

Elland Development Board

26 January 2021, 6.00pm

Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting notes

In attendance:

Councillor Angie Gallagher CMBC Elland Ward (Chair)

Councillor Victoria Porritt CMBC Elland Ward

Councillor Jane Scullion CMBC Cabinet member for Regeneration

Brian Mansfield Elland & District Partnership

Andrew Pitts CMBC

Karen Houghton CMBC

Angela Whiley CMBC

Rachel Conway CMBC

Graham Gibbons CMBC

1. Introductions & Apologies:

Introductions and welcome to all.

Apologies: None

2. Matters Arising

Elland Christmas Tree – the board wish to continue with this and requested for Graham to speak with streetlighting to progress a Christmas tree for this year to be funded by the board. It was discussed that it would need to fit in with the proposals to redesign Southgate precinct. Graham to bring back up to date costs for approval.

3. Elland FHSF submission

Karen Houghton updated that an in principal offer had been received for 69% of the funding applied for. The 31% will need to be found through cutting project costs, reducing scope or identifying match funding.

The bid for Elland was submitted to the FHSF for £9,516,500 and on Boxing Day is was announced that we were successful in being awarded an in-principle award of 69% of that bid.

Rachel outlined the projects in the bid

Project 1 – Heart of the High Street

Consultation suggests the heart of the town requires public realm improvements, better signage, lighting, a heritage trail, high street and riverside furniture and the restoration of Southgate's medieval heritage conservation area character.

Project 3 – Elland Nodes

There is no 'sense of arrival' in the town. We need Real Time Information Points to advertise the cultural offer. Proposal to enhance the Market Square capitalising on the 12th century medieval market, rebranding to Elland Charter Market.

Project 4 – Southgate Square

We want to improve the functionality of the Square through resurfacing to create a vibrant, exciting event space, a green area for play/outdoor learning environment, oasis, shopping, sitting, family space with free WIFI.

Project 5 – Elland Community Hubs

Support the refurbishment of a local community asset building called the Cartwheel Club. This will be to bring the building back into use as a multifunctional hub for services such as a youth centre, providing a community function for a luncheon club and also provide incubator space for young entrepreneurs.

Project 6 – Shop front improvements

Support current shop / retail owners to make shop front improvements to support with alignment of the other high street public realm improvements.

Project 7 – Library refurbishment

Elland library is to be refurbished providing additional Community Hub space bringing the first floor back in use for office space with the ground floor as the library (including community access to computers). There will be a family contact centre, to be used by the Children and Young People's Service for specialist visits.

Next steps - to work with the consultants Turner and Townend and the MHCLG to look through the original submission with a view to scaling back the schemes promoted whilst still maintaining the four gateway criteria, a 5% cap on beautification and achieving a minimum BCR of 2. MHCLG have been clear that this is no longer a competition and the money will be awarded to the town as long as we can show our scheme can achieve these.

We have a re-submission deadline of 26th February 2021 and this will then result in a confirmation of funding by the end of March 2021.

Comments:

- We wouldn't want any of the reductions to have an impact on people wanting to spend time in the town centre and shop locally
- We ideally would like to retain the Wi-Fi on Southgate Square
- Need to ensure there is sustainable urban drainage
- Need to push businesses to set up opportunities for young people
- Beautification is extremely important to the town

Q: What about any resistance from shop owners to change shop frontages?

A: We cannot force owners but we need to be able to work with those that do. There are other funds and grants we can look at. Some businesses seem keen to engage.

4. Christmas Shop Local Update

Following approval of the costed proposal via the board the scheme went ahead and 33 businesses took part. The scheme was extended for longer than was originally planned to allow the non essential shops which had been closed due to lockdown to be able to take part once the restrictions were relaxed. Feedback from the businesses that took part was very good. Some additional businesses have expressed an interest to be part of the scheme if it runs again next year. Graham will go through the monitoring information with the group once this is fully collated.

5. Elland Library Update

Angela updated that the library is on schedule to be completed by 22 March. Furniture from existing offices will be used for the office space but it will be new fixtures and fittings for the library and contact spaces for children and social services.

- The trophies will be incorporated in a cabinet in the upstairs multi use space.
- We are finding space for the model of Elland
- The stained glass from Coronation Street is being refurbished and included as an art piece
- The History Society will continue to have allocated space and the room will be named the Readyhough Room in memory of Neville Readyhough.

Cllr Gallagher highlighted that there is a group called the Elland Lockdown Banner Committee who are creating a banner that depicts people in Ellands experience during lockdown and asked if this banner could be displayed in the library? The intention is that people will make panels that will then be stitched together and displayed or paraded through the town on special occasions.

6. Any other business

Brian Mansfield requested that when the trees etc are removed from the town centre can EDP be informed as they may be able to use them in the park.

Q: When will Elland Road reopen?

A: Cllr Scullion updated that the funding is in place. The tender is due back in February with work to start quickly after. It is expected to take about a year to complete but we won't know exactly until we get the schedule of works.

7. Next meeting date

To be confirmed