

## **SOWERBY BRIDGE DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023

6pm-8pm

Location: Sowerby Bridge Cricket Club

### **MINUTES**

#### **Present:**

Councillor Audrey Smith  
Councillor Dot Foster  
Councillor Sarah Courtney  
Sarah Fanthorpe  
Sam Irvine  
Adam Wilkinson  
Simon Aston  
Caroline Sewell  
Steve Priestley  
Gareth Baigent

#### **CMBC Officers:**

- Rob Shipway
- Mary Farrar
- Lauren Brundell
- Zakariya Ali (Minutes)

#### **Apologies:**

- Craig Whittaker MP
- Celia Cullen

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

Apologies from Craig and Celia

#### **2. Declaration of Interests**

None.

#### **3. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

Item 3 park provision – Lauren has double checked with local businesses regarding awareness of the proposals.

#### **5. Neighbourhood works**

Lauren provided an update on neighbourhoods and feedback from businesses.

Business concern of security at times on the High Street. Discussion on whether this was reality or perception, and it would be good to know more facts about crime, public safety and Sowerby bridge? Also issues of lone working. Suggested awareness raising working with local police of apps such as 'shaking the phone' which can alert Emergency Contacts of an incident.

Noted that there appear to be several businesses for sale, chippy shops next door to hairdressers, post office as business for sale, Williams for sale. However, noted this does not mean closing, just change of ownership or use. New businesses roast and toast, coffee shop next to bull, rubber ducky records

Active travel scheme is under development as part of Active Calderdale.

**Action:** Rob to update on progress and content of Active Calderdale (Sowerby) at the next meeting

Noted that the Board had been promised feedback on traffic light timing at the corner of Tuel Lane and Wharf Street, and pedestrian crossings across Wharf Street. It was reported that this had been explored but timings could not be changed without more evidence of need.

Regarding Board recruitment and future management, suggested that terms of reference should be reviewed to clarify and strengthen the role of the Board. Rob reported that the review was needed for June and as the Chair was stepping down in March, the review should begin after that and local elections early May. The Board will be fully involved in this. Board to agree timetable and process for review of Terms of Reference at the next meeting.

Board asked Zak to supply an annual calendar of Board meetings.

**Action:** Zak to compile annual calendar of meetings for the next meeting.

#### **6. Master Plan**

The Board discussed progress of the CIP programme, HAZ, set against the original aims and ambitions of the Sowerby Bridge Masterplan.

**Action:** Rob to circulate copies of the masterplan.

Noted that some Boards are looking to use Ambition for Towns funding to commission plans to explore new opportunities for funding. However, with a masterplan in situ, the Board suggested a review of progress, to identify what has been achieved, what remains 'in the pipeline', and what (if any) ideas are now no longer relevant.

This could be delivered as a workshop, as some new Board members have not seen the original masterplan this would allow us to discuss the plans and share thoughts.

**Action:** Rob to set up 'workshop' at the next meeting.

Noted that any new plan should look at small scale improvements and support for voluntary groups and businesses, which were not the focus of the existing masterplan and for which funding is more likely.

Use the workshop to talk about opportunities such as the gym/ pool and identify potential sources of funding.

## **7. Highstreet**

CIP program update – small scale improvements to make it easy for buses to come through earlier. These include additional crossing points and car park pedestrian access improvements.

Concern raised about connection between the Market Place works and High Street and how it might impact on disabled access. Reported that all projects are assessed to ensure they meet access requirements and will be at the fore of thinking as we move forward.

Regarding public realm improvements, Phil Hawdon repeated his request for a meeting with the Highways Team to discuss proposals.

**Action:** Mary to set up meeting with Bona and Phil

## **8. Funding Opportunity**

Phill reported success in securing small grants zero carbon grant, £40k to improve thermal improvement room by room. Also reported £5k access grant community foundation for toilets, and volunteers are supporting with their fit. Finally, an Architectural Heritage Fund grant to review and develop business plan.

## **9. Shop Front Scheme**

Rob provided an update on the HJAZ Shop Front Grant Scheme

Project will see £200,000 invested in the High Street (Wharf Street).

8 shops have already expressed an interest and we expect this to rise.

Improvements could include new signage, pointing, window and wall repairs, awnings, and restoration of other heritage features.

Noted that CMBC unable to contact the owner of the former Bathroom shop.

The Board will be presented with all applications for comment and review to inform the decision making for grant awards.

**Action:** Rob to circulate list of project applicants for next meeting

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

28th Feb 2023 (changed to 30th March due to staff and Board absence)