

MINUTES OF Haslingden Strategic Board MEETING – Wednesday 14th August 2019
Haslingden Community Link

Attendees:

- Cllr Alyson Barnes (Chair) Leader of Rossendale Council
- Graham Jones MP MP for Haslingden & Hyndburn
- Cllr Granville Morris Greenfield Ward
- Cllr Margaret Pendlebury Greenfield Ward
- Renate Omerod Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
- Dave Rothwell Resident Representative
- Guy Darragh Economic Development Manager **RBC**
- Jackie Flynn Community Projects and Partnership Officer **RBC**
- Marilyn Proctor Business Representative - First Choice Credit Union
- Mhorag Saxon Economic Development Officer **RBC**
- Stephen Anderson Buttress Architects and Valley Heritage
- Rachel Marsden Profitts
- Dorothy Flynn Resident Representative
- Leigh Andrew Business Representative
- Matt Finn Business Representative
- Simone Keating Rossendale Leisure Trust

Apologies:

- Megan Eastwood Economic Development Officer RBC
- Martin Profitt Profitts

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 The Chair, Cllr Alyson Barnes, welcomed members and introductions were made.

1.2 Members were reminded of the background and context to the group. The Chair explained that it is a strategic group, focused on attracting significant investment to improve Haslingden Town Centre. The Haslingden Community Partnership is the forum to be used to engage in general discussion about routine matters.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the last meeting were noted and actions reviewed – Alison Wilkins has been adding peoples contact details to the distribution register. If people would like their details added please contact Jackie Flynn.

3. Presentation on the emerging Haslingden Town Center 2040 Vision

3.1 Presentation by GD of the emerging 2040 Vision:

3.1.1 The 2040 Vision is the key goal but it is a 20 year Vision and will be delivered through a number of projects such as the Heritage Fund project

- 3.1.2 The presentation discussed the aims of the 2040 Vision, the challenges, the consultation process and the masterplan
- 3.1.3 A huge amount of consultation has been completed
- 3.1.4 Discussions included the proposed pedestrianisation of Upper Deardengate to create an events space, the x41 bus stop moved from Manchester Road, Cockerills Coner, greening the town centre to improve biodiversity and wellbeing, the Manchester Road/Blackburn Road welcome corridor improvements and other capital works
- 3.2 The emerging 2040 Vision will be presented to Council in December 2019 and further consultation will then be necessary in early 2020. Once the final version has been agreed it will be adopted as a supplementary planning document.
- 3.3 Copies of the Haslingden 2040 Vision and masterplan are available electronically upon request
- 3.4 Two traders present agreed that the 2040 Vision and masterplan addressed their concerns
- 3.5 Other discussion points included:
 - 3.5.1 Digital
 - 3.5.2 Events
 - 3.5.3 Ecological assessments
 - 3.5.4 Market feasibility
 - 3.5.5 Commercial to resi conversions to improve vacancy rates and under utilised buildings
 - 3.5.6 Takeaway policy
 - 3.5.7 Public realm enhancements with associated maintenance from the Council and voluntary groups
 - 3.5.8 Shutter schemes to improve the look of the welcome corridor.

4. Update on the Stage 1 Bid to Heritage Fund

- 4.1 Submitting w/c 19th August and we expect to hear if it is successful in late November/early December.
- 4.2 Bid is for £1.85 million from the Heritage Fund and £200,000 match funding from RBC.
- 4.3 Capital works include:
 - 4.3.1 Building restoration and restoring architectural features and shop fronts
 - 4.3.2 Public realm enhancements with links to nature and the environment
 - 4.3.3 A great range of community events and training opportunities

5. AOB

- 5.1 Haslingden Street Fair:
 - 5.1.1 Being held on Sunday 15th September 2019
 - 5.1.2 43 stalls have confirmed as attending
 - 5.1.3 Stalls will line Deardengate with Upper Deardengate at its junction with Bury Road being closed to traffic to create a pedestrian event space
 - 5.1.4 All of the Churches will be closed for the day and will hold a town centre worship to celebrate the Street Fair
- 5.2 Art Proposal Funding Request:
 - 5.2.1 Artist Emma Long is submitting an application for funding to the Arts Council to deliver a Townscape Arts project in Haslingden. She will be working with a number of hard to reach groups, some of who are already engage in the project. The Townscape art work will be used throughout the town centre and will also go in display in prominent civic museums and buildings in the area.
 - 5.2.2 Request to the Haslingden Town Centre Strategic Board for some financial contribution to the funding application

- 5.2.3 Unanimous agreement to donate £500 to the Haslingden Townscape Project
- 5.3 Haslingden & Helmshore Civic Trust nominated their garden area on Regent Street for an award from the RHS. A delegation has been invited to the award ceremony in Southport – the Board wishes them lots of luck!
- 5.4 Note from the Chair that we are incredibly grateful for all of the hard work and commitment from the Civic Pride volunteers.
- 5.5 Cllr Granville Morris asked if a representative from the Northern Powerhouse could be invited to a Board meeting with a view of future funding bids.
- 5.6 Haslingden Swimming Pool is insecure – issues raised to be passed to RBC Facilities team.

Action	By Who	Completed
Hold a Haslingden 2040 Vision stall at the Street Fair on the 15 th Sept	MS	
Enquire with owners of the buildings/businesses affected by the recent fire on Blackburn Road if any assistance can be provided	MS	
Add attendees to the Haslingden Community Partnership mailing list and email out the date of the next meeting	JF	
Consider invite to Norther Powerhouse	AB	
Haslingden Swimming Pool to pass to RBC Facilities	MS	Yes

The next meeting will be arranged for December 2019, a date will be confirmed in due course.