

# Public Document Pack

## Darwen Town Deal Board

Thursday, 28th September, 2023  
2.00 pm  
Teams Meeting

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### AGENDA

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

To welcome those present to the meeting and to receive any apologies for absence.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July 2023**

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

**Darwen Town Deal Board - Minutes 13.07.23**

**3 - 7**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on this agenda.

**4. Chairman's Report**

To receive a verbal update on the Darwen Town Deal Programme.

**5. Programmes and Project Update**

To receive a verbal update on the programmes and projects.

**6. Communications Update**

To receive a verbal Communications update.

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Denise Park, Chief Executive

**ACTION MINUTES**

**THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023**

**VENUE: Darwen Cricket Club**

| <b>Present: Board Members</b>                        | <b>Support Officers:</b> | <b>Also Present:</b>   |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| Wayne Wild, Chair of the Board                       | Clare Turner, BwDBC      | Neil Tindale, DLVHC; Chris Lowe, Darwen CC; Graham Ainslie Darwen CC |
| Cllr Phil Riley, Leader of Blackburn with Darwen BC  | Andrew Barrow, BwDBC     | Paul Evans, DBT  |
| Glenda Brindle, Chair of Governors, Aldridge Academy | Natalie Banks, BwDBC     | Tina Kuczer, BwDBC (Minutes)   |
| Kevin Connor, Darwen Town Council                    | Martin Kelly, BwDBC      |  |

| <b>Agenda Item</b> |  | <b>Key Action</b> |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>1</b>           | <b>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</b><br>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting, apologies were noted from: Cllr John Slater, Miranda Barker, John Sturgess, Steve Waggott, Gary Aspden, John Wilkinson, Jake Berry and Fazal Dad. | Noted             |
| <b>2</b>           | <b>Minutes of the last meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023</b><br>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.  | Approved          |

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| 3  | <b>Declarations of Interest</b>                                    | There were no Declarations of Interest received  | Noted |
| 4  | <b>Update and Presentation on Darwen Cricket Club Development.</b> | <p>Chris Lowe, Chairman and Graham Ainslie, Operations Manager at Darwen Cricket Club gave a slide presentation and update to the Board.</p> <p>Phase 1 Club House Renovation – Complete</p> <p>Phase 2 Pavilion Extension – planning application to be submitted this week. Pavilion to include an outside bar/family area with digital screen for showing results / matches. Covered, Flood-lit Cricket Centre – planning already agreed. This Phase was being supported by Aldridge Academies and funding matched by the Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Planning for Professional Accommodation (one bed apartment) to be progressed.</p> <p>What next?</p> <p>Dependent on funding and following the example of Shrewsbury Town Foundation, plans were being considered for a multi-function Education / Café / Outdoor Gym facility to be built within the current grounds.</p> <p>There were plans to increase accessibility to the venue, not just as a Cricket / Event location. A Q&amp;A session followed the presentation.</p> <p>Topics discussed:</p> <p>Access to the Club and facilities for under-privileged children.</p> <p>Links to local Community Groups, Churches and Charities.</p> <p>Links to local Schools.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed the presentation and thanked Chris and Graham for their hard work. It was noted that budgets were well monitored and links with local businesses kept costs down wherever possible during the four years they have been working on the project.</p> <p>The Chair advised Chris and Graham it would be great if they could work with Youth Zone as part of the “Next Level” sports initiative in collaboration with local golf clubs and to engage with Darwen Football Club, Junction 4 Skate Park and Darwen Golf Club for a really strong local sports offer. Darwen Cricket Club was asked to do a viability study by the end of August 2023 and to report back to the DTD Board.</p> |       |
| 5. | <b>Chairman’s Report</b>   | The Board was given an update on Junction 4 Skate Park and its recent feature on BBC News.   |       |

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|   |                                    | <p>Work at Darwen FC was near completion. The Chair advised there was still levelling up work to be done to promote sports to the underprivileged children in the area. The Chair also requested that higher profile branding be used for all projects supported by the Town Deal.</p>   |  |
| 6 | <b>Programs and Project Update</b> | <p>Clare Turner &amp; Andrew Barrow gave a presentation to the Board with an update on the Darwen Town Deal Programme</p> <p>On the Town Centre Core, the Council would be meeting with Market Traders on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, to set the scene and with the intention of dispelling any misinformation / rumours.</p> <p>Other businesses could be affected but conversations needed to be had with Traders first.</p> <p>Car Parking planning and signage during the works would be a priority. Residents and Traders would be kept up to date via social platforms, the Shuttle and Darwen Notice Board. The Master Programme was discussed with contractors/planning and cost confidence confirmed by early 2024. Phasing of works / car parking needed to be surveyed in order to understand trading peaks and troughs. .</p> <p>Employment Growth was noted to be making good progress. The Chapels South Scheme had been agreed and planning permission would be submitted in August/September 2023. A Darwen based high value manufacturing business has agreed the lease for Balle Mill.</p> <p>Regular meetings were being held with Perspex. Design scope changes had been discussed. The planning application is due to be submitted by the end of 2023/early 2024 with construction and completion programme to follow.</p> <p>Town Centre Living was discussed with a revised appraisal now been submitted for the Church Street plans.</p> <p>The Destination Darwen Project is being reviewed. This includes the Heritage Walk / Moorland and Parks trails". There is also interest from Natural England around the SSSI, WWT through the Peat Restoration Project and other landowners are in the process of being contacted. It</p> |  |

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|          |                       | <p>was noted that this year is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Jubilee Tower being opened to the public and a walk was planned.</p> <p>The East Lancs Sports Village project was discussed. J4 Skatepark is holding the National BMX Championship in July 2023. This needs to be promoted. The “Project Golf” and was looking at creating a driving range / crazy golf area and food/retail outlet.</p> <p>Project Gigabit - £5bn Nationally to be spent on improving barriers to accessibility of fast, reliable broadband. Lancashire CC to provide more details in September 2023 following a market testing exercise – to be reported back to the Board.</p> <p>Darwen Youth Centre – Discussions were currently embargoed with a Comms package to follow. Outline designs were being developed with planning applications to be submitted in September 2023. Current plans were for the project to be completed by December 2024. Youth Zone had been granted £100k funding. 16 Youth Zone Patrons were also helping to fund the development.</p> |     |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Communications</b> | <p>The Board received a Communications update from Natalie Banks on behalf of BwD. Hemmingway designs and Source Creative are working in partnership with the Council to create a new website and Place Campaign – “Discover BwD”. There would be lots of focus on Darwen as part of the Town Deal story.</p> <p>Herbert Parkinson was celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year. The company had recently appeared on TV as part of a visibility drive and was a John Lewis Partner.</p> <p>New Signage had been erected at Junction 4 Skatepark – with the Town Deal Logo included. There were also plans for large signage to be installed at Darwen Football Club.</p>   |     |
| <b>8</b> | <b>AOB</b>            | N/A  |     |
|          | <b>Next Meeting:</b>  | Date: 28 <sup>th</sup> September 2023  | ALL |

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|--|--|---------------|--|
|  |  | Teams Meeting |  |
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