



Halifax Development Board Meeting



Minutes of meeting held Thursday 7 April 2022, 18:00

Meeting held Via Teams/ Town Hall Committee Room D

Attendees

Cllr J Scullion
Cllr Stephen Baines
Cllr Bob Metcalf

Rev Hilary Barber
Lauren Iredale
Lee Kenny
Chloe McNeill

Ellis Broadhead (CMBC)
Kate McNicholas (CMBC)
Shelagh O'Neill (CMBC)
Rob Summerfield (CMBC)
Zhenya Bibby (CMBC)

Apologies

Cllr Tim Swift
Cllr Megan Swift
Cllr Roger Taylor

Stephen Bullock
Tracy Harvey
Alison Haskins
Janet Whitlow (CMBC)
Zohrah Zancudi (CMBC)

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Bus station.

RS raised the issue of the lack of toilet facilities during the construction works at the bus station. It was confirmed that a meeting between WYCA and CAFM has been arranged to discuss plans to adapt existing resources in Georges Square into alternative provision.

CJS asked if the plans for alternative provision would involve later opening hours, and commented that there was no disabled toilet

RS confirmed that extended opening hours and providing disabled provision will be part of the discussion.

CJS requested that RS convene to WYCA that complete removal of these facilities completely during construction is unacceptable.

RS confirmed the as soon as the site of the alternative provision has been agreed, the Disability Partnership will be invited to the discussions.

CBM re: Pellon retail park – following the last meeting, it had been confirmed that demolition of this site had now begun, given the large size and scale of the area, would like to know what the plans are and who is responsible for the development.

RS confirmed plans will be sought in time for the next meeting.

Declaration of Interests

LK declared he will be assisting with the marketing and communications of the Halifax Heritage tours.

Terms of Reference - Town Board Structure

Halifax Town Board Terms of Reference, and Board membership require updating and full board confirmation.

It was agreed to defer this discussion point to the next Town Board

AP: ZB to include on the next agenda

Future High Street Fund - Update

Rachel Conway provided an update on the Future High Street Funded projects.

It was confirmed that CMBC were working with Ridge consultants on the following improvement projects;

Halifax Borough Market
Victoria Theatre
Public Realm and Play Trail

The initial Project Board meetings had already taken place and Programme Boards had been arranged for early May 2022.

Halifax Borough Market

A full consultation with the Borough Market traders has now taken place, and a full analysis of the findings is underway.

A tender for the improvements on the Borough Market toilets, scheduled to be issued on Friday 15 April.

Additional quotes will be requested for; CCTV installation, internet upgrades and acoustic sound panelling installation.

Victoria Theatre

A 3D model of the building has now been created.

There is currently a survey being conducted on the condition of the organ within Victoria Theatre. The outcome of which will inform the options of whether to renovate or remove it. It was confirmed that if the option will be to remove it, then it will be repurposed.

Public Realm works; George's Square / Playtrail

An impact analysis is being conducted to identify consequences of potentially removing traffic from this area.

CJS recommended that if anyone had concerns about any aspect of the work taking place, please could they email RC directly.

CJS confirmed that improvement works on the public toilets at Borough Market were welcomed, and the work on the roof will take place in 4 stages

AP: CJS Requested visual documentation of all of the works during progress

It was noted that FHSF were encouraged to capture photographic images to document; before, during and after the works had taken place.

CJS requested that wherever possible it would be a positive step to involve the public with the works progress, will there be website updates available regarding the site and information and progress.

LK commented that it is important to be mindful of the potential impact of parking and traffic flows re: George Square plans

AP: CJS requested bullet point updates regarding FHSF progress and updates.

RS commented that elements are fast paced so to keep on board with the developments, a regular highlight report could be shared with the Board.

BID Update

Chloe confirmed that the BID had now entered the 2nd term, and that the Halifax Discovery Centre Hub has now opened in the Woolshops, and is set to remain there for 5 years.

TV screens are on display inside the Hub and they can show videos/info for developments, officers were encouraged to share visuals and slides so that they can be displayed.

On behalf of the Board CJS congratulated CM on the creation of the Hub and for the hard work on the BID.

High Street Task Force

<https://www.highstreettaskforce.org.uk/>

KM highlighted the additional dedicated support that is available from the government;

- Experts
- Workshop
- Training
- Skills and Development

KM reported that the report identified developing a shared vision as the main barrier to transformation in Halifax. There had also been identification of weakness in terms of data and intelligence, they see the town is performing less well on events taking place outside of the piece hall.

KM presented the key recommendations of the report.

- Organise an away day with the local authority, business and community leaders to review challenges facing the town and consider how they may inform a renewed town vision.

- Review and add to your existing Town Board ensuring it has the best mix of stakeholders across council, business, representatives of local communities, incorporating a wide representation of ages.
- Town Board members to be invited to join 'Creating a Shared Vision' workshop to learn, share and plan with others from across the country.

LK commented that the event was well organised, and added that the main challenges in the report;

- 1) Perception of lack of action
- 2) Barriers to shared vision – with the Task Force not understanding the silos of the regional town board structures

A discussion took place connecting finding a shared sense of vision, establishing people's lived experience of the town and also determining the impact of the physical changes to the town.

It was asserted that this can be achieved by creating sustained conversations through an event such as an inclusive conference, the examples cited; Leap of Faith conference in Halifax in 2008, and Bradford Flourishing City event. An event like these would prompt a review and reworking of the town vision, build upon the lived experience of residents of the town, and provide insight into the town plan.

CBM reported that it was essential to include top and bottom parts of the town, as there is a feeling of bias to development at the bottom of the town.

EB confirmed that consultation echoed this top/ bottom town imbalance, and confirmed a unifying strategy is required for progress.

CJS how would we want to respond to the task force?

It was agreed that KM and RS team HSTF engage with future vision? - challenges will be how to help people.

AP: establish the Task Force resources that are available? Feedback to the board so they can attend

AP: Establish away day

CJS interesting to see how other towns have responded approached this.

Town Plan

There was a discussion on how this relates to the findings and work of the Task Force.

AP: Remains on agenda for the board to inform plan/ vision

Cost of the masterplan was agreed to be, along with exercised in data scoping and evidence collection.

RS Yes come back with the plan – to provide a definition and evidence gathering, however it was confirmed that the vision needs to be established first, and this will be dependent on timing of workshop taskforce

It was agreed to delay evidence collection for 2+ boards, while the Board focuses on the development of high street

It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for the Next 2x board- to allow for officers to gather data/ evidence.

CJS recommended to continue with the plan and to look at other examples of post pandemic thriving towns, that can inform our vision/masterplan.

**AP: RS Look at the other thriving post pandemic centres – Harrogate, Chester, Altringham Market.
Can we look at these examples to learn lessons?**

Any Other Business

Councillor Bob Metcalf wished the board well as he stands down as a councillor at the next election.

Councillor Jane Scullion thanked him for his dedicated service, and would like to invite him to consult as a user of the town spaces in the future plans of the Board.

Date of next meeting

21 June 2022 6pm

Decision Log

Action Points:

AP: RS confirmed plans (Pellon Retail Park Development) will be sought in time for the next meeting.

AP: ZB to include ToR on the next agenda

AP: CJS Requested visual documentation of all of the works - photographic – is captured; before, during and after the works had taken place.

AP: CJS requested bullet points for the next meeting, regarding FHSF progress and updates.

AP: JW to establish the Task Force resources that are available. Feedback to the board so they can attend

AP: Establish away day

AP: Masterplan to remain on agenda for the board to inform plan/ vision

**AP: RS Look at the other thriving post pandemic centres – Harrogate, Chester, Altringham Market.
Can we look at these examples to learn lessons?**