



**Halifax Town Development Board Meeting**  
**Minutes of the meeting held 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023**  
**Meeting held by Teams**

**Attendees**

Councillor Tim Swift  
Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Chloe McNeill (for part of the meeting)  
Gary Rae  
Reverend Hilary Barber

**Others in attendance**

Sally Edwards  
Shelagh O'Neill  
Kate McNicholas  
Derek Benn  
Janet Whitlow  
Bobsie Robinson  
Zakariya Ali

**1. Introductions and apologies**

Apologies: Nick Holdsworth, Lee Kenny, Gemma Watkins, Councillor Abigail Carr, Councillor Peter Caffery, Rob Shipway, Councillor Joe Thompson, Councillor Megan Swift.

**a. Declaration of quorum**

Meeting not declared quorate.

**2. Declarations of interest**

No interests were declared.

**3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Noted and to be approved at next meeting when quorate.

**a. Matters arising**

**4. Georges Square (Janet Whitlow)**

Janet Whitlow shared an update and slides with the board. See slides for detail.

**Action:** ZA to share slides.

Cllr SC welcomed the plans. She suggested that arm rests are helpful on benches for people with mobility issues. JW confirmed this will be looked at in the next stage of the design.

Cllr TS asked if CCTV coverage will be affected by the trees. JW confirmed that this has been addressed. Cllr TS also asked about bollards. SON confirmed bollards that rise and fall are always difficult to maintain, and work is underway to make provision for maintenance, in conjunction with Public Services given that there is no allocation in the Future High Street Funds. Robust bollards and vehicle control are a vital part of counter terrorism measures that are not required.

JW informed the board that the project will expect be out to tender in early 2024, with works to start April 2024 and the programme being four months on site to reduce the impact of the works.

**5. Halifax town trail (Janet Whitlow)**

Janet Whitlow shared an update and slides with the board. See slides for detail.

**Action:** ZA to share slides.

Rev. HB, asked if the QR codes on plaques could link to information that is easily updated. This was confirmed, with the visitor economy team providing support for new information.

**6. Culturedale 24 (Bobsie Robinson)**

BR provided a brief update.

The UKSPF grant round of £50k has now closed, and the team are currently on the final stages of completing the assessment of the 30 plus applications, with a view to making decisions before Christmas.

The team has been busy communicating about Culturedale, including many sessions around the ward forums and a series of activation events. The community sports engagement officer is in the process of being appointed following recruitment.

SE representing Mr Wilson's outdoors arts company presents to the board about their project, Opal's Comet. She asked the board to raise awareness of the opportunities to get involved.

**Action:** ZA to share slides.

Cllr SC asked that disability access information could be added to the map created for Opal's Comet.

## **7. Visitor Economy Strategy (Kate McNicholas)**

Kate McNicholas shared an update and slides with the board. See slides circulated for detail.

Rev. HB highlighted how Halifax has changed significantly in the last 16 years, and especially post pandemic. He asked about how to draw people from the M62 with signage, links to Vision 2034 and the importance of acting on evidence (for example the 4,000 visitors to the Minster Tree Festival. KM confirmed the links to Vision 2034, and agreed with the importance of economic intelligence, including footfall and Piece Hall events data.

## **8. Community Safety (Derek Benn)**

Derek Benn shared an update and slides with the board. See slides for detail.

**Action:** ZA to share slides.

Rev. HB commended the team on the consistent award of the Purple Flag, and highlighted the importance of improved safety being built into future plans.

## **9. Any other business**

Cllr SC flagged the VCSE strategy which is currently in development and suggested anyone interested contact her or Sian Rogers.

GR shared initial data on The Piece Hall winter markets, with 332,551 visitors, and trade up on average 64%, supportive police and strong benefits of spill out into the town centre.

Rev. HB gave congratulations to the BID for the Christmas parade, recognising it as a major step forward.

## **10. Date of next meeting**

**a.** 6th February 2024