

MINUTES OF Haslingden Taskforce MEETING – 30th January 2018
Haslingden Community Link

Attendees:

- Cllr Alyson Barnes (Chair) *1 Vote*
- Cllr David Stansfield *1 Vote*
- Cllr Granville Morris *1 Vote*
- Lydia Williamson *1 Vote* Representing Graham Jones MP
- Arlene Harris *1 Vote* Civic Pride
- Dave Rothwell *1 Vote* Resident Representative
- Granville Barker *1 Vote* Resident Representative
- Guy Darragh Economic Development Manager **RBC**
- Jackie Flynn Community Projects and Partnership Officer **RBC**
- Kathy Allcock *1 Vote* Civic Pride
- Matt Wiseman *1 Vote* REAL
- Megan Eastwood Economic Development Officer RBC
- Renata Ormerod *1 Vote* Civic Pride
- Stephen Anderson *1 Vote* Buttress Architects and Valley Heritage

Apologies:

- Cllr Annabel Shipley
- Cllr Ann Kenyon
- Barry Hyde Events Representative
- Jean Neville Civic Pride
- Marilyn Proctor First Choice Credit Union

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair, Cllr Alyson Barnes welcomed members.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. TH Funding Bid

3.1 GD presented the feedback from HLF regarding the first round submission for a Haslingden Townscape Heritage Scheme.

3.2 Although the submission was not successful, the application was strong and recommended by the North West HLF office for national approval.

3.3 GD explained that there was only £8m to allocate nationally, there were 23 applications in total and only 5 had been successful, many of which had submitted 2 or 3 times previously.

3.4 There were many positives of the submission and HLF were very impressed with many elements

- 3.5 HLF have suggested some areas for improvement, including doing in depth surveys and specifications on the buildings in the scheme, further consultation with the businesses and building owners and proposals for the vacant floor space.
- 3.6 HLF strongly advise to submit a reworked version in March 2019 and submit a HLF large grant enquiry form to give an insight into what the next programmes would look like.
- 3.7 The group agreed that an enquiry form should be submitted ASAP.
- 3.8 Cllr Alyson Barnes reiterated that the Council was committed to Haslingden Town Centre and keen to meet the funding deadlines.
- 3.9 Cllr Granville Morris enquired whether all of the buildings were interested in the grant. It was confirmed that out of all the businesses that were given a questionnaire, all supported the scheme.

Actions 07/08/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Complete an enquiry form to HLF	ME	RBC	

4. Future Bid Submissions

- 4.1 GD explained that HLF strongly advised a future submission
- 4.2 Following the feedback from HLF, there is a need to gather further evidence and research to support a submission for a large investment into Haslingden.
- 4.3 A proposal was put forward to the Taskforce to use £15k of Haslingden Taskforce money to support this additional work and research.
- 4.4 Cllr Granville Morris asked whether there were alternatives to a large grant scheme.
- 4.5 GD explained that there are very limited funding bodies that offer anything to town centres.
- 4.6 There were further discussions about areas of Haslingden that could also do with investment.
- 4.7 It was agreed that these issues would be looked into by the Community Partnership team as the focus of the Taskforce is the strategic development of the town centre.
- 4.8 KA enquired as to how the £15k would be spent and if there were alternatives to the Taskforce monies to consider.
- 4.9 It was confirmed that this money was for Haslingden and there were no other earmarked funds.
- 4.10 The remaining financial balance of the taskforce was queried. It was agreed that the group would receive the budget allocation via email.
- 4.11 JF explained that any evidence gathered at this stage could be used for many funding bids in future, the information could be useful.
- 4.12 A vote was held and the Taskforce were unanimous in voting to allocate £15k to develop the bid. One person abstained from voting.
- 4.13 Cllr Granville Morris suggested that more was done to get MP Jake Berry engaged with the scheme. AB agreed to take this up informally.
- 4.14 Cllr David Stansfield suggested a lot of work should be done to get the whole community behind this.

Actions 07/08/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Circulate current taskforce financials to group	GD	RBC	
Allocate £15k of taskforce monies to bid development	ME	RBC	

5. Haslingden Business Forum

- 5.1 ME informed the group that a meeting centred on future events, shop front up-keeping and the Visit Haslingden website had been arranged for the 5th of September.
- 5.2 There was a discussion about engaging the wider business community.
- 5.3 It was confirmed that work would be completed to encourage more people to attend.
- 5.4 MW suggested that the street fair had previously been a huge success and that we should do more to keep this sustainable.
- 5.5 AB suggested that the Taskforce could consider allocating £1000 to support businesses with an annual event.
- 5.6 It was agreed that this would be suggested at the business forum meeting and any ideas would be fed back into the taskforce.

Actions 07/08/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Feedback on the business forum meeting	ME	RBC	

6. Shop front Grant Scheme

- 6.1 The previous shop front grant scheme was revisited by the group, which was previously suspended due to making an application to HLF.
- 6.2 The Taskforce agreed that the shopfront scheme should remain suspended.

7. Conservation Area Status

- 7.1 ME confirmed that Haslingden would be made a conservation area within the next week.
- 7.2 Consultation with residents and the business community had been undertaken as part of the process
- 7.3 Cllr Granville Morris suggested that this is made clearer to property owners and shopkeepers so they are aware of restrictions.
- 7.4 ME confirmed that this would be brought up at the traders group and that the planning team could consider this as part of the process.

Actions 07/08/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Feedback the conservation area to businesses and building owners	ME	RBC	

8. Community Groups update

- 8.1 MW provided the statistics on the REAL website
- 8.2 GB offered help and support to ME to distribute letters
- 8.3 JF suggested she would meet separately to look at the area behind DT Laws with GB as part of the Community Partnerships work.
- 8.4 JF put forward the environmental plan proposed for Haslingden which involves various community groups working together to achieve an impact in the town. The map includes the conservation area boundary.
- 8.5 JF explained that the plan was in draft and some amendments were to be made.
- 8.6 The groups involved in the environmental plan are meeting on the 5th of September at 10am to iron out final details and potential funding bids to support the work.

- 8.7 It was agreed that ME would send out the draft plan with the minutes.
- 8.8 LW presented an update from Graham Jones MP which was that a meeting had recently taken place with BH to form a Rossendale Community Support Network.
- 8.9 KA explained that Civic Pride recently has a stall on Haslingden market which has been successful. Civic pride presented an update on all of the work that had been completed in the town, including planters, hanging baskets, Regent St, Co-op and library. The local cubs and brownies had also assisted. Civic Pride has submitted an application to the Royal Horticultural neighbourhood award.
- 8.10 There was a discussion in general about the market. It was confirmed that improving the market would be looked at as part of a wider strategy for the town in stage 1 of the HLF project.
- 8.11 Cllr David Stansfield updated the group with his recent efforts. He has welcomed receiving a list of potholes in need of repair which can be followed up promptly by LCC.
- 8.12 SA updated the group on the Chapel St church. Valley Heritage submitted a funding application which is due for a decision in September. Valley Heritage would have first refusal on the site. The end use is still in discussion.

Actions 07/08/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Send out environmental plan with the minutes	ME	RBC	

9. Visit Haslingden Website

- 9.1 ME presented an update to the group. The website is due for discussion at the traders meeting on the 5th of September with the view of gaining their ownership of the site to promote shops and events.

10. AOB

- 10.1 Cllr Granville Morris thanked Civic Pride for their work in Haslingden. This was echoed by all other meeting attendees.
- 10.2 Cllr Granville Morris enquired about the frequency of the meeting, which was agreed to be in 3 month's time.
- 10.3 Cllr Granville Morris requested that the Council allocates more money to Haslingden should the HLF bid round one submission be unsuccessful. It was agreed that this would be deferred following the outcome of the next submission.

The next meeting will be held in November, the date to be arranged.