

Hebden Bridge Minutes

Meeting held by Teams 30th March 2023

In Attendance

- Councillor JFenton-Glynn
- Adrian Gill
- Darren Thomas
- Jae Campbell
- Councillor Sarah Courtney
- Councillor Richard Needham
- Geoff Wood
- Roisin Cavanagh
- Rob Shipway
- Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from:

- Cllr David Young
- Graham Mynott
- Sian Rogers
- Councillor J Scullion

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were approved as a true record.

Matters arising

- New cultural officer will come to next meeting.

3. Board membership

It was noted that Board membership was renewable on a three-year basis, and that the current tenure ends in June 2023. It is an opportunity for the Board to review operations, to assess if it has the right skills mix. It is also an opportunity for Board members to consider whether they wish to continue as a member of the Board or pursue other interests.

The Board agreed to use the meeting on 10th May to explore the next steps for the Board, to understand the key challenges it will face in the next three years. It will be an opportunity to use the Board meeting to look at ways to make the Board stronger, as well as issues such as whether to continue virtually or live.

Potential items for discussion:

- Frequency and location of meetings
- Driving forward the masterplans for Hebden Bridge and Mytholmroyd
- What gaps need filling?

- Who wishes to continue to remain a Board member?
- Reaching out to a wider audience, young people for example
- Disability input
- **Action: Rob to circulate full list of board members, along with TOR**
- **Action: Next meeting to focus on future Board direction**

4. Masterplan

Rob introduced a draft masterplan top form the basis of the Invitation to Tender for a consultancy focusing on Hebden Bridge.

The masterplan builds on a site walk about with Board members and officers, a review of earlier drafts of the masterplan, and an assessment of realistic funding opportunities moving forward. It was noted that earlier iterations of the masterplan focused on infrastructure and large-scale investment. The revised masterplan adopted a different approach, focusing more on developing an evidence base for smaller but equally important interventions which were more likely to be funded.

The revised plan would seek consultancy support to help us understand and build a picture of current economic and social challenges facing the town. This looked at key aspects of life in the town including:

- Demographic analysis – who lives in the town, how is it changing, and how is that affecting on the town’s economy and community?
- Economic analysis – how robust is the town’s economy and what are the challenges facing local business?
- Land and buildings – what are the current plans for public and private investment and how can they be better coordinated?
- Tourism and leisure – what are the trends in our visitor base and how can this be strengthened without affecting adversely on the community?
- Community analysis – what are the stresses on our community, and how can we make the town a strong district centre as well as a visitor centre, setting up a better balance between the two.

The Board welcomed this approach, accepting that large scale regeneration of the town such as In Halifax via Future High Streets Fund was less likely than the types of interventions discussed. The Board suggested amendments.

- An added focus on the strengths and challenges for the voluntary and community sector and social enterprise.
- An added focus on public health.
- A choice [Click or tap here to enter text.](#) to extend the area of focus to the Royd villages.

The Board noted that the likely budget was around £17,.000 and hence the scope of works would be limited, again reinforcing the notion of a vision rather than a masterplan.

Board members agreed that a revised masterplan, incorporating the points above, should be circulated for comment and final sign off at the May Board.

AOB

Andrew Gill raised the issue of A Boards and agreed to circulate an email summary of a discussion with the Board.