

# MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Presentation from  
Mr. S. Jardine, Regeneration Manager, Pembrokeshire County Council,  
and Mr. A. Meulman, Associate Director, Planning and Regeneration, BE Group,  
regarding Regeneration / Placemaking Plans for Milford Haven

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## PRESENT

The Mayor (Councillor Miss K. F. Gray)

Councillors: R. Williams  
(Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee)

B. Phillips                      D. R. Sinnett

Miss F. K. Galliford, Secretary

## TO RECEIVE MR. S. JARDINE, REGENERATION MANAGER, PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL, AND MR. A. MEULMAN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, PLANNING & REGENERATION, BE GROUP, REGARDING REGENERATION/PLACEMAKING PLANS FOR MILFORD HAVEN:

The Chair of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee, Councillor R. Williams, welcomed Mr. Jardine and Mr. Meulman.

Mr. Jardine introduced himself to the Councillors. He advised of a Welsh Government directive that could lead to projects being funded in Milford Haven. This directive had been focused on Haverfordwest and Pembroke, but has recently been expanded to include a range of other towns including Milford Haven.

Mr. Jardine advised that the Welsh Government have agreed to fund eleven/twelve "strands", all linked to a strong notion of place.

Mr. Jardine spoke of the struggles experienced by the High Street which had been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. He highlighted the idea of the "15 minute spend" – a popular planning paradigm relating primarily to daily needs.

The funding will be in place for three years (from 2022) and will encompass six towns. The figure for the whole of Pembrokeshire is around £900,000. Mr. Jardine spoke of the possibility of working in tandem with private investors.

Mr. Jardine enthused about Milford Haven being on the cusp of greatness following the opening of the Tŷ Hotel on Milford Marina and the various other projects in the area. He spoke of his determination for Milford Haven to reach its full potential.

A Member enquired about the bidding process, asking who would ultimately decide upon the funding.

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Mr. Jardine responded by saying that a selected panel – headed by Dr. S. Jones, Director of Community Services, Pembrokeshire County Council - would be the first to consider applications.

The applications would also be considered by a wider, business-oriented panel composed of significant Pembrokeshire names.

Another Member asked for clarity as to the business panel making decisions.

Mr. Jardine said that Pembrokeshire County Council has the strategic authority and that applications will be considered on a case basis. He is presently engaging with Town Councils and progress is positive.

Mr. Jardine spoke of the process and directing resources appropriately. He spoke of the focus on Charles Street and of providing opportunity.

Mr. A. Meulman, who is employed by the BE Group, based in Warrington, England, then addressed Members. He advised that the Group had been observing Milford Haven since the end of 2021.

Mr. Meulman displayed a series of slides highlighting plans and opportunities for the town, encouraging Members to think about Charles Street, and the focus of Charles Street. He spoke of a "triangle" – Charles Street, Milford Marina, and Havens Head Retail Park – to thrive and build off each other. He also drew Members' attention to the Torch Theatre, suggesting that it could be used to build a sense of place.

Mr. Meulman spoke of his desire to encourage active travel (such as walking or cycling) where possible.

A Member expressed concern regarding a neighbouring town, where the town centre had been stripped of benches. He stressed that he did not want this to happen to Milford Haven.

These concerns were noted by Mr. Jardine and Mr. Meulman. Mr. Meulman once again accentuated the importance of connections and highlighted opportunities such as the installation of murals and artwork in the town.

The Mayor of Milford Haven, Councillor Miss K. F. Gray, left the presentation at this point as she had a Mayoral engagement.

The Member then asked what the Town Council can do. Mr. Meulman suggested an Action Plan and expressed a willingness to hear recommendations.

Mr. Jardine said that this was the first time that Milford Haven has had a seat at the table and again emphasised this opportunity.

A Member asked whether this item could be put on the Agenda for a future Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Williams thanked Mr. Jardine and Mr. Meulman for their presentation. Mr. Jardine and Mr. Meulman then left the Meeting.

## **MILFORD HAVEN TOWN COUNCIL**

The scheduled Meeting of the Planning, Policy and Community Committee could not go ahead as the earlier departure of Councillor Miss K. F. Gray meant that the Meeting would not be quorate.

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