

**NOTES OF THE CLACTON TOWN BOARD WORKSHOP,  
HELD ON MONDAY, 15 APRIL 2024 AT 2.00PM  
IN THE WHITELAW ROOM, TOWN HALL, STATION ROAD CLACTON-ON-SEA CO15  
1SE**

Board Members present:	George Kieffer (Chairman), Sharon Alexander, Billy Ball, Ian Davidson, Roger Hirst, Greg Myddleton, Dr. Emily Murray, Cllr. Mark Stephenson, Laura Taylor-Green, and Cllr. Lesley Wagland.
In attendance:	C Insp Ella Latham, Andy Burgess, Lee Heley and Sam Jones

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Board Members, Cllr Ivan Henderson, Rob Mitchell-Gears, Craig Newnes and Giles Watling MP.

In addition, further apologies for absence were received from Steve Evison, Jane Gardner and Keith Simmons.

## **2. WORKSHOP ON VISION AND PRIORITIES**

George Kieffer introduced the workshop, which looked at the vision and priorities for the long-term plan for Clacton Town.

Members of the Board were made aware that, for the Long-Term Plan for Towns, the Department for Levelling Up's Spatial Data Unit, in collaboration with the Office for National Statistics, had developed a tailored, technical data pack published on the gov.uk. website - [Clacton-on-Sea - local data profile \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk). That data pack also included the defined boundary map. The data is focused on three priority areas:

- safety and security,
- high streets and heritage; and
- transport and connectivity.

George Kieffer then welcomed Dr Emily Murray and thanked her for agreeing to facilitate the workshop. The Board were asked to consider: where are the issues; what are the top priorities; and who they impact (i.e. which groups)?

The following points were noted:

### **Where**

1. The station arrival/gateway - important for the perception of Clacton.

2. Town centre needs to be place we are proud of. Also noted as a place for culture and creativity. With changes in retail this could mean “shrinking” the town centre.
3. Key growth areas e.g. Hartley Gardens (will mean more families and we need to encourage them to use the town centre rather than travel out to Colchester)

## **What**

4. Economic opportunity
  - a. Skills development/education & aspiration – ideas for major training establishment linked to industry.
  - b. New industry/good quality jobs - including Freeport East & Green Energy
  - c. Business/entrepreneurship – support business growth (noting current high turnover)
  - d. Healthcare – at all levels (career/skills pathways)
  - e. Accessibility to employment (especially job growth in the North of Tendring)
  - f. Opportunities for homeworking
5. Housing
  - a. HMOs/landlords
  - b. Enforcement
6. Safety
  - a. Perception & fear of crime
  - b. Well used public spaces help prevent crime, but people need to feel safe to use them
7. Travel
  - a. Road layout, quality & wayfinding
  - b. Accessibility (including alternatives e.g. park & ride in peak periods)
  - c. Confidence to travel
  - d. Rail station – gateway to and from Clacton, opportunities for partnerships (Network Rail, Abellio Greater Anglia)
8. Pride/attractiveness/cleanliness.
  - a. Ownership
  - b. Trust
  - c. Community sector
  - d. Safety & reassurance
  - e. Positivity/reputation (including addressing social media)
  - f. Cultural capital

## **Who**

9. Older people –thinking about their needs but also the opportunities they bring – community capacity/volunteering
10. Children and young people – the future of Clacton
11. Current community, but also those moving into new housing.

### **3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSIONS**

The Board discussed how it would engage with the community in developing the vision and investment plan.

Who needs to be engaged/

- The community/residents
- Businesses
- Young people
- Visitors
- Potential visitors (who doesn't come and why?)
- Potential business/investors

Which groups/organization?

- Tenants panel
- Housing groups
- Voluntary & community groups
- Teentalk
- Youth Services
- Local Cultural Educational Partnership – Youth Voice
- Neighbourhood watch
- Ind advisory groups with police
- Business networks
- Pier visitor database
- Social media groups – Next door, Mumsnet, Tendring groups

What one question would you ask?

- What would improve your life here?
- What would you like to see? (What is the vision? What is achievable?)
- What does this mean to me as a local resident?

The importance of community engagement was noted to bring in the voice of residents to the vision and subsequent action plan.

#### **4. DATE OF/ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT MEETING(S)**

The Board considered the dates and administrative arrangements for its next meeting(s).

w/c 20<sup>th</sup> May  
w/c 24<sup>th</sup> June  
w/c 15<sup>th</sup> July

Dates to be confirmed by email

The workshop ended at 16.05