

Elland Town Board

Minutes of meeting held 30th January 2024

6.00-8.00pm at Project Colt, Elland

Board members present

Councillor Angie Gallagher (Chair)
Councillor David Veitch
Councillor Christine Prashad
Councillor Sarah Courtney
Samantha McCormick
David Wilkinson
Harriet Fletcher
Graham Hale
Graham Sykes
Pauline Shaw
Vicky Platt

Also, in attendance

Alan Lee
Mary Farrar
Anneliese Gray
Janet Whitlow
Graham Gibbons
David Brownridge
Sam Roper
Rob Shipway
Zakariya Ali

1. Welcome and introductions.

The Chair declared the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies

Councillor John Ford, David McCorie.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Minutes of the meeting held 15th November 2022

The minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5. Matters arising

GG informed the Board he had contacted Together Housing. RS confirmed Together Housing had agreed to nominate a new member of the Board to replace Mark Patterson, Karen Norman.

6. Car Parking strategy (Mary Farrar)

Mary Farrar (Corporate Lead, Transportation team) presented the Car Parking Area Plan in Elland.

Future car parking survey's to be done in normal conditions e.g. avoiding festivals and half terms/ Easter.

Car park signs proposed for example showing the capacity of the car park remaining or if full.

MF will distribute Elland map of the car parking survey zone.

Board member asked if the car parking strategy will take into account the large housing development. MF responded this will be taken into account when the survey will begin. GH expressed concern regarding public transport in Elland, noting the town is losing bus services. He also queried the age and quality of buses. Which were older and more polluting compared to Bradford and Leeds. He noted this extends to other parts of Calderdale, citing Halifax market street as a severely polluted area currently restricted to buses only.

MF informed the Board that surveys will take place in summer 2024. DW suggested EV charging points need to be provided to meet demand and asked for an update on railway station progress. MF informed the Board there had been delays due to fire regulation change. This caused a setback as redesign required also inflationary costs, which in turn meant the Council had to bid for more funding. The project is now out to tender for railway final design. Funding has been attained and the project is going forward, have a final design but requires builders to review construction, biodiversity set back also and overall a difficult project.

MF added that the project is now in its final stages and moved to a full business case now with the Major Projects Team in Calderdale Council.

Action: Janet's Major Projects team to provide more information at the future Elland Board meeting.

DW highlighted the need for sufficient car parking for the station.

Action: MF to present car parking survey results to future Board meeting.

7. FHSF update (Janet Whitlow)

JW (Programme Manager, Capital Regeneration) provided a Future High Streets Fund Update to the Board.

JW reminded the Board of the successful FHSF Bid in 2020, which reflected work done by the Board's development of the Elland Masterplan.

The Public Realm work is progressing well, with the Elland Market reopening on the 9/2/24.

The delivery team conscious of impact on businesses are working to programme, a newsletter has been delivered to all, the contractor is centrally placed and a further drop in session is being held next month.

Completion is anticipated end July.

Elland Community Hub moves closer to completion, acknowledged had been an issue with roof after high winds now rectified. Milestone of windows arriving this week and completion is anticipated late March/ early April.

Board encouraged to start thinking of celebrating completion of projects.

DW suggested to the Board that other buildings in the masterplan that can be looked at for future projects.

MF knowing what the Board want is helpful for the Highways team.

Action: ZA to circulate FHSF presentation to the Board.

8. Culturedale update

DW reported that he had been offered 4 pages of publicity by the Halifax and District Newspaper to talk about Elland and its history period. The cost of this is £300 with a deadline of 13th of May. DW suggested to attain funding from applying for grants. Councillor CP suggested the ward forum grant GG happy to have conversation.

SM, raising money for outdoor event and arts - Welland - for the year of culture. Official launch in April with more information available closer to the time of launch.

9. Pagoda (Rob Shipway)

RS approached by Project Colt about the Pagoda, it was previously taken down due to cost of insurance and maintenance also vandalism.

Councillor CP suggested to look for a charity to renovate the Pagoda and bring it back to normal.

Chair expressed that Project Colt would become a suitable hub to visit with coffees and others.

GS requested a plaque to be placed of the Pagoda showing it is donated by the town board.

Majority of the Board voted for the Pagoda to be placed at Project Colt.

10. Business Plan update (Rob Shipway)

11. Private sector support

RS reported local business had approached colleagues from the Council's Business Engagement team to discuss a range of issues which they felt were a barrier to local

businesses. Although the businesses were angry, RS noted that it was a useful meeting which highlighted:

- a lack of understanding of the role of the Board
- a strong desire to play a more active role in the town
- a wish to explore networking opportunities.

RS suggested this offered an opportunity to raise the profile of the Board by providing local businesses with the opportunity to come together. The Board agreed that a business breakfast should be funded using the Board's budget, to explore the appetite for a longer-term business network.

Action: David Brownridge work with local businesses to set up a business breakfast meeting.

a. Voluntary sector support (Samantha McCormick)

RS provided a summary of the Board's previous discussions regarding voluntary sector support. The Board has agreed to two key opportunities:

Voluntary and community sector workshops – SM suggested three workshops a year, with 2 providing network opportunities. A third workshop would include invitations to local support agencies such as Voluntary Action Calderdale to offer advice and guidance to groups. The Board agreed to this suggestion.

Developing a Community Hub – promoting the Cartwheel Club as the home for the VCSE in Elland. The goal would be to see core support services for the sector delivered from here.

RS sought support from the Board for funding to deliver these objectives. The Board agreed to set aside £1,500 for the voluntary sector workshops, to cover three workshops for the next two years. Given the ambition to run services from the Cartwheel Club it was suggested these funds should be allocated to the Cartwheel Club as a contract once established, to be coordinated by RS and SM.

The Board also agreed to a recommendation to secure the services of an external funding consultant, to secure funding toward running costs of the Cartwheel Club, which would meet the Board's previous commitment to only use Town Board funds to secure match funding.

b. Events (Rob Shipway)

RS reminded the Board it had been provided with £1500 from Culturedale to support community events. The Board discussed two opportunities and agreed that events to celebrate the end of FSHF works would provide an opportunity for businesses and the community to see how the investment has benefitted the town.

The Board also expressed support to explore the opportunity of a Soapbox Derby, to act as a major event for the town which could attract visitors from other parts of Calderdale. As the event would cost in the region of £20,000 match funding would be needed. RS noted that whilst the event would be explored, delivery of the event was beyond his team and the Council's resources so this had to be considered.

Action: RS and DW to discuss the opportunity with an external funding consultant to test viability.

Action: Bobsie Robinson be invited to the next meeting of the Board to discuss Culturedale opportunities for Elland.

c. Heritage (Rob Shipway and David Wilkinson)

RS updated the Board regarding engagement of Historic England to explore funding opportunities. He reported that he was arranging a second visit to the town so that Historic England could discuss how the Conservation Area plan could be supported.

GG highlighted a Heritage trail on the Calderdale Council webpage for Elland. He agreed to circulate a pdf copy to the Board of the heritage trail.

Action: RS and DW to meet Historic England and report back to the Board.

Action: ZA to contact GG to distribute heritage trail.

d. Young People (Graham Sykes)

GS reported he had met with Brooksbank who have a small group of young people willing to work with the Board, an opportunity welcomed and encouraged by the Board. GS suggested in the short term a form of communication such as WhatsApp or Slack. Slack can be split into subgroups. The Board agreed that it should earmark funding of £750 to support ideas which the youth panel developed subject to review by the Board.

Sam Roper noted that Brooksbank have been in touch with the Elland Community Hub to host an arts event for the 11-21 age group although further funding was required to supplement CultureDale support.

Action: GS to continue to engage Brooksbank and report how a WhatsApp or other social media tool could be provided safely and managed.

Action: GS to explore youth led activities, and the Board to consider funding option

12. Date of the next meeting

12th of March 2024 at Project Colt, Elland.