

BRIGHOUSE TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 20th June 2023

Meeting Room 1, Brighouse Library, HD6 2AF

Present:

Cllr Howard Blagbrough (Chair)
David Whitehead (Co-Chair)
Cllr Sophie Whittaker
Malcolm Silkstone
Richard Mitchell
Jason Carlton
Lesley Adams
Colin Gordon
Ann Colley

In attendance:

Councillor Courtney
Kate McNicholas
Jess Thompson
Duncan Cooper
Matthew Nicholson
Stephen Naylor
Rob Shipway

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed Board members and officers.

Apologies received from Craig Whittaker MP, Carl Wrigley, Shannon Prendergast, and Heather Waddington.

2 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest reported.

3 Minutes for approval

The Board agreed that the minutes of the meeting held 19th April 2023 were a true record, subject to a correction to the attendance list. (Ann Colley had attended the previous meeting of the Board).

4 Matters arising

The Board reiterated its strong opposition regarding proposed car parking changes which would result in a loss of car parking spaces in the town centre.

The Board also sought reassurance of future proposals for the Parklets and asked that the issue be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

The Board stressed the urgency of the issue and the need to provide reassurance to shop owners and town users that their concerns were being heard. Opportunities to revisit the proposals could include a review of zebra crossings, or an assessment of the area around Bethel Street.

Resolved: that officers revisit car parking proposals and the future use of parklets and bring to the next meeting of the Board. The report should include what proposals have been considered and if they are not feasible, a clear rationale as to why this is so.

5 Engagement feedback

The Board received a report setting out a summary of communications work and feedback from engagement events. The Board noted there have been over 8,500 visits to the website demonstrating the level of interest in the proposals.

The Board welcomed the success of recent marketing and engagement events which have been well attended and feedback generally positive both on the projects and the events themselves. The feedback on proposals for the market and Thornton Square were particularly well received, the proposals for parking and public realm receiving a more mixed response. There is support for the existing mural to be reflected somewhere in the town.

It was noted there are both calls for more pedestrianisation, and conversely calls for more consultation on car parking. The Board stressed the need to ensure business needs and concern were understood and addressed. The Board agreed this should await the outcome of a decision on the future of the parklets.

Asked about next steps, the Board noted work was underway to categorise responses and use these to inform RIBA 3 development. The Board asked for feedback to be distributed and shared with the public during the next phase of engagement.

Action: Paul McRae to distribute feedback on RIBA 3 consultation to Board members and liaise with Stephen Naylor to communicate more widely.

Councillor Whittaker asked about decision making on their future of the parklets. Officers reported they are working to ensure any proposal fits with Council policy. The Board's role is to provide strategic oversight and provide ongoing refinement to business cases. The Board stressed the need to demonstrate that people's concerns are being heard on parking. Officers reported that whilst parklets must go to allow the wider implementation of the Town Deal programme, there are issues relating to whether they can be relocated, and, if so, where? The Board reiterated its stance on the parklets

and noted this position has been made clear at previous meetings. Richard Mitchell proposed relocating the parklets to land currently used by Incredible Edible.

Action: Officers committed to work with the design team and return to the Board with a response based on feedback from consultation, board, and Council policy.

6 Project update

Officers reported satisfactory progress towards RIBA 3 sign off for the Market, and town centre designs. Officers delivered a presentation to Visits Unlimited, a social enterprise supporting people living with lived experience of disability, which resulted in informative feedback to inform design.

Proposals are being developed in conjunction with the development of the A641. The Board noted that work on the Brighouse programme will complete before the A641 works. The Board noted the need to ensure Town Deal work and the A641 do not result in abortive works and should be programmed to minimise impact on business and communities. The Board highlighted the public interest in how the schemes would interact. Malcolm Silkstone reported he had held a meeting with Bailiff Hill residents and reported significant interest and a wish to be informed of progress.

Action: Officers to liaise with Highways and WYCA colleagues to provide an update on the A641 at an appropriate juncture.

7 Industry 4.0 presentation

Ebrahim Dockrat of Calderdale College delivered an update on the Industry 4.0 project. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes. He reported the purpose of the project is to create a hi-tec business hub and associated training opportunities, providing a centre of excellence in Brighouse.

All works have been procured, with local contractors commissioned to do the work. It is anticipated that work will be completed by late September. In year one, the project will deliver 35 apprenticeships and support 5 businesses.

The Board was informed of a proposal for funding to the UKSPF, the outcome would be known August.

The Board welcomed the presentation and advances made with the project and looked forward to attending the launch in October.

Action: Rob Shipway to circulate copies of the presentation to the Board

8 Governance

At the April Board meeting, it was agreed that officers should contact Board members to gauge interest in reconvening Panels as the programme moves to delivery. Subsequently, there have been expressions of interest to set up Panels for Markets, Sustainability, Communications, and Investment (looking

beyond Town Deal). The Board suggested a Panel for Public Realm should be considered.

The Board raised the need for clarity of the role of Panels. Some Board members expressed frustration they did not feel able to influence design of the projects. Examples included the public realm proposals, car parking, opportunities for improved street lighting.

Action: Rob Shipway to circulate the Panel opportunities for Board members to review and confirm interest in joining panel(s).

Action: Once membership is confirmed, a Teams meeting to be set up to discuss and agree the role of the Boards.

9 Any other business

The Board thanked Duncan Cooper for his work and support for the Board and wished him well for the future.

Regarding benches, officers reported ongoing work with Highways to decide their future.

Action: Officers to seek an update from Highways.

David Whitehead asked about the opportunity to consider lighting options for the town centre. He highlighted areas where Victorian lamps had been introduced effectively as an example.

The Board fully understands the ongoing issues for communities and business of the cost-of-living crisis and stressed the need to maintain effective and regular communications.

The Board noted that the results from the Brighthouse Community Planning event delivered by JTP Consultants are currently being analysed and a report will be presented to the Board later in the year.

10 Date and venue of next meeting

This meeting is currently pencilled in for 29th August. The Board asked that availability for this date to be checked given the proximity of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Action: Meeting to be changed to 22nd August 2023, at the library.