

**MINUTES OF Haslingden Taskforce MEETING – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2019**  
**Haslingden Methodist Church**

**Attendees:**

- Cllr Alyson Barnes (Chair) Leader of Rossendale Council
- Cllr Granville Morris Greenfield Ward
- Lydia Williamson Representing Graham Jones MP
- Alison Wilkins Community Projects and Partnership Manager **RBC**
- Dave Rothwell Resident Representative
- Granville Barker Resident Representative
- Guy Darragh Economic Development Manager **RBC**
- Harry Holding Guest
- Joe Donavan Guest
- Kendra Haigh Together Housing Community Officer
- Marilyn Proctor Business Representative - First Choice Credit Union
- Margret Murray Guest
- Megan Eastwood Economic Development Officer **RBC**
- Michael Murray Guest
- Renata Ormerod Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
- Stephen Anderson Valley Heritage and Buttress Architects
- Tony Hodbod Guest

**Apologies:**

- Cllr David Stansfield Lancashire County Council and Helmshore Ward
- Cllr Annabel Shipley Greenfield Ward
- Cllr Ann Kenyon Worsley Ward
- Arlene Harris Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
- Barry Hyde Events Representative
- Dorothy Flynn Resident Representative
- Jane Reilly Business Representative - Haslingden Community Link
- Jean Neville Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
- Kathy Allcock Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride
- Matt Wiseman REAL
- Riaz Ahmed Small Business Representative
- Sadaqut Amin Haslingden Traders Representative
- William Flynn Resident Representative

**1. Welcome and Introductions**

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

1.2 There were additional residents in attendance at the meeting. Cllr Alyson Barnes explained that the meeting operates under terms of reference with approved attendees; however, on this occasion the additional residents were welcome to attend.

1.3 Cllr Alyson Barnes explained that residents were more than welcome to attend the Community Partnerships forum that occurs on a quarterly basis which is the main forum for residents.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Gather contact details to invite residents to Haslingden Community Partnerships Forum	AW	RBC	

## 2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were noted, with two amendments agreed.

2.2 Item 5.9 to be amended to “Haslingden and Helmshore Civic Pride”

2.3 The action marked “for all” regarding Architectural Heritage Fund pilot proposal was discussed.

2.4 Attendees were asked to forward any suggestions to Valley Heritage.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Make suggestions for AHF pilot projects for Valley Heritage	ALL	ALL	On-going from previous

## 3. External Funding Bid

### Council Report

3.1 GD presented a draft Council Report at the meeting which will go to full council on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

3.2 GD explained that an external funding bid to Heritage Fund (previously Heritage Lottery Fund) was being developed

3.3 GD reminded the group that a bid was submitted in the middle of last year and although it wasn't successful, we had received positive feedback and were encouraged to apply again.

3.4 GD gave some background information about the developing bid proposals, which if a submission was successful; Haslingden would see physical improvements to buildings, the public realm as well as activities and events to boost footfall in Haslingden Town Centre.

3.5 GD explained that the report had 4 x purposes:

- Authorise the bid submission to Heritage Fund
- Agree to Match Fund the submission £160k Rossendale Council and a further £40k Haslingden Taskforce
- Legal Authorisation to enter into a grant agreement for Stage 1
- Reconstitute as Haslingden Town Centre Strategic Board and operate under new Terms of Reference

3.6 MM queried the proposed housing site on Grane Road and requested consideration to be put into the effect on the health centre waiting list.

3.7 Cllr Ayson Barnes agreed that this would be picked up with the Forward Planning team

3.8 JD asked what the steps would be should a bid be unsuccessful.

3.9 Cllr Alyson Barnes confirmed that if rejected, we would continue to seek other external investment.

3.10 GD confirmed that the £160k RBC match funding was ring-fenced specifically for Haslingden Town Centre.

- 3.11 Cllr Granville Morris queried if Heritage Fund was the only option available to Haslingden.
- 3.12 AB confirmed that any funding stream would be considered but this was the most appropriate at this stage.
- 3.13 Cllr Granville Morris queried if the match funding element of £160k was from Haslingden Swimming Pool sale.
- 3.14 Cllr Alyson Barnes confirmed that the £160k was from the Employment and Transport Reserve and not related to the swimming pool sale.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Pick up Grane Road Health Centre Constraint with Forward Planning Team	AB/ ME	RBC	
Explore other funding streams for Haslingden if unsuccessful with HF bid	GD/ ME	RBC	

### Terms of Reference

- 3.15 GD explained that as part of the funding, Heritage Fund would need to see a robust governance structure for the management of circa £2m.
- 3.16 GD confirmed that the Terms of Reference are based on the typical attendees of the Haslingden Taskforce.
- 3.17 GD also proposed a new name for the group: Haslingden Town Centre Strategic Board
- 3.18 GD explained that there was a trader's vacancy in addition to a new nominated REAL representative.
- 3.19 Cllr Alyson Barnes expressed concern that the resident attendees were given limited representative slots within the TOR and suggested a resident focus group.
- 3.20 It was agreed to progress with a resident focus group.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Adopt proposed TOR and change name to Haslingden Town Centre Strategic Board	ALL	ALL	
Create a resident focus group for the funding bid	ME	RBC	

### Funding Bid Update

- 3.21 ME presented the preliminary consultation feedback
- 3.22 The group agreed with the current challenges that came out of the consultation
- 3.23 ME presented the ideas and solutions that people had suggested to overcome the challenges
- 3.24 The group felt that the solutions and ideas were appropriate and also made a suggestion to consider the land at the back of the shops on Deardengate and the safety feature.
- 3.25 ME confirmed that a feasibility study of this site would be worked into the Heritage Fund application.
- 3.26 It was also suggested to work with Helmshore and Haslingden Civic Pride for events on the Market.

- 3.27 The group all agreed that Haslingden Market was underused and felt that the bid should reflect improvements to the market offer.
- 3.28 ME presented the outcomes and planned achievements of the bid.
- 3.29 ME also recapped other preliminary work that had been undertaken, including property surveys, drawings, activities and partner meetings.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Ensure Feasibility Study for land at the rear of buildings is include in bid	ME	RBC	
Consider improvements for Market offer within the bid	ME	RBC	

#### 4. Finance Update

- 4.1 ME confirmed that the current Haslingden Taskforce Budget was circa £57k
- 4.2 There was approximately a further £5.1k allocated to bid development
- 4.3 ME reminded members that in August 2018 £15k was agreed to bid development and only £7.1k was allocated so far
- 4.4 The further £7.9k would be used to commission an Ecology Assessment, develop the activity plan as well as further consultation activity should it be required.
- 4.5 The remaining balance would match fund the Heritage Fund application.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Commission Ecology Assessment to support bid	ME	RBC	

#### 5. Traders Group Update

- 5.1 ME explained that a different approach with the Traders was necessary.
- 5.2 The Traders group had initially met to discuss events and activities in the town centre.
- 5.3 Given the lack of resource for the Traders to organise and run events in the town centre as well as operate a business, it was agreed that an events group should co-ordinate that activity instead.
- 5.4 The Traders group will still link into events by running complimentary activities.
- 5.5 The funding bid includes professional workshops for the traders, such as learning how to present shop front window, how to market online and ideas for tackling anti-social behaviour.

#### 6. Events Update

- 6.1 ME explained that she had informed Love Haslingden that the Taskforce had previously agreed to contribute £1k towards an event this year, such as the Street Market.
- 6.2 ME confirmed that events featured heavily within the application to Heritage Fund.
- 6.3 Event workshops and training activities would also be provided should the application be successful.
- 6.4 ME would be meeting with Love Haslingden to understand future plans and resource requirements.

Actions 20/02/2019	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Meet Love Haslingden to understand future plans	ME	RBC	

#### 7. AOB

- 7.1 RO explained about plans for a viewing platform of a mosaic at the bottom of Regent St.
- 7.2 MM queried about how money and funding was spread across Rossendale.
- 7.3 Cllr Alyson Barnes explained that usually external funding is ring-fenced for a specific project, for example, money obtained by LCC for the Bus Station in Rawtenstall could only be spent on a new Bus Station in Rawtenstall and not be spent on anything else and that it is in the Council's best interest to bid for that money rather than risk losing out on the opportunity.

***The next meeting will be planned for the end of May 2019, a date will be confirmed in due course.***