

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

Attendees:

- Cllr Alyson Barnes (Chair)
- Cllr Annabel Shipley
- Cllr Granville Morris
- Lydia Williamson Representing Graham Jones MP
- Arlene Harris Civic Pride
- Alison Wilkins Community Projects and Partnership Manager **RBC**
- Barry Hyde Events Representative
- Dave Rothwell Resident Representative
- Granville Barker Resident Representative
- Guy Darragh Economic Development Manager **RBC**
- Jean Neville Civic Pride
- Kathy Allcock Civic Pride
- Marilyn Proctor First Choice Credit Union
- Matt Wiseman REAL
- Megan Eastwood Economic Development Officer RBC
- Renata Ormerod Civic Pride
- Stephen Anderson Buttress Architects and Valley Heritage

1. Welcome and Introductions

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

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

2.1 Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

3. TH Funding Bid

3.1 GD outlined the recent Haslingden Townscape Heritage round one bid submission to Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

3.2 GD explained that this was a first round outline bid submission and highlighted the competitive nature at this and the next a second round submission phase.

3.3 There was a discussion about how the bid would be scored, which would be heavily outcome focused.

3.4 SA presented a PowerPoint to the group.

3.5 The presentation involved slides on the proposed building improvements if successful at round two, areas to improve the public realm as well as information on the complimentary training and initiatives that the community can be involved with. It was reiterated that this would be subject to change throughout the process.

- 3.6 SA notified the board that the round one submission was influenced by feedback provided from Heritage Lottery Fund at a site visit.
- 3.7 SA confirmed that if successful with the round one submission, there would be a 12 month period where a comprehensive round two bid would be developed. This would have a dedicated staff resource that would undertake in depth consultation and gain all of the necessary costing information with the buildings.
- 3.8 DR suggested that Haslingden Flag should be considered for any Public Realm improvements
- 3.9 AS and GM requested assurance that the wider community would be involved
- 3.10 BH highlighted the community spirit in Haslingden.
- 3.11 GD explained that there is little other funding available for Town Centres at the moment and that this was the last opportunity to apply for Townscape Heritage Funding.
- 3.12 AB said that this was a fantastic opportunity and would be a boost for Haslingden.
- 3.13 GM enquired about strategies to sustain heritage.
- 3.14 SA confirmed that Haslingden will soon be a dedicated conservation area, which will give the Council more power to manage and conserve the heritage of the town.
- 3.15 GD presented a proposal which would mean the group would change to a TH board if the Townscape Heritage bid to HLF was successful at round one.
- 3.16 Proposed Terms of Reference were reviewed.
- 3.17 It was suggested that business representatives and more community groups should be reflected on the board. There are slots for this representation within the TOR.
- 3.18 GD explained that any resident with a political interest on the board would need to declare it as it was envisaged that residential representation should have no political party connection.
- 3.19 DR suggested it would be a great opportunity to complete a press release on the application for funding.
- 3.20 This idea was discussed and it was decided it would be most appropriate to release the information once successful in order to not raise expectations.
- 3.21 There were no objections to the proposed Terms of Reference.
- 3.22 The group agreed that if the bid is successful it would move to a TH board.
- 3.23 GD confirmed that a report to include would be submitted for approval from full Council for the reformation of Haslingden Taskforce to a Haslingden TH board as per the discussed TOR, as well as the appointment of a TH Project Officer if the round one submission is successful and the reallocation of existing Haslingden Taskforce funding and additional Council match funding.
- 3.24 If the bid was not successful, the Council's Economic Development team would continue to pursue other funding channels and explore changes to the existing grant programme
- 3.25 AS raised questions about eyesores particularly in relation to Blackburn Road.
- 3.26 AB was in agreement and requested that this was followed up at Haslingden Neighbourhood Forum.
- 3.27

Actions 30/01/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Engage more businesses	ME	RBC	
Raise Blackburn Road at Haslingden Neighbourhood Forum	AW	RBC	
Submit Council Report in relation to item 3.23	GD	RBC	

4. Community Groups Update

- 4.1 MW explained the REAL network and that the voluntary team was expanding to promote voluntary groups.
- 4.2 Haslingden Civic Pride explained the areas they had recently transformed and informed the group that they were planning something big for “keep Britain Tidy” in the first week of March. They also explained that they were leafleting businesses and about a large event surrounding Regent St.
- 4.3 First Choice Credit Union informed the group of that a new shop front would be installed by the 1st of February 2018.
- 4.4 Lydia Williamson notified the group of a petition to stop Accrington Walk in centre from closing.
- 4.5 Valley Heritage explained their role throughout Rossendale. It was suggested that residents take a look at Kay chapel, on Church St off Bury Road

5. Business Update

- 5.1 ME informed the group that traders surveys had recently been completed and that current shop keepers were keen to see improvements within the town.
- 5.2 ME explained that lots of shopkeepers were positive about the potential opportunity for funding within the town centre.
- 5.3 There were lots of suggestions from shop keepers about events that they would like to see in the town.
- 5.4 ME confirmed that she had engaged with some larger businesses and was working on them having a presence on the TH board.
- 5.5 ME would be working to re-instate the traders group in the next few months.

6. Visit Haslingden Website

- 6.1 ME explained the VisitHaslingden Website required updating, which was initially agreed to be managed by the community. It was agreed that ME would circulate a feedback survey about the site and a small sub-group with AS, BH, MP and MW would meet to improve it and promote it. It was agreed that Love Haslingden would also be approached to re-engage with the site.

Actions 30/01/2018	Person tasked	Representing	Completed
Community groups to send information to MW for REAL website	ALL	ALL	
Circulate MW contact information	ME	RBC	
Find the Chapel and come up with suggestions	ALL	ALL	
Circulate Valley Heritage and CAST Details	ME	RBC	
Reinstate Traders Group	ME	RBC	
Circulate feedback questions to group	ME	RBC	
Arrange website sub-group meeting	ME	RBC	

7. William Cockerill

- 7.1 AB informed the group of a historic figure, William Cockerill born in Haslingden, who has a statue outside European Parliament for his role in the industrial revolution.
- 7.2 AB explained that this would be an excellent thing to feature on the Visit Haslinden website.

8. AOB

8.1 AW informed the group of Haslingden Neighbourhood Forum on the 8th of February

The next meeting will be two weeks after result of Round One TH submission to HLF.