

**Sowerby Bridge Development Board
Minutes of the meeting held 28th February 2024
6.00-8.00pm at Foundry Street Sowerby Bridge**

Board members present

Councillor Adam Wilkinson (Chair)
Celia Cullen (Co-Chair)
Councillor Dot Foster
Councillor Simon Ashton
Sam Irvine
Sheila Eastwood
Lauren Brundell
Sarah Fanthorpe
Stephen Priestley

Also, in attendance

Rob Shipway
Janice Dawson
Nathan Canavan
Frank Darnley

1. Welcome and introductions.

The Chair welcomed members of the board and officers to the meeting.

a. Apologies

Phil Hawdon.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the meeting held 23rd January 2024

The minutes of the meeting held 23rd January 2024 were agreed as a true record.

4. Events Programme Updates

RS reported deadline for submitting a bid for funds toward an end of HAZ events programme was 11th March and that the Board would need to consider contributing to the event. Historic England have been supportive of our initial ideas but cannot commit to funding as they have not seen full details of the proposals, and they have yet to receive approval to allow spend beyond the end of the programme, which is 31st March 2024. Asked about the need for a contribution, RS explained that we were seeking considerable support from Historic England, and they would likely expect to see commitment from the Board. RS noted that a contribution would considerably strengthen the case for funding and raise the profile of the Board locally. CC asked to ensure the support of the Board was recorded at the events.

Action: It was agreed to allocate a provisional sum of £2,000 toward the events based on a £10,000 contribution from Historic England.

RS reported that the proposed events, previously circulated to Board members for information, included:

- A transport event, recognising the history of the canal and railway. Options for funding included support for trips on the canal, and support for the Friends of the Railway group to hold an event at the station.
- A sports event, focused on a cricket event which incorporated the Sowerby Bridge, Triangle and Copley Cricket Clubs.
- Legacy walks, led by a local historian.
- Town Hall and Fire and Water events-based programme, recognising the investments by Historic England.

RS reiterated that these proposals would need to be reviewed by Historic England and may require amending to meet their needs, but the programme team was optimistic that the proposals would receive some support.

Regarding the £2,000 contribution, RS suggested complementary investment in promotion would be needed. He also reported proposals received from a local group seeking funds for hanging baskets in the town. There was some debate on this issue and the Board did not reach a unanimous decision on this but agreed to return to the proposals at the next meeting.

SP asked if a date had been secured for the events. RS no date confirmed yet but will let the board and others hosting events know as soon as possible.

5. Shop Fronts Scheme

NC provided an overview of progress. Works were underway and additional funds have been requested to support investment into the Bull on the Bridge.

Completion of work on the Industrial Provident sign should be end March 2024.

6. Marketing proposal

CC reported she had been contacted in relation to having a four-page spread in the Heritage paper through discussions with Culturedale CC has agreed to be contact in relation to the project. CC reported that the costs would be £300 plus VAT so proposed that if no funding was available from CultureDale, would the board support and pay for the four-page spread. Submissions would go through Celia and the deadline would be 13th May. The board agreed to fund the project if no funding is available.

Action: CC to inform RS if no funding is available so that an Ambition for Towns fund can be confirmed.

