



Halifax Town Development Board Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting held 5th October 2023
Meeting held by Teams

Present:

Councillor Tim Swift (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Courtney
Councillor Abigail Carr
Rev. Hillary Barber
Tracy Harvey
Nick Holdsworth
Lee Kenny
Chloe McNeill
Gary Rae

Also in attendance

Shelagh O'Neill
Kate McNicholas
Janet Whitlow
Helen Kershaw
Linda Metcalf
Lauren Iredale
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed Board members and officers. The meeting was declared quorate.

- a. Apologies were given from Cllr Joe Thompson, Cllr Shahad Fazal, Cllr Guy Beech, Cllr Peter Caffrey, Rob Shipway.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declaration of interest were made.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of last meeting to be amended to correct spelling errors for King Cross and George Square Point 6 and point 7 in the previous meeting minutes.

Noted Gary Rae was not present at the previous meeting.

The minutes were approved subject to these amendments.

Action: Zak to amend previous minutes.

a. Matters Arising

The Community Rail Prospectus will be circulated when complete later in the year. Kate McNicholas can share Karen's contact details with Lee Kenny if not already received.

The Year of Culture presentation has been shared with town board members.

With regard to further town board membership recruitment, Kate McNicholas suggested this could be aligned with work on the Halifax Vision. This was agreed.

The Halifax Christmas lights issue has been resolved, with the council to pay for the cost of works.

4. Halifax Town Trail (Janet Whitlow)

Janet Whitlow presented an update on the town trail to the town board, now named Art & About Halifax Trail. Simple plaques and a QR code will be installed, plus maps available at locations for those who don't have access.

The presentation focused on four of the planned installations: Borough Market, the Town Hall, mural and Bus Station. Different delivery partners and stakeholders are involved in each installation.

Borough market artwork will be produced in situ. The Town Hall will use AR to bring the interior of the building to the exterior. The mural focuses on celebrating wellbeing. The Bus Station will celebrate the iconic fabric used on buses from Holdsworth Carpets.

A further update in December will include the new map and the route, which has not changed significantly. Visits Unlimited and other accessibility groups have had input, and health and safety teams have also been consulted. The installations will be opened as they are completed with a big opening planned as part of Year of Culture.

Cllr Carr asked if there any chances for residents to get involved such as schools in the ward or is that to come a later stage? Stakeholder involvement has already taken place and with each installation there is lots of scope for community engagement, e.g. college students in the Bus Station project. Some of the other installations planned have significant community engagement, recognising that the more local people are invested in the production, the prouder they will be.

5. Menopause Conference Feedback (Lee Kenny)

Lee Kenny gave an update from the menopause live conference held earlier in the year. There were 18 speakers included local practitioners, and a leading national government advocate. Topics included everything from mental health, sleep, medication, outdoor swimming, what legislation changes were happening and a HR perspective on employment law.

Feedback has been positive. Funding from Halifax BID, the Council and CFFC was welcomed. Learning for next time includes a different compere, more lead in time, better signposting re parking, avoiding the pre-election period and more breaks. The cost of tickets could also be reviewed. All this is useful learning for other events planned in Halifax.

6. Piece Hall Christmas Programme (Gary Rae)

Gary Rae sent a link to board members to share information on the Piece Hall Christmas Programme (See below)

<https://www.thepiecehall.co.uk/culture/>

Popular markets will run from November 10th to 12th, 17th to 19th, 24th to 26th of November. 200,00 people attended last year. There will be extended opening hours, a focus on makers, and the stalls are all fully booked.

The Christmas Programme will have a bigger Spiegel Tent offering more choice, free and chargeable activities available. There will be a new Ferris wheel and an Austrian bar.

Christmas brochures are currently in print and Gary would like the board's advice about where the team can get that brochure far and wide. Lee Kenny offered an insert in the community magazine.

Chloe McNeill described the BID supported Christmas Parade as a light switch on event involving Handmade Productions, and giant puppets. Children can also make their own lanterns. Gary asked Chloe to share the date and time to co-ordinate with the Piece Hall.

Action: Chloe to share details to co-ordinate with the Piece Hall.

7. Vision Brief (Kate McNicholas)

Kate McNicholas reminded the town board of previous discussions to develop a future vision for Halifax. To create a clear narrative for the future of Halifax Town, understood and owned by residents, communities, workers, and businesses. To provide a future map of the priorities for Halifax Town, linking to our aspirations and policies; supporting our vibrant town to thrive, harnessing Halifax's unique heritage and culture, whilst making it a place of choice to live, work, visit and stay.

She explained that the first phase as described in the strategic brief shared is to confirm a clear scope, which addresses geography, themes, stakeholders and develops an appropriate methodology.

The town board agreed the approach and discussed:

- The importance of facilitation and use of local knowledge to gain ownership of the vision.
- A need to develop a clear focus and identity.
- Halifax's role as the principal town and gateway to Calderdale.
- Building from existing assets, playing to our strengths and making it an engaging process.
- The need to avoid being reliant on one sector, and recognising that people use the town for different reasons.
- The importance of culture, physical appearance, events space and entertainment, safety, transport, accommodation.
- Local people's belief in the town.
- The need for funding to deliver the vision.

8. Any Other Business

a. Historic England Feedback

Kate McNicholas updated the town board on a recent visit by Historic England colleagues, who are keen to engage further, particularly around heritage buildings in the area around Dean Clough. Officers will follow up.

Shelagh confirmed Minster View had not been a part of the tour but informed the board that development opportunities are being explored for an adjacent site. Officers committed to providing future details with the minutes of the meeting.

Action: Janet to provide details of this development opportunity to Zak for circulation with the minutes.

9. Date of next meeting

7th December 2023