

Sowerby Bridge Development Board

Minutes

Conference Call

12th January 2021

Attendance

Board Members: Cllr Audrey Smith (Chair), Sarah Fanthorpe, Cllr Adam Wilkinson, Phil Hawdon, Chris Hasling, Gareth Baigent, Steve Priestley, Sam Irvine, Justine Riccomini, Lauren Brundell, Cllr Dot Foster,

CMBC officers: Matthew Winder (minutes), Shebana Sadiq, Sarah Neville, Mary Farrar, Steve Pullan, Richard Seaman, Sarah Richardson

Apologies:

Karen Houghton, Cllr Jane Scullion

Summary of Actions

Cllr Scullion around network rail community engagement task this will be picked up at a future meeting

Need to check it doesn't clash with Brighouse meeting to enable Cllr Scullion and Karen Houghton

Mary Farrar to organise walkabout with Chris and Steve and feedback results

Mary Farrar to provide update on store holders being allowed to use the site, or will they be requested to leave

Sarah N to send link consortium meeting to board members

Shebana, Agreed to put on the agenda for next meeting tower and the terrace. Invite Andrew Pitt for Wainhouse tower, Contact environmental health around terrace

Richard Seaman Wainhouse Terrace: building control team to look at the structural safety point of view.

Shebana, Community safety wardens could look at it from the drug use and anti-social behaviour. Could be identified as a site for them to look at

Agenda item at next meeting, invite Pauline Lancaster re: Air quality

Town Square, Phil Hawdon to email group about the decision at planning about Town square gates

1. Welcome and Introductions (Chair)

Cllr Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The meeting took place virtually via Zoom

2. Minutes of the last meeting (Chair)

Chair- Lockhills Mill Cllr scullion approach mill owners regarding accessing the land. Expressed the feeling that it wouldn't be possible-but no update yet to be provided at the next meeting. **Action**

Action from Cllr Scullion around network rail community engagement task this will be picked up at a future meeting-**Action**

Environment agency agreed flood resilience group established in Sowerby bridge environmental agent to be contacted to talk further on the plans for Sowerby bridge. Cohort of 6 to be part of this group.

Everyone has received the future meeting dates. Need to check it doesn't clash with Brighthouse meeting to enable Cllr Scullion and Karen Houghton to attend. **Action**

3. CIP update (Mary Farrar and Steven Pullman)

MF- substantial amount of funding received from active travel fund.

Plan to introduce high quality cycling infrastructure that will create a brand for Calderdale. Also, plan to install maps showing cycling routes.

Have completed consultation to propose site locations. We want to install it before the end of the financial year.

SP-Have identified some sites within Sowerby bridge for cycle storage. Cycle storage has been put in before without the proper thought. It needs to be the right type of storage and right location to ensure effective use. Identify types of users- commuters, shop goers, tourist market. Cyclist need to feel secure and needs to encourage new users.

The market has moved a lot with more options for storage units available allowing safe storage and encouraging new users.

Shared a screen of document previously sent by Mary to the group-Document showed a map of the sites

Sites were chosen to connect to main cycle routes and existing transport links
Picture of possible storage units with planters in built to the design

Next site was outside the library using a wall mounted bracket design to allow pedestrian access due to limited space in that area.

Third design is a post mounted design

Incorporated cycle storage into existing wharf street work.

Fourth design involves a bench system integrated into cycle but issues around the size of the design but offers combination factor.

Outside B+M wall mounted to allow users shopping quick access to shops when on bicycles. Looking to approach private businesses to fix cycle racks to private walls. West Street

Difficult due to pavement restrictions. Good location due to location to two existing cycle paths.

Existing units outside leisure centre and could put on outside surgery using Sheffield design due to size restrictions.

Not proposing any bike ports as seen in Hebden bridge due issues around size and small pavement space.

MF- could possibly put in car parks. why have you chosen the designs- issues around moorings design regarding maintenance of plants

SP- look to get the wharf to cover maintenance and use community engagement also.

Chair- Could we have cycle storage in the market

MF- looking to put storage in the market

Sarah Neville- conservation work done on library recently not keen on drilling holes for cycle units in original stonework.

Chair- chris have you any good ideas for cycle locations?

Chris- no knowledge of shopping on a bike

SP- I've spoke to the Ryburn valley cycling group they mentioned the Wharf as a possible location also outside the works and the puzzle both are near the entrance of the canal, with lots of room.

Phillip Howden - this is premature feels rushed echoed by Chair can we delay this?

MF- no, we will lose the funding. Cycle forums has identified locations all over the borough and requesting more storage. All the units are non-fixed so can be relocated if needed. Lack of places to secure bikes, which is a basic requirement to enable cycling. We have 3 months to order and install it.

Chair- Puzzle, The Works and car parks are good suggestion for locations. The hoops attached the poles sound like a good idea.

Richard Seaman- any scope to incorporate electric charging points for bikes in the larger units. Using link into to streetlights for electricity

MF- Bikes take up to 3 hours to charge

Phil Hawdon- the library has walls that can used to installed units that wont cause damage and have good amounts of space.

Make the stand bold and colourful so can be easily identified and people know

Sowerby bridge is open to cyclists

Richard- scope for signs directing cyclist from the canal path to storage units

MF- installing signs to direct people to mountain bike and cycling routes

Cllr Foster - what about west Street shop area as quite desolate

MF- put in a big yellow bike in West Street town hall parking unit

Cyclist don't like to store bikes away from sight

Cllr Foster- if you can park your car should be able to park your bike

MF- looking up sites near brown way it's getting livelier there but space limited

SP- want to place sites near locations not in car parks need to encourage users.

Need to make it visible, people don't really want to leave their bike in a car park

Can consider this one as its located near to shops

Chair and Steve Pullman to discuss in more detail and feedback at next meeting

action

Steve Pullman to offer a walkabout to show possible sights in a covid safe way-
Chris and Steve interested

Chair- if we are committing to larger storage units need to be involved in this decision.

MF- feed back to cycle forum and use your voice forum to get public view on sight locations

Chair-this can be shared over social media sites Cycle forum on 2nd February
Mary Farrar to organise walkabout with chris and Steve and feedback results -

ACTION

Cllr Wilkinson-will existing market be there for over a year?

Market holders will be given notice and compensated then removed

Cllr Wilkinson-will stall holders be able to continue using it or will we have a empty plot

Mary Farrar to provide update on store holders being allowed to use the site- **Action**

Steve and Mary left the meeting

4. HAZ Update (Sarah Neville) and Phillip Howden

SN-have 10k for a pilot project to get opinions and inspiration for cultural programme. Currently bidding for funding for that. Fire and water leading on this. Filmed over multiple days included town hall looking to have a public screening in March unknown if it will be a physical or digital screening.

Cultural programme has moved deadline to 31st January have assembled cultural consortium it is a structure required by Historic England to ensure community participation. Fire and water have a number of ideas for the committee to produce a draft programme between now and 2024.

Looking to ask for 90k to 120k unlikely to get full funding from historic England but will secure from other sources.

Grant funding for building restoration, first tranche of work started yesterday, and town hall owner is getting work underway. Looking to start work before end of financial year.

Not approached other buildings or shop signage but looking to do so.

Community engagement programme needs to be done by 12th March. Fire and water lead some cultural programmes, but mostly sits with Sarah Neville.

Looking for ideas for possible engagement possibilities. Focusing on hard to reach elements of the community to get them involved.

felt pressure to meet Sipp deadlines I was appointed in November leading to a rushed process. No agreement on Holing mills lane as yet which is a priority building to be improved.

Video involved community consultation which is open for one more week: www.whysb.org.uk is the website for the project.

PH- what is the availability of grants for other properties under HAZ

SN-encouraging businesses to speak to us. Haven't yet confirmed project delivery plan wasn't sure funding was as stated in bid. But have confirmed it is.

Focus on shop front and repairs to enable properties to survive.

Originally said a meeting early 2021 with business owners but unlikely to be until after march.

Chair-clarify sipp will not be doing road improvements?

PH-sipp proposals don't conform to HAZ plans. Need to make a scheme that captures the benefits of sipp but meets the needs of HAZ.

SN-issue of wheelchair access ramp. long term don't want to retain that. Sipp consultant designs don't resolve any issues and materials were not ideal. Pavements heritage action zone is paying for quality materials beyond standard options. Need to coordinate with sipp. Pavements may have to be temporary tarmac surface then final materials installed later.

Chair- have accessibility Calderdale had any input into access to library plan?

PH-fire and stone have done so on their work. Welcome input from accessibility Calderdale

SN- need to find out if this has been done.

Chair- how was consortium make up decided?

SN- my colleague an arts officer covered this before I took over this work. The door is open to more members

Audrey- are these meeting open?

Sarah- anyone is free to attend next meeting is Monday 18th 10-12am. Agenda can be shared. **Action** Sarah to send link to meeting.

SN- hope to an outline plan by Monday fire and water will prioritise suggestions. Can send summary of feedback video to everyone.

Cllr Foster-regent parade canopy what can be done with it?

SN-issue around large forecourt ownership of the land is with builder owner but have to cross council land to park their cars.

Cllr Foster- removal of the overhang and temporary signage and cars parking on the pavement.

Chair- shops across the road could do with a bit of tlc also.

PH-relies on owners to do things

Cllr Foster – difficulties around owners engaging.

5. Working Parties Involvement (Chair)

Looking to establish flood resiliency group- Stephen presently involved along with Sarah and Sam. Keeping the group small.

Chair to get a meeting with environment agency around plans for Sowerby bridge Agreed Stephen, Sarah and chair will be members of the group.

Chair-toilet block needs to be project managed -Gareth , Phil, Lauren and Justine. to be members. To be self-managing group. But Group can approach the board for help when needed.

Cllr Foster- to check-up on the asset transfer of the toilet block – **action**

Lauren and Cllr Scullion to be on National rail initiative. Lauren meeting tomorrow afternoon around this. Had feedback from community groups will feedback next meeting. **Action**

Justine-update on canal and river trust having a committee meeting on Sunday no update until after this discussion. Is there any money available for extra signage and bins?

Gareth-how much would you need?

Justine-on the agenda for Sunday's meeting to get prices.

Gareth-get a rough cost and we can look to allocate some of the budget to this?

Cllr Foster-ward forum grants councillors could authorise if money is left in the pot to put in bins using ward forum funds.

Cllr Wilkinson-issues around bins being placed to get in place someone to empty the bins as council teams have been reduced and may not have capacity. This could be an issue.

6. Budget Update

n/a

7. AOB

Cllr Wilkinson- Wainhouse terrace and tower future agenda

Contacted by residents to get something done about it. The Tower is in the Sowerby bridge town area and is a listed building. The development board should talk about this in the meeting. It's a key building of the community's heritage only open 5 days a year to public. It is neglected in terms of marketing and publicity of Wainhouse tower. Would the board be interested in getting an officer from the council to attend to discuss this?

Wainhouse terrace is privately owned with the owner living on London. Could we approach him to take more care of it? It is in a state of derelict.

Richard-it was auctioned off about 12 years ago.

Cllr Wilkinson- a clause in the contract for the council to buy back the property if the owner didn't do anything with it for a length of time.

Gareth-could we get a friends groups going?

Cllr Wilkinson- tried this and contacted the owner to try and get some things done. Did a few tidy ups.

Richard-issues around needles, need full ppe and lots of health and safety issues to go on site

Gareth- needs to be put on agenda and included on heritage video

Stephen Priestly-tower is outside the heritage zone but needs including. Need to make more of it to promote the town.

Chair-agreed to put on the agenda for next meeting tower and the terrace. **Action** Invite Andrew Pitt for Wainhouse tower ,Contact environmental health around terrace

Chair does the owner have any obligations.

Richard-they do , I will ask the building control team to look at the structural safety point of view. Community safety wardens could look at it from the drug use and anti-social behaviour. Could be identified as a site for them to look at. **Action**

Gareth could we revisit the terms of sale and see how much it would cost to purchase?

Richard-that would be Stephen Hoyle, he could confirm the position for next meeting **action**-Invite Andrew Pitt to attend next meeting.

Phil Howden town square application

unable to get update due to technical issues- Phil to share this

Cllr Foster-Incinerator permit decision to cabinet next month

Cllr Foster- anyone can watch the meeting. Cllr Wilkinson cannot attend due to conflict of interest.

Chair -request someone to attend around air quality

Covid-19 Update

Cllr Wilkinson- rate in Calderdale is lower than November. Worries around new strain impact becoming dominate strain and the impacts of this. Figures seem to have stabilised according to last few days figures. Vaccination taken place locally good place with this around over 80s being vaccinated compared to national figures.

Stephen Priestly- any info on age groups transmitting more and areas that people pick up the virus such as supermarkets.

Cllr Wilkinson-lockdowns look to shut down no essential and high contact places. Age groups, young adults have been the highest spreading groups 16-29 and 30-44 highest rates. Sowerby bridge average in infection rate for Calderdale but areas bordering have high rates.