



# Elland Town Board Meeting Minutes

**Elland Meeting Minutes** - 6-8pm

**Location:** Willow Court, Victoria Road, Elland

17/01/23

**Attendees:**

Councillor Victoria Porritt (Chair),  
John Ford,  
Sam McCormick,  
Harriet Fletcher,  
Graham Hale,  
Tom Nolan,  
David Brownridge,  
David Wilkinson,  
Graham Gibbons,  
Sam Roper,  
David McCorie  
Zakariya Ali,  
Rob Shipway,

**Also in attendance**

Jess Thompson,  
David Jackson,  
Katrina Lee,

**Welcome and Apologies**

- **Apologies:** Andrew Pitts

**Matters arising**

The Board discussed the previous request for support from the Cartwheel Club for financial support from the Ambition for Towns Fund. The Board had approved a loan of £1,000. Graham Gibbons reported that a ward grant has been approved.

The Board welcomed the news and resolved to support the group with a loan contingent on the organisation working with Graham to develop a robust business plan.

### **Project Update**

- Noted that the FHSF planning application had been approved.
- The Board raised the issue of Coronation Street Car Park which remains a key obstacle for some Board members. Reported that there may be other options to deliver the aims of the project and that discussions had been held with Council Officers which raised hopes that the issue could be explored again.
- Concern was raised at the lack of opportunity to explore and discuss alternative options to Coronation Street proposals and that, in the view of the Board, their voice had not been heard.
- It was accepted that consultation had been shaped by Covid and the Board welcomed the opportunity to meet again with Council Officers at a further consultation event in March.
- The Board felt that aside from Coronation Street, the proposals were strong and welcome.
- Cartwheel club planning, no objectives and can be signed off by committee, board member has concerns regarding disabled access. Jess access audits on the scheme and point is to provide access to the building with lift.

### **Christmas Programme update**

- David McCorie reported that the Christmas shopper scheme, supported by a grant from the Board, had proven successful, with most shops in the town taking part.
- Shop feedback to get figures by 31<sup>st</sup> Jan to spend voucher, can see where they were spent and shops which were most popular. David agreed to report back to the Board on this.
- The Board welcomed the news, but it was noted that the town was clearly seeing the impact of the cost-of-living crisis, with shops reporting a downturn in business.

### **Elland Board future direction**

- Some concern for board what's the purpose of the board, and that there are opportunities to work more proactively to support the regeneration of the town.
- Councillor Porritt reported that the Council was keen to work with Boards and make their role clearer and more impactful. The Chairs of all six Boards were to meet and she would report back to the next Elland Board.
- The Board considered how to raise its profile and improve networking with the community, the voluntary sector, and business. Rob suggested that the next meeting of the Board could focus on how we can support the voluntary sector, such as networking, access to advice and support, and access to funding. The Board agreed with this suggestion.
- Asked what the purpose of the Board was if there was no further funding through Ambition for Towns, it was noted that through working with the voluntary sector and others, the Board could work proactively to identify funding needs and opportunities, bring local groups together, and support funding bids, thereby bringing money into the town. Rob reported that Hebden Bridge Town group was using its remaining funds to develop a masterplan / vision / funding document to support funding bids.

- David Wilkinson stressed that the Board wanted to be a constructive partner, to be listened to rather than comment on activities largely already agreed. Therefore, in developing any plan, it was important that the Board played a leading role in shaping its findings. Rob suggested we could incorporate this into the planned workshop, and a further event to explore the future direction and role of the Board.
- Samantha suggested a 'skills audit' as part of this process, to understand what expertise we have round the table to deliver any plan, what gaps there are, and then use the review of the Board to fill these gaps. The review should also explore how Board meetings are run so that all members felt able to contribute fully.
- Suggested that a website to highlight the work of the Board would be helpful with an opportunity to highlight events and ways the community and business can get involved.
- Highlighted the need to review some projects as there is still a chance to shape delivery such as the Railway Station – construction could combine disabled access and car parking for example without the need for a lift and thereby save funds and make links to the town easier.
- Noted that the lack of a business forum in Elland was a barrier and one for the Board to consider, how to engage business.

#### **AOB**

- The Board suggested another meeting needed to discuss the Car Park. Noted that the issue is resourcing any further meetings but that there will be further consultation and the Board will be informed.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

- 21<sup>st</sup> of March Next Meeting Willow Court