

**Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd Development Board Meeting**  
**Meeting of the minutes held Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024**  
**Meeting held via Teams**

**Present**

Councillor J Fenton-Glynn (Chair)  
Councillor Scott Patient  
Councillor Katie Kimber  
Sue Slater  
Dr Carol Stow  
Geoff Wood  
Jason Boom

**Others in Attendance**

Angie Mossman  
Adrian Gill  
Darren Thomas  
Rob Shipway  
Zakariya Ali

**1. Welcome and apologies.**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sarah Courtney.

**Quorate declaration<sup>1</sup>**

The meeting was declared quorate.

**2. Declarations of interest<sup>2</sup>**

There were no interests declared.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting**

Board member found mix up with names.

Board member stated that Councillor Scott was not present. From previous attendance list it was found he was present.

**ACTION: ZA and RS to review previous minutes for amendments.**

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising provided by the Board.

**5. Hebden Royd Business Forum (Presentation Angie Mossman)**

AM shared her recent involvement in the forum, initiated last summer when Alison from Heart Gallery invited her to join based on her extensive background and

experience in designing and managing customer service functions for nearly 30 years. AM also highlighted her consultancy work and recent venture, Daisy Bank Camp. The group collectively decided to revitalise the forum's purpose, prompting a revisioning activity to assess its relevance and value proposition to members.

To evaluate the forum's effectiveness, research was conducted both online and at networking events. Feedback indicated a desire for more networking opportunities.

AM was approached to co-chair the forum alongside Amy from SPLAT, a proposal she accepted, citing her relevant experience and enthusiasm for the role. In response to feedback, the forum reduced membership prices and diversified its events, introducing net walking and hosted networking opportunities.

Plans were outlined for upcoming events, including a grant-focused session and a social media skill-sharing event, aimed at providing practical support for local businesses. Efforts are underway to redesign the forum's website, incorporating member-only spaces for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

AM expressed her commitment to energising the forum and acknowledged the repeated nature of volunteer roles, emphasising the need for fresh ideas.

The Board expressed support for Angie's initiatives and welcomed the positive changes.

### **Board membership (Rob Shipway)**

RS raised the topic of extending board membership to include more representatives from the private sector, following previous discussions on the matter.

RS highlighted AM's recent involvement and the drive she has brought to the business forum. He proposed inviting AM to join the board, citing her enthusiasm for the role.

It was agreed by the Board to extend an invitation to Angie Mossman to join the board.

**ACTION: RS confirmed that he would contact Angie Mossman to extend the invitation on behalf of the Board.**

### **6. Vision and action plan (Rob Shipway paper attached)**

The Business Forum are looking to employ someone for a day a month to develop and manage a website that can act as a hub for businesses and events in Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd. RS has seen positive feedback from businesses about the proposed idea. RS suggested to support this at a cost of £3,000 and benefits Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd. The work will allow businesses to post on a hub to assist each other.

CS asked RS how long the support would last from the £3,000 grant, and what we get for the work with feedback. RS responded the work would last 2 years and RS raised the idea to the Board as a suggestion to hear their opinions, he further expanded on how £3,000 would be a worthy investment as it will provide the support

for businesses also an events page for people to understand what is happening in the town.

Councillor Katie Kimber requested outputs and outcomes with the consultant to ensure the Board gets value for money also traffic numbers on the webpage would be useful.

GF expressed that it is not a lot of money for 2 years of work and there are great benefits as it could potentially bring outside contractors for the local businesses and this is supportive for Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd.

CS also requested outcomes and data from previous works that has taken place in the past. CS expressed that will either be helping the local community or is it for tourism. GF suggested there will be people who have the information of previous works in the town and could show the success of the scheme.

GF expressed that the webpage could be an advantage as successful businesses could support startup businesses, therefore saving funding on the cost of hiring elsewhere and rather supporting each other.

CS requested footfall data about businesses now compared to COVID-19 times where businesses struggled. RS informed the Board, there is the same spending in the town but there is no increase and the goal is to see an increase in spending at local businesses.

Councillor Scott Patient requested overall data of Hebden Bridge & Mytholmroyd. SS suggested to take the feedback back to the forum in regard to footfall data and other information.

## **7. Events and car parking**

RS emphasised the ongoing significance of initiatives concerning Hebden Bridge, particularly regarding car parking and public transportation improvements.

RS recalled a recent eventful meeting of the business forum, attended by 45 individuals, reflecting the high level of community interest in local issues. He also highlighted the collaborative nature of discussions, despite differing opinions, leading to the emergence of innovative ideas, such as exploring options for utilising private sector car parking spaces.

RS outlined potential initiatives discussed during the meeting, including the possibility of partnering with larger businesses to open up their car parking spaces for public use, with considerations for liability and funding.

Another proposal discussed was the establishment of a community transport service to facilitate easier access from Mytholmroyd station to Hebden Bridge town centre, addressing concerns about public transportation limitations.

RS urged the need to explore these ideas further, emphasising the need for collaborative efforts and innovative solutions to address ongoing challenges. RS proposed earmarking £1000 as a potential budget to kickstart initiatives, stressing

the importance of identifying tangible outcomes and long-term benefits from such investments.

RS suggested that the board could play a pivotal role in driving these initiatives forward, particularly in securing funding opportunities like the Ambition for Towns scheme.

He reiterated the importance of proactive measures and informed decision-making to make tangible progress on local issues, emphasising the necessity for action over prolonged debates. The meeting concluded with a call to action, encouraging further discussion and exploration of potential solutions to address the identified challenges.

Councillor Scott Patient suggested the success of bids around Calderdale and have the Business Forum looked into or considered moving to the same bid model.

**ACTION: RS to take the feedback given by Board members and take to the Business Forum.**

GF suggested to look into Brighouse to have some clear sighted recommendations and advice. RS agreed and suggested to the Board they could speak with Brighouse Forum.

#### **8. Any other business**

No other business was brought up by the Board.

#### **9. Date of next meeting**

23rd April 2024 The Chair requested if RS could check if meetings are allowed to take place during pre-election periods or if Chairing on the Board meeting is allowed.

**ACTION: RS to check if Councillor J Fenton Glynn can chair the next Board meeting during the pre-election period.**