

## **BRIGHOUSE TOWN DEAL BOARD MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Meeting Room 1, Brighouse Library, HD6 2AF

### **Present:**

Councillor Howard Blagbrough (Chair)  
David Whitehead (Co-Chair)  
Lesley Adams  
Colin Gordon  
Louise Reed  
Richard Mitchell  
Malcolm Silkstone  
Ann Moffatt

### **In attendance:**

Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Jess Thompson  
Jo Arnold  
Paul McRae  
Matthew Nicholas  
Sonya Moorhead

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed Board members and officers.

Apologies were received from Craig Whittaker MP, Councillor Sophie Whittaker, Councillor Joe Atkinson, Jason Carlton, Lorraine Bailey, Rob Shipway, Daisy Wilde, Stephen Naylor, Shannon Prendergast, Heather Waddington.

### **2. Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest reported.

### **3. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 were declared a true record of that meeting.

#### **a. Matters arising**

#### **Environmental Agency (EA) FAS Presentation (Arup, WYCA, Bam)**

The EA have confirmed that funds have been approved for flood alleviation works in Brighouse.

The full business case (FBC) has now been assured by DEFRA which means funding is available for the Brighthouse FAS. Environment agency has had contract approved and signatures confirmed for flood alleviation works. This will be executed around Christmas time.

Now the FBC is in place, the EA can get into contract with BAM who will be building the scheme. Once this is in place works can begin. Early preparatory works will begin early 2024 with the main earthwork construction beginning Summer 2024. The early works will include tree clearance and will take place outside of the bird nesting season. Tree clearance works will take place outside of nesting birds' season. Earthworks construction begins 2024. All parks area for two years will be accessible such as café and children's playing area. Areas such as the children's play area, skate park and café will remain open in Wellholme Park during the construction programme.

RM expressed concern that the proposals will mean the annual Gala held at Wellholme Park will not be able to go ahead for the duration of the project. He feared such a lengthy postponement could have consequences for the future of the Gala. JA noted these concerns but stressed the importance of flood alleviation and being ready for the challenge of the climate crisis. Asked of other areas of the park or town could accommodate the Gala, RM noted limitations on access for vehicles and size constraints. Other Board members recognised the desire to maintain the Gala as an annual event but noted the importance of flood alleviation works and accepted the need to explore alternative options by way of compromise. Alternative sites were highlighted such as Bethel Street car park,

JA reassured the board that affected businesses will be compensated for business revenue loss where it can be proved. Similarly, the Gala might be able to apply for compensation subject to impact and review.

The Chair asked how the public would be notified of proposals. JA reported that all households will receive leaflets and there would be 8 notice boards sited across town with regular updates. Engagement sessions will take place outside Tesco's before works commence and EA representatives will attend future board meetings. Asked about social media JA reported that the Environment Agency cannot use Facebook, but partners could provide information via their own channels.

JT suggested liaison with Stephen Naylor, who delivers communications and engagement work on behalf of the Board, ZA will provide details.

**Action: ZA to provide JA with contact details for Stephen Naylor**

#### **4. Communications update**

Stephen Naylor (Waverley Consulting), who could not attend the evening's meeting, had circulated an update report on communications which the Board accepted and welcomed. The Chair informed the Board that, as agreed previously by the Board, the contract for Waverley Consulting had been extended to March 2026.

#### **5. Panel Feedback**

The panel met in Bethel Street car park to see options for public realm work. Panel felt more informed when seeing visually what the options were. Discussions took place on what could be possible.

Opportunities for improving the area and Town Deal proposals were discussed, such as reviewing options for land currently occupied by Incredible Edible, and inclusion of Hall Street for improvements.

Previous discussions regarding parking on Bradford Road had raised concerns regarding the positioning of parking provision. The Board noted that following a site visit the current proposals should be retained. JT noted that the suggested amendments would be discussed with the design team, senior management, and Members. The Major Projects team will then return to the Board.

The Board noted that proposals for the A641 will not include a dedicated cycle route.

## **6. Town Deal Update**

PM updated the Board on the strategy for disposal of the parklets to a community group. The strategy has been approved in principle by the Council, but further work is required to design the process for inviting Expressions of Interests from local groups. This is being done with the Council's Small Grants team. Following a discussion on the issues presented for community groups taking on the parklets, the Chair encouraged Council officers to seek support for the groups for funding to support them with maintenance and security. The Chair suggested the Board should be involved in the decision to award the parklets to ensure greater transparency.

**Action: Paul to speak to Soraya Marsden (Major Projects Social Value Lead) to see if Brighouse contractors can support local groups through their social value offer.**

It was reported that planning permission for the market is ongoing, and there are issues such as Bio-Diversity Net Gain which require further consideration. MN reported he was not aware of any objections but stressed not all planning comments have been reviewed.

The Board noted that technical questions relating to the market works' tender ends 15<sup>th</sup> December 23 with the invitation to tender ending 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023.

The Board was informed that a cost review is needed for a temporary market should this be necessary. It was noted that a temporary market would also need survey work and potentially planning.

## **7. Any Other Business**

The Board received a presentation outlining proposals for an event -Opal's Comet' – which would be held in 2024 on the canal. More information can be found on [www.mrwilsons.org.uk](http://www.mrwilsons.org.uk)

JT informed the Board that further refinement of the role of Panels would be considered in 2024. Councillor Courtney commented on the potential role of voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations (VCSE) to support the Board to develop work to support a more inclusive economy. Anyone who wants to get involved was asked to contact Sian Rogers or Councillor Scullion at Calderdale Council via ZA.

BM asked how air quality was being measured in Brighouse. JT noted that while air quality assessment is not a programme output, she would explore how this is delivered in Calderdale.

**ACTION: JT to return to the Board with information on how air quality is monitored and measured in Calderdale.**

CG reported that the market had received a request seeking the location of the water mains.

**Action - PM to contact John Walker at Calderdale Council.**

The Chair noted that Brighouse Civic Hall will go on auction, and that it might be of interest to community groups who may need space that the new owners may look to let space within it.

#### **8. Date and venue of Next Meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> Feb 24 Brighouse Library, commencing 6.00 pm.