

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place	
Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 September 2022
Subject:	Sutton Bridge Place Making – Scheme Overview

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the Sutton Bridge Place Making Scheme, which seeks to deliver a programme of integrated initiatives in Sutton Bridge to:

- (i) create the conditions to increase footfall between the marina and local businesses and services and increase local spend and potentially small business growth; and,
- (ii) add value to the scheme to extend the original moorings delivered in summer 2021, which was fully funded through the Sail the Wash initiative.

The Sutton Bridge Place Making Scheme aims to support the village by enhancing its appeal both to residents and visitors by improving the physical and visual links between the riverside, bridge, moorings, and the village centre.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to:

- (1) review and comment on the contents of this report; and
- (2) recommend any actions to the relevant Executive Councillor for their consideration.

1. Background

This project seeks to enhance the village's major assets – the river, the historic bridge, the riverside moorings, and its position as the gateway to Lincolnshire – and to create the conditions to increase footfall between the marina and local businesses and services and increasing local spend and potentially small business growth.

It also seeks to take advantage of the area's potential for tourism, with nearby attractions such as the Sir Peter Scott Lighthouse, St Matthew's Church (the only flintstone church in Lincolnshire) and the use of the area as a practice site for the 617 Squadron in preparation for the Dam Busters raid.

In addition, it would build on the area's potential for tourism now that it is on the route of the England Coast path.

Sutton Bridge is also near The Wash. This is an area of outstanding natural beauty and is a designated European Marine Site. It is England's largest bay and contains extensive sandflats and saltmarshes which are home to a diverse habitat of marine mammals, shellfish, wildfowl, and many other migratory birds.

The 'Sail The Wash' initiative, comprising Fenland District Council, Lincolnshire County Council and the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, promotes The Wash to more water-based visitors. A project to extend the existing floating pontoons at Sutton Bridge has recently been completed, delivering an additional 58 metre infill pontoon and a new 35 metre pontoon extension. This will provide further potential to stimulate activity in the area.

The proposed project would work closely with the local community, whereby they would be involved in all aspects of the project's development, helping them understand, appreciate, and build upon what makes the place unique.

1.1 The Project

The proposed scheme consists of two inter linked projects, supported by on-line promotional initiatives:

Pedestrian improvements – Improvements to the route for pedestrians from the riverside and moorings to the village centre. The improvements would include – new steps down from the riverbank near the bridge, a new ramp near the moorings and new dropped kerbs at all crossing points on the main road.

Community arts project – a series of street furniture, artworks and bespoke features designed in co-ordination with the community and the University of Lincoln's 'Transported Arts' team.

1.2 Budget

The project would require £100,000 of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) funding, which is the subject of a separate funding bid which will be determined by the Executive Director – Resources in consultation with the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor: Resources, Communications and Commissioning), and has been designed to be delivered within that figure.

In addition to the potential LCC £100k funding we have attracted the following contributions to deliver the arts project:

£ 2,500	Capital funding from Transported
£ 650	Capital funding from South Holland District Council
£ 9,200	in-kind funding from Transported Arts
<u>£ 1,250</u>	in-kind funding from the local carving group.
£13,600	

Transported Arts' in-kind funding includes their costs for:

- project management
- equipment and time for all public engagement events
- marketing/advertising costs
- costs of taking a group of local people from Sutton Bridge to Boston to look at similar projects there.

1.3 Issues

LCC leases the riverbank from the Henry Smith Charity and would need its consent for any works in this area. The riverbank is also a flood defence so work in this area would require Environment Agency permission.

1.4 Progress

Pedestrian improvements

The Council's Technical Services Partnership (TSP) has been engaged to assist in delivering this element of the project.

TSP's initial feasibility work helped develop the details of the improvements within the indicative budget. TSP has also consulted with the local highway officer and is now in the process of consulting the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. Local disabled and access groups are also being consulted.

Community arts project

The University of Lincoln's Transported Arts Team has been engaged to deliver an initial community consultation exercise. This initial public engagement exercise would be followed by a second phase to develop and design the finished artworks.

The initial community engagement exercise included a series of public carving workshops, every weekend in July 2022 in the village centre. These events were very successful and over 80 people have been involved in them.

The feedback has identified some themes that would be reflected in the first stage of the art project. These have centred around local historical and river related subjects and wildlife, particularly birds. There are several locals who have said they would want to contribute, including the 96-year-old who was the Swing bridge's maintenance engineer and the carpenter who repaired the windows on the bridge.

The approach to the initial art project would be likely to be carpentry based. The initial concept would be to have a raised viewing platform on the riverside, in the form of the prow of a boat, with a second smaller structure on the village green. Then to create a trail encouraging people to follow the route from the village centre to the riverside.

This first stage of the project would be done as a community project, with the construction of the features being done locally and extra artworks being created in coordination with local schools and community groups.

1.5 Member and public engagement

A meeting took place with Councillor J. Tyrrell on 29th March to apprise him of the project. A further meeting took place on 11th July with Councillors J. Tyrrell, C. Davie and T. Dyer to discuss progress with the project.

Once the details of the art project have been developed there would be a public meeting in the village to discuss the proposals for the project.

1.6 Programme

- ✓ Technical Services Partnership engaged to assist on the project April 2022
- ✓ Public engagement arts project begins in the village July 2022
- ✓ TSP complete their feasibility work and start consultation Aug. 2022
- TSP complete design and tender for footpath works Nov. 2022
- Fabrication of artworks starts Nov. 2022
- Footpath works start on site Jan. 2023
- Footpath works completed on site Mar. 2023
- Artworks installed on site and project completed Mar. 2023

2. Conclusion

This project would deliver much needed improvements in a Lincolnshire village that is at the gateway to the county, enhancing the area for local businesses and services, visitors and residents.

The project would put the community at the heart of what will be delivered. This approach will ensure that the community take an active part in the scheme and have a strong sense of ownership for what is delivered.

Members of the Committee are invited to review and comment on the overview of this project and highlight any additional matters which could be considered in delivering this project within the indicative budget.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The major risk to the project is in delivering improvements on land leased to but not owned by Lincolnshire County Council. To mitigate this risk early consultation has taken place with the landowner (The Henry Smith Charity).

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Plan - Footpath and roadway improvements

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Peter Fender, Senior Project Officer, who can be contacted on 07774924946 or peter.fender@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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