College	
Fiona Anderson	Board Member	Associate Director, Civic Engagement, Nottingham Trent University (NTU)	
Gary Jordan MBE	Board Member	Community Engagement and Learning Lead, ATTFE	$\sqrt{}$
lan Bond	Substitute for Peter Graw	Director of Learning, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries	$\sqrt{}$
Julia Terry	Board Member	Development Worker, Transforming Notts Together	
Kathryn Stacey	Board Member	Quality and Compliance Director, Citizens Advice Ashfield	
Leanne Monger	Board Member	Interim Programme Director, Mid Notts PBP	
Lee Anderson, MP	Board Member	MP for Ashfield and Eastwood	
Mark Spencer, MP	Board Member	MP for Sherwood	
Mark Yates	Substitute	PCN Development Managers, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB	
Melanie Phythian	Observer	Towns Fund Policy Advisor, Cities & Local Growth Unit	$\sqrt{}$
Peter Gaw	Board Member	Chief Executive Officer, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries	
Simon Martin	Board Member	Vice Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE)	$\sqrt{}$
Tim Hepke	Board Member	UK Head of Maintenance and Group Property, ITP Aero	
Theresa Hodgkinson	Board Member	Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council	V

Una Key	Board Member	Chief Officer, Ashfield Voluntary Action	
Andrea Stone	Supporting Officer	Wellbeing Manager, Ashfield District Council	
Christine Sarris	Supporting Officer	Assistant Director – Planning and Regulatory Services, Ashfield District Council	$\sqrt{}$
Hollie Maxwell-Smith	Supporting Officer	Discover Ashfield Lead, Ashfield District Council	$\sqrt{}$
Joelle Davies	Supporting Officer	Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development	$\sqrt{}$
John Bennett	Supporting Officer	Executive Director, Place, Ashfield District Council	V
Melanie Wheelwright	Supporting Officer	Forward Planning & Economic Growth Team Manager Ashfield District Council	$\sqrt{}$
Paul Crawford	Supporting Officer	Investment Manager – Regeneration, Ashfield District Council	
Sarah Daniel	Supporting Officer	Assistant Director - Regeneration, Ashfield District Council	V
Trevor Middleton	Supporting Officer	Town Centres Manager, Ashfield District Council	$\sqrt{}$

Agenda Item		
1	Welco	ome / Introductions / Apologies
	•	Apologies were made for Julia Terry, Jean Sharpe, Kathryn Stacey, Cllr Relf, Fiona Anderson and Leanne Monger. Introductions were made for David Harper, substitute for Fiona Anderson and Natalie Smith attending as an observer from PJS Engineering.
	•	Natalie introduced herself and explained that the business moved to Sherwood Business Park in Ashfield at the end of 2022, and it has been very successful working in the area. The business has progressed from 18 to 27 team members, they take on degree apprenticeships and work experience. They are keen to give back to the community which they operate within.
	•	David Williams from DWP noted that Jean Sharpe has moved from her role and stepping down from the board, he will pass on the details of the person who will replace Jean. Martin thanked Jean for all her input into the group. He also noted that Will
		Morlidge from D2N2 was stepping down from the board also and thanked him for his contribution.
2		w of Previous Meeting – Martin Rigley
а		Meeting Minutes
-	Φ Λ - 4:	All minutes agreed.
b		Log (these include actions from the below minutes)
3	Nov. F	There were no actions from this meeting. Declarations of Interest – ALL
3		
	•	Theresa Hodgkinson noted her declaration of interest as she is a governor for West Notts College.
	•	Cllr Girling declared an interest with the ADMC project as he is on the Action
		Group for this.
	•	Martin declared an interest with the ADMC project as he is on the Action Group for this.
4		Projects & Funding Update – Sarah Daniel
	•	Sarah went through the programmes and funding update for February starting with the Future High Streets Fund.
	•	There have been no changes since the last board report to the project budgets and there have been start / completion dates added to the report, along with the next key milestone.
	•	Theatre project – the planning application will be presented at the March planning committee meeting for approval.
	•	A project extension request has been approved in principle by DLUHC.
	•	9 – 11 Low Street – minor delays have occurred due to site access, but these have now been overcome. The project cost remains controlled.
	•	High Pavement – the Maker Space CIS has been approved. The committee has started to fit out facilities with the new equipment orders being received
	=	and there will be a VIP open event on 21 st March.
	•	Inspires new tenancy within the building will commence February / March. Fox Street – the project is being progressed alongside the Towns Fund
		Portland Square scheme. Delays in completing the Section 278 agreement with NCC have pushed the start date back. An extension of time request has

been approved by DLUHC. The risk remains elevated due to the delay in starting the contract.

- Sarah then moved onto the Towns Fund update. There were no changes to the project budgets since the last board report.
- North Kirkby Gateway Two options have been drawn up by consultants and a commercial option is being explored with one of the landowners to complete the land assembly. Risk is elevated as the project is behind programme due to delays in securing all the land required for the project.
- Kirkby Sports Hub the project is progressing through RIBA stage 3. The
 design team are progressing the project in two parts ready for the planning
 application and procurement:
 - o Bowls pavilion, car park and floodlight work Q4 2024.
 - o Main changing pavilion / pitch work Q1 2025.
- Sutton Lawn Sports Hub the project is progressing through RIBA stage 3. The design team are progressing the project in two parts ready for the planning application and procurement.
 - o Car park / pavilion / shale pitch Q1 2025.
 - o 3G pitches Q3 2025.
- The tennis courts improvements are progressing well on site and are due to be completed in early March.
- Cycling and Walking Routes procurement of the design team is being finalised and the consultant will be appointed in February.
- Visitor Digital Offer the new website is now live. Additional content is being developed / added and adjustments are being made to the Discover Ashfield app. The app will go live once the web infrastructure testing is complete.
- Science Discovery Centre and Planetarium works on site are progressing well with the foundations and sub structure works nearing completion.
- Martin commented that he was on site at the Planetarium on Monday and the progress is looking good.
- Sarah continued with the update.
- Kings Mill Reservoir leisure development the construction phase remans on programme and within budget.
- Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre (ADMC) the project team are progressing through RIBA stage 3. The planning application is on programme to be submitted by 4th March. Development work for the operating model and governance is ongoing. There have been pre-opening event meetings to promote the ADMC.
- Ashfield Construction Centre and Satellite Portland College: Construction
 works have commenced at Portland and are scheduled to be completed in
 April with training courses due to commence as soon as possible after
 completion. Vision West Notts College: The draft grant agreement for the
 construction centre at West Notts College has been prepared for the college
 to sign. The revised project plan indicates completion of the construction
 works in September. Development work is ongoing to explore increasing
 parking provision.
- Ashfield Civil Engineering Centre The project has been delayed as the site development will need to align to any changes to the Council's wider depot development work. The project opening will now be delayed until September 2025.

Enterprising Ashfield – Risk remains elevated because the target outputs are behind plan. A proposal to adapt the project to improve the target outputs has been drafted and will be reviewed before recommendations are made to the board. Martin asked if the risk arrow on the table shows an increased risk from previous meetings or if the risk has remained the same. Sarah confirmed it remains the same but noted that it could be made clearer whether the risk has changed from previous reports. She explained they have requested the programme manager from Enterprising Ashfield to attend a board meeting and to discuss the outcomes this project is achieving in the district. Library Innovation Centres – project planning is progressing for the Sutton project in collaboration with Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) and Inspire. West Kirkby Gateway – the design team are in RIBA stage 3 plans. The planning application is due to be submitted in March. The tenancy of the Wyvern Club has now ended, and the Council has secured the site. A public engagement event was held on 9th February with information displayed at Moor Market, the outdoor market, and the library in Kirkby. An online update will also be circulation to residents via Facebook. Cllr Girling asked if there were any issues from Nottinghamshire County Council regarding the Library Innovation project. Sarah explained there are planned works by NCC and Peter Gaw from Inspire is working with NCC on this. Cllr Girling offered support if needed as the library building is within his portfolio. Sarah continued with the report. High Street Property Fund – a project review of the Lowmoor Road flats, above Moor market, is to be undertaken by Vision West Notts College. Sarah then moved on to the Monitoring and Evaluation report – this was submitted for the Future High Streets Fund on 30th November including the request for an extension for the theatre project, Fox Street and 9 – 11 Low Street. The extension of time request has now been approved. The project adjustment request (PAR) was submitted to DLUHC in mid-January, the PAR detailed the movement of funds between projects agreed at the October Discover Ashfield Board. The report detailed the delegated decision which the board can approve and decisions that required DLUHC to sign off. Sarah moved onto an update of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. As noted in the last report, the highest risk is the potential underspend on projects and the payment of Year 3 funds at the start of the financial year. To receive 100% of the year 3 payments in April the total combined spend must be 80% or higher. The current spend is at 86% so this is looking positive. Higher risks remain around committing spend for the Community Vertical Farming project and slippage in the Hucknall High Street Grant and the Environmental Improvements in Coxmoor, these are being closely monitored. Hucknall High Street Grant - £190,000 is allocated to the Hucknall Town Centre High Street Grant - £50.000 in 2023-2024 and £130,000 in 2024-25. Council officers have visited businesses in the eligible areas with only 15

enquiries and one application which was not taken further. The area was expanded to include Annesley Road and Watnall Road. Learning from the contact already made with businesses considering their needs, it is proposed to engage Save the High Street to undertake a pilot project. They will engage directly with all businesses directly and provide 30 eligible businesses with foundation support. This is at a cost of £10,000 to be delivered over 6 months.

- Save the High Street (STHS) comprises an Advisory Board of 200+ high street businesses and industry experts, a community of Local Champions and many other partners across the public and private sectors. They have supported over 25,000 local businesses in the U.K to date.
- The pilot project would be delivered by Save the High Street and managed by Council officers.
- The project would comprise:
- Light Touch Support- initial 1to1 engagement, invitation to ongoing newsletter
- communication up to 30 businesses.
- Medium Touch Support initial engagement, invitation to ongoing newsletter
- communication, Business 'Health Check' Survey and personalised Action Plan (total
- 4 weeks) up to 10 businesses.
- Intensive Support initial engagement, invitation to ongoing newsletter
- communication, Business 'Health Check' Survey, personalised Action Plan.
- Cllr Girling asked what the pilot project would consist of. He has seen other authorities helping businesses with their online presence and using grants for this.
- Sarah explained this can be an option, it is up to the business what they
 need. There has been an initiative like this before. Also, there is a pilot which
 ADC are working with West Notts College to support traders in the Indoor
 Market.
- Cllr Girling agreed it is a very worthwhile project to be looking at.
- David Harper explained that the Enterprising Ashfield programme is behind in certain areas, with the Growth Programme being one of these in Sutton and Kirkby and there is merit in delivering a bespoke programme for retail businesses. They hope to have a plan together within a few weeks and he is keen to discuss this further with ADC to ensure work isn't being duplicated.
- Sarah thanked David and confirmed that the business support team meet regularly with the Enterprising Ashfield programme manager so this will be picked up and agreed that if the programme can move into high street support that would be invaluable.
- Sarah continued with the report.
- The support from Save The High Street is intended to be a pipeline for the Hucknall Grant and potentially the Enterprise Grant. Given the timeframe it is unlikely that the current £190,000 budget would be spent, given the time and number of businesses involved. Therefore, it is suggested that the budget is reduced to £90,000 and combined with Enterprise Grant to provide greater flexibility.
- The support from Save The High Street would achieve the outputs and outcomes required for this investment.

The project would be reviewed after three months of operation and if the programme was on target, it would be considered for a roll out of the programme over 9 months to Sutton and Kirkby town centres to cover businesses on a first come first served basis at a budget of £60,000. The board was asked to consider and approve a proposal to allocate £10k of the 2023-2024 funding to Save the High Street to deliver the pilot business support project; reducing the overall funding by £100k, leaving an overall budget of £90,000 and, approve subject to the three month review (which will be brought to the Board) to consider a wider roll out to include Kirkby and Sutton town centre businesses. Cllr Girling asked if there had been a possibility of Business Improvement Districts (BID) as they are showing success in other areas such as Mansfield. Cllr Girling researched BIDs in depth during his time in Newark. Sarah explained this was looked into a few years ago and there could be a potential to review this again. Cllr Girling went on to say that the Bassetlaw BID, run by Sally Gillborn as Chief Executive Officer, has been very successful and that Sally is very keen to discuss this with others. Martin also confirmed he knows Sally and she has confirmed she would be keen to help if it's needed. Theresa Hodgkinson thanked Cllr Girling for his recommendation and explained there were consultations done with businesses regarding a BID however there was no appetite for this at the time. She agreed with Sarah that this can be reviewed however as it's an additional cost to businesses there needs to be support and it needs to compliment the wider programme of works the Council are delivering. Martin invited Gary Jordan to discuss, as he is the Chair of the Mansfield BID. Gary explained that he meets regularly with Sally to look at the wider area as it is their ballot year this year and they will be looking to widen the BID out across the Mansfield district. • If anyone from ADC want to discuss this, he will welcome a discussion with Sally. Cllr Girling commented he believes it is the message given that is important, as some small businesses don't have to pay, and they can tend to be the businesses who aren't supportive. There is a lot of support on offer for businesses, but they just need to be aware of all the information. Gary Jordan agreed that the communication is key for the BID. He also added partnerships with police, council and stakeholders have benefitted businesses in town centres. Martin added it may be something that can be reviewed and picked up again in the future. Cllr Girling proposed the decision to make changes to the Hucknall High Street grant and to appoint Save the High Street, and Gary Jordan seconded. Sarah continued with the agenda pack on point 3.4. Ashfield have been offered an opportunity to host the Art Explora Mobile Museum, in partnership with the Tate. The mobile museum will visit Kirkby, Sutton and Hucknall between 4th March – 23rd March, spending one week in

- each area. Ashfield is the only area in the East Midlands which has been chosen for this.

 There will be an opportunity for both schools and the community to visit.

 There will be a fully facilitated exhibition visit and workshop. Schools can visit
- To expand this offer, ADC are proposing to include face painting, circus workshops, giant garden games, street music and a small market. They would offer free transport to those schools not in walking distance of the locations, including schools in the Rurals.
- This year's allocation for events is already committed and spent.

for a 45-minute exhibition and is completely free of charge.

- To enable this programme to be delivered, it is requested that £10,000 from the 2024-2025 UKSPF Events budget is brought forward to 2023-2024 to maximise the opportunities that the Art Explora Mobile Museum will bring to the District.
- The Board is asked to consider and approve a proposal to bring forward £10,000 from the 2024-2025 to host the Art Explora Museum in partnership with the Tate between 4-23 March 2023 to Kirkby, Sutton and Hucknall.
- Simon Martin expressed that this is great for Ashfield. He asked if the offer would be marketed to schools directly.
- Sarah confirmed the offer has been sent to schools already and explained that due to the security of the art, the Tate do not like a great deal of advertisement for this in advance.
- Cllr Girling showed his support for Mobile Museum.
- He also highlighted other events which are upcoming in the next two years.
- This year it's the 80th anniversary of the D Day landings.
- In 2025 it is the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day.
- There are 5 residents in Nottinghamshire who are still alive who were there at the landings on D Day.
- Sarah confirmed ADC were marking those events.
- Cllr Girling proposed the decision, and Pete Edwards seconded.
- Sarah continued with point 3.5 of the report.
- Enterprise Grants The grant was launched on 31 July. Premises in the current grant eligibility area have been made aware of the offer either by officer visit, social media, or leaflet. The eligibility criteria and the programme have been under regular review to increase take up. As of January, out of 56 initial enquiries, there have been six applications and 4 grants awarded to a value of £20,250.
- To increase take up it is proposed to widen the eligible grant area from town centres and local shopping areas to cover all of the District and to increase the range of eligible items.
- From the latest review, it was found that small businesses often struggle with producing the required basic financial information and that businesses had additional areas of need for support. The changes to the grant offer will help address these issues. The proposed additional eligible items are costs relating to research and development, costs to purchase machinery, digital marketing costs, costs associated with specialist advice to support the business and costs to claim back any accountancy support used to help applicants complete a 12-month profit and loss forecast.

	•	The grant offer amount would remain unchanged at up to £6,000 to contribute towards 75% of the total eligible cost of the project (excluding VAT). We forecast that the budget level of £140k will be sufficient for this programme. Officers will continue to keep the scheme under review and report back to the Board.
	•	The board is asked to consider and approve a proposal to extend the Enterprise Grant to cover all of the District, within the existing budget, and to agree to the revised grant criteria.
	•	Martin commented that the changes will made a positive benefit to the scheme.
	•	Cllr Girling proposed the decision, and Gary Jordan seconded.
	•	Sarah continued with ADMC Pre-opening support. This project commenced on 1st July and had an overall budget of £142,000 (£50,000 2023-2024 and £92,000 in 2024-2025). ADC have been able to accelerate the project following agreement of the site location. Spend for the first five months was £27,867 and with events and activities planned it is forecast to spend around £60,000 by year end. It is requested that £10,000 is brought forward from 2024-2025.
	•	The board is asked to consider and approve the proposal to bring forward £10,000 of funds from 2024-25 to accelerate delivery this financial year.
	•	Gary commented that he attended the presentation at Van Elle and noticed that the escalation and pace has increased for the project and acknowledges this and feels it should be further pushed.
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d	Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards
	 Pete echoed how brilliant the awards were and how the event was well
	planned, despite some hiccups during the evening it was very well enjoyed.
	 The Be Healthy, Be Happy management group met with an agenda to focus
	on the next 12 months and the plans going forward. One discussion was
	around the organisations who want to present at the Network events and
	getting a questionnaire together to understand what messages they'd like to
	deliver, if they are funded, where their work is based to ensure these are
	beneficial to attendees.
	The next network meeting is on 20 th March.
	Pete also attended the Health Inequalities Innovation Investment Fund (HIIIF)
	meeting with the Place Based Partnership. The main discussion at this was
	around young people, flu vaccinations and doing outreach projects.
	There are also Living Well and Ageing Well networks taking place in Newark Sharward If these prove to be supposeful, then these will be relled out in
	& Sherwood. If these prove to be successful, then these will be rolled out in Mid Notts which covers the Ashfield except Hucknall.
	Pete will send the information to Hollie to circulate.
	 He was invited to High Pavement to look at accessibility and will return before
	it's opening.
6	Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update – Hollie Maxwell-Smith
	Hollie thanked the presenters and ADC colleagues who helped in any
	capacity at the Discover Ashfield Awards. There has been some positive
	feedback from award winners and attendees.
	Hollie and Sarah are continuing work with the Visitor Economy consultants to
	formulate a Destination Management Plan.
	Work is continuing with the Arts bid with Edward Boott.
	The Delivery Group reviewed the Made in Ashfield logos which students from
	WNC created and Hollie will go back to the course leader to look at some
	small changes.
	 Martin commented that this brand would be used to promote businesses and
	products which are made in Ashfield.
7	Board Member Updates – All
	 Cllr Girling promoted the Boots and Berets Award on 22nd August 2024 and
	explained there is an option for sponsorship. He also noted the Armed Forces
	Covenant which shows businesses are supportive of the Armed Forces.
8	Any Other Business - All
	There was no other business.
9	Date of Next Meeting – Friday 5 th April