

Meeting Minutes

Meeting of: The Town Board

Date: 19th July 2024

Time: 11:30am

Location: The Horse and Bamboo, Waterfoot

Present: Alyson Barnes (AB), Andy Schofield (AS), Chris Mckee (CM), David Gould (DG), David Smurthwaite (DS), Deyrick Allen (DA), Iain Taylor (IT), Jaid Flatley (JF), Jan Shutt (JS), Jodie Oatway (JO), Lynn Smith (LS), Matt Warner (MW), Megan Eastwood (ME), Peter Terry (PT), Rachel Gildert (GD), Rob Huntington (RS), Samantha Sandford (SS)

Apologies: Abdul Mannan (AM), Andy MacNae MP (AMac), Danii Wohler (DW), Sean Kierans (SK), Steffani Hull (SH)

	Item	Action required by
1.	Welcome and apologies	
	<p>The Chair Iain Taylor opened up the meeting and welcomed attendees. Apologies were given from: Abdul Mannan (AM), Andy MacNae MP (AMac), Danii Wohler (DW) Sean Kierans (SK), Steffani Hull (SH)</p> <p>DA welcomed attendees to the Horse and Bamboo.</p>	
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	
	<p>IT presented the minutes of the previous meeting. All actions completed.</p> <p>Decision: Previous minutes agreed</p>	
3.	Feedback on board workshop	
	<p>MW delivered a presentation summarising feedback from the previous board meeting workshop, highlighting key points about the area.</p> <p>The information is included within the attached presentation.</p> <p>Feedback was sought and the consensus was that it was an accurate reflection of the workshop discussions.</p>	
4.	Update on engagement with young people and roadshows	
	<p>MW delivered feedback on the engagement with young people. A consultation was conducted at Alder Grange School with two age groups (11-14 and 14-17) to gather their experiences and ideas about Rawtenstall.</p> <p>Students were asked to draw, whatsapp, "post it" note to name just a few feedback mechanisms and activities. The information is included within the attached presentation.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed to arrange regular sessions with the cohort of students to track opinions over time</p>	RBC

	<p>JF provided an update after meeting with various stakeholders in Rawtenstall. Key points include:</p> <p>The Whitaker Issues and opportunities identified included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of accommodation in the area. • Poor access via public transport. • Need for better signage in the town centre. • Drug activity in the car park. • Financial reliance on sponsorship is a threat. <p>St Marys Chambers Issues and opportunities included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of appropriate overnight accommodation. • Potential to broaden the use of St Marys Chambers as a venue. • More of a presence within the town centre and connectivity. <p>Retail discussions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses expressed interest for more events in the town centre to attract visitors including festivals for food, bikes and music <p>Rossendale Civic Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian safety, disabled access, and safe crossing for school children. • Improvements must be “plan-led” <p>Rawtenstall Civic Pride Enhance Rawtenstall's appeal with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved shop fronts and rear of buildings • Consistent pavement quality. • Better maintenance of back streets and empty buildings. • More effective street signs. • Increased CCTV to combat vandalism and littering. • Better access to skills training within the valley. <p>Planning Team The planning team provided feedback on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greening the town centres including Bacup Road • Improving cycle links, particularly between Waterfoot and Rawtenstall and Crawshawbooth and Rawtenstall • Enhancing wayfinding in town. • Developing Waterfoot mills. • Tricketts Arcade and other derelict buildings <p>Plans to engage with Crawshawbooth, Waterfoot, sport and leisure sectors are in place.</p> <p>Action: It was agreed engagement feedback would be a standing agenda item</p>	RBC
5.	First draft vision and objectives	

	<p>MW presented proposed objectives based on three investment themes. It was noted that these were aligned to the funding channel and could be broadened for the area.</p> <p>It was clarified that the objectives would help towards identifying appropriate projects.</p> <p>Action: Objectives to be sent to the board for feedback before the next meeting</p> <p>Vision Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 250-word draft aligning with the visitor economy strategy, Rawtenstall town centre spatial masterplan, and Rossendale local plan. • Based on previous engagement with stakeholders and young people. • To be published for feedback before the next board meeting. <p>Action: Draft vision to be circulated to the board for feedback before next meeting</p>	RBC
		RBC
6.	Context Analysis	
	<p>There was a discussion about the boundary line and capturing some residential properties.</p> <p>MW explained the evidence base that would be captured to form the analysis</p> <p>Context analysis will be presented at next meeting</p>	
7.	Logo Design	
	<p>MW presented a design for the logo.</p> <p>There were many comments about the design and the consensus was that using the wording “long term plan” within the logo could have some drawbacks.</p> <p>Action: Board members are to submit their feedback on the logo.</p>	ALL
8.	Rawtenstall and Waterfoot masterplans	
	<p>ME delivered a verbal presentation on the masterplans, highlighting the acceptance of £20 million funding by RBC full council for Rawtenstall's masterplan and authority for cabinet to develop a Waterfoot masterplan.</p> <p>Rawtenstall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status: Town is improving and positive about the future. • Funding: Received levelling up funding and support from LCC for various projects. • RBC Funding: Overhaul of Rawtenstall market, improvements to the gyratory, and connecting the market with the East Lancs Railway. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCC Funding: Projects for the Hall Carr estate to create a safer and greener neighborhood, bus service improvements, and design enhancements for Bank Street. • Masterplan: Consists of 10 projects, each with specific deliverables aimed at enhancing Rawtenstall's charm and achieving five key objectives for the next stage of development. • LCC emerging Consultation: Digital consultation on Bank Street design, Hall Carr, and bus service plans will run for four weeks starting Monday, July 22nd. <p>It was noted that RBC would attend LCC's drop in session at Rawtenstall library on the 7th August and will have conversations about the Long Term Plan for Towns funding.</p> <p>Waterfoot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Issues: High vacancy rates (40%), underused town, and lack of vibrancy. • Engagement: Surveys and conversations with 550 participants to identify strengths and opportunities. • Themes: creating central place, enhancing countryside connections, developing a visitor economy, improving pedestrian links, and enhancing the high street and street scene. • Vision: Creating a place to relax and unwind with arts and culture, street art, furniture, and events. <p>Action: ME to circulate initial work on the draft Waterfoot Masterplan</p> <p>Action: To provide further project updates as standing agenda items</p>	<p>ME</p> <p>RBC</p>
9.	<p>Approach to project identification, themes and interventions task/ engagement opportunities and ideas</p>	
	<p>DS explained that the next board meeting intention is the approach to project identification.</p> <p>It was reinforced that the programme of activity aims to be both deliverable and eligible, balancing the incorporation of community ideas with realistic expectations. The focus is on implementing activities that are impactful and visible to the community.</p>	
10.	<p>AOB</p>	
	<p>Date and time of next meeting: Friday 23rd August 2024 11:30am Location: TBC</p>	