

Brighouse Town Deal Board Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 22nd August 2023

Meeting Room 1, Brighouse Library, HD6 2AF

6.00-8.00pm

Attendees

Cllr Howard Blagbrough
Richard Mitchell
Lesley Adams
Anne Colley
Colin Gordon
Craig Whittaker
David Whitehead
Malcolm Silkstone

In Attendance

Jess Thompson
Rob Shipway
Mohammed Shah
Shannon Prendergast
Zakariya Ali
Paul McRae

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1. Apologies from Cllr Sophie Whittaker, Jason Carlton, Cllr George Robinson, Louise Reed, Stephen Naylor, Cllr Sarah Courtney, Mathew Nicholas, Daisy Wilde.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 20th June 2023

3.1. Matters arising.

3.1.1. Parking.

3.1.1.1. Speaking for the Town's major projects team, Jess Thompson reported that data from surveys was still being distilled and that it was important that data had been verified and tested before modelling could be completed. Jess recognised the importance of the parking issue and recommended that the next meeting of the Board be given solely to consideration of car parking, planned

regeneration works, and how to understand, minimise, and communicate the impact of planned works on town centre parking.

- 3.1.1.2. The Board accepted a recommendation by the Chair that this meeting should be put in place, attended by the Chief Executive and Leader of Calderdale Council such is the importance of the issue.

3.1.2. Community event feedback

- 3.1.2.1. The Board received a report setting out the feedback from the Community event. Noted there were 296 feedback forms completed, which is high for this kind of event.
- 3.1.2.2. Standout points included pedestrianisation, where there was over 60% support for the proposals. Of those against, some wanted more pedestrianisation, others concerned about impact on parking and trade. Parking is the biggest issue for those wishing to reduce the ambitions for pedestrianisation.
- 3.1.2.3. Support for the market proposals was strong, again over 60% in favour of the planned works. Of those against, there was a mix of those who did not like the designs to those who felt the markets did not need investment.
- 3.1.2.4. There was more hostility toward plans for parking in general and traffic flow, reaffirming the need for the dedicated Board meeting to discuss parking.
- 3.1.2.5. The feedback will now be reviewed in more detail by consultants to inform project design.

4. **Programme update.**

4.1. Board governance

- 4.1.1. The Board noted that Jess Thompson was the new Senior Responsible Officer (S.R.O.) for Brighouse.
- 4.1.2. The Board thanked Kate McNicholas for her support as S.R.O.

4.2. Town Deal overview

- 4.2.1. Jess reported that projects continued to progress through RIBA 3, with comments feeding into the process although holidays are elongating this process.

4.3. A641

- 4.3.1. Regarding the A641 proposals, there are tweaks to design from Bethel Street and Bradford Road.

4.4. Markets

- 4.4.1. Jess reported positive feedback from planning meetings to discuss markets.
- 4.4.2. Discussions with the Canal Trust are ongoing, and their successful outcome is important to the scheme as the project needs their consent.
- 4.4.3. Temporary market solutions will be discussed with Alan Lee next week to go through options.

4.5. Public Realm

- 4.5.1. Officers are still refining road layouts, surveys coming up.

4.5.2. Development must be mindful of new legislation, Martyn's Law, which requires careful consideration of open space and the need to mitigate the potential for terrorist attacks and support organisations and businesses to deal with such an eventuality.

4.5.3. Regarding surveys, noted this will require some road closures for more intrusive surveys. The Board stressed the importance of effective communication with business and the community.

4.6. Parklets

4.6.1. Discussions relating to the removal of the Parklets are ongoing. First most likely to go is Bethel Street need to find a way of removing them. Officers must ensure they follow due process to remove the parklets and have engaged DLUHC and will return to the Board with proposals.

4.7. Board feedback to update.

4.7.1. The Board noted that the report did not include projected timescales for delivery. Jess reported this information was being finalised but that the information would be more accurate informed by the design stage and will be brought to the Board at that juncture.

4.7.2. Regarding the markets, Jess reported the project is on track but that proposals for temporary market provision require refinement.

4.7.3. Board member concerned about no timescales except for other things and other things that we need to discuss, looking at the design.

4.7.4. Asked if there were opportunities to revisit the proposals, Cllr Blagbrough explained that the business cases had been approved based on outline designs and while there will be opportunities for refinement, these will be restricted.

4.7.5. Officers were asked for reassurance that environmental issues would not be overlooked. Noted for example the opportunity to retain the Market structure. Jess reported that this option had been explored but that the cost prohibited this.

4.7.6. Regarding waste materials from demolition, Jess confirmed that where possible, materials will be recycled.

4.7.7. Regarding market traders, the Board asked for further reassurance to be communicated regarding proposals both for the short-term market provision and longer-term options.

5. A641 Update

5.1. Overview

5.1.1. Reminded Board members the project was complicated by the interface with three Councils, running from Bradford, through Brighouse, and onto Kirklees. This has significant impact on how the funding is released, dictated by the appraisal process.

5.1.2. Previous communications also set forward a delivery strategy that project expected to start later this year, but new conversations working towards single RIBA 3 design update of scheme. Risk analysis of scheme. Once RIBA 3 done can present full picture to the Board

- 5.1.3. Noted that the website for information updates needs better management, officers reported this was likely once RIBA 3 was completed and more accurate information is available.
- 5.1.4. Jess noted the area is a flood risk zone, and as such proposals must demonstrate how development will offset any new water that flows into the flood area. This is likely to require water tanks, requiring funding and delay.
- 5.1.5. Officers confirmed the bridge is part of the works.
- 5.1.6. Officers reported that as the project incorporated 3 council areas, the focus was on collating information across the entire project.
- 5.1.7. Some Board members voiced concern about the priority given to cyclists and officers were asked for justification. Officers noted the wider ambitions for Active Travel and the link to better controlled traffic flow.
- 5.1.8. Officers expect RIBA 3 to be completed late Autumn and this will likely be followed by an extraordinary meeting to discuss proposals.

6. Communications update

6.1. Contract agreement

- 6.1.1. Councillor Blagbrough proposed renewal of the Waverley contract. The Board unanimously agreed.

7. Governance

7.1. Panels

- 7.1.1. Rob Shipway announced that five Panels have been established. These will support the Board in its work by enabling a more forensic, detailed discussion of projects and report back to the Board.
- 7.1.2. Panels include:
 - 7.1.2.1. Sustainability – exploring opportunities to minimise impact on the environment and consider sustainable development.
 - 7.1.2.2. Markets – short and long-term development of the markets.
 - 7.1.2.3. Public Realm – group to oversee development and the dovetail with other projects.
 - 7.1.2.4. Communications – supporting Waverley.
 - 7.1.2.5. Investment – exploring further funding opportunities.
- 7.1.3. Noted the Panels would be convened by Major Projects and meet prior to Board meetings.

8. Subways

8.1. Progress

- 8.1.1. Regarding subway links from Bus Station to Bradford Road, works to remove all existing subway tiles which are non-structural underway, plans are to make these good and paint the subway. Works planned to be completed early September.

9. Date and venue of Next Meeting

24th October 2023, commencing 6pm at Brighthouse Library