



# OUR LONG-TERM TOWN PLAN

<b>NAME OF MEETING:</b>	Town Board Meeting
<b>DATE/LOCATION</b>	Rawtenstall Unitarian Church 11.10.2024
<b>INVITED ATTENDEES</b>	Andy MacNae MP (AMac), Andy Schofield (AS), David Gould (DG), David Smurthwaite (DS), Iain Taylor (IT), Jaid Flatley (JF), Jan Shutt (JS), Jodie Oatway (JO), Jackie Oaks (JAO), Kimberly Howarth (KH), Lynn Smith (LS), Megan Eastwood (ME), Milly Yielding (MY), Councillor Nick Harris (NH), Peter Terry (PT), Rachel Gildert (GD), Samantha Sandford (SS), Steffani Hull (SH)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Alyson Barnes (AB), Chris McKee (CM), Chris Warren (CW), Clare Birtwistle (CB), Deyrick Allen (DA), Rob Huntington (RH), Samantha Sandford (SS), Councillor Scott Smith (SS)
<b>MINUTE TAKER</b>	Jodie Oatway (JO)

## THE MEETING

1	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  IT opened up the meeting and welcomed attendees. Advised that the focus of the meeting was about getting project ideas and a lot of open discussion  Apologies received from : Alyson Barnes (AB), Chris McKee (CM), Chris Warren (CW), Clare Birtwistle (CB), Deyrick Allen (DA), Rob Huntington (RH), Samantha Sandford (SS), Councillor Scott Smith (SS)
2	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>  Minutes of the previous meeting were accepted. All actions completed  <b>Decision: Previous minutes agreed</b>
3	<b>Open discussion</b>  The board was presented with a list of programme ideas from Rossendale Borough Council for consideration. The ideas had been suggested from strategic documents and studies along with suggestions from the local community via various means over the last 2 years.  The following points were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Growth should be the primary objective whilst recognising the constraints to growth</li><li>- Prioritisation given to projects and initiatives that overcome barriers to growth as well as those that make a tangible difference</li><li>- Prioritisation should also be given to projects that show what they can do for the local economy</li><li>- Funding could be used to leverage additional resources such as other external funding, planning gains, strategic partnerships</li></ul>

## Waterfoot

- The board expressed enthusiasm for the idea of transforming Waterfoot into an Arts Town but noted that improvements to the arcade would be essential.
- There was an explanation around the complex ownership issues with Tricketts Arcade
- Following the discussion, board members felt that various options to bring the Arcade forward should be explored.
- The board strongly expressed that they would like to see a business case to determine the redevelopment of Tricketts Arcade and ways to do this.

**Action: ME to invite board members to meet the agent of the freehold and a visit of Tricketts Arcade**

## Crawshawbooth

- The consensus of the board is that main constraint in Crawshawbooth is a derelict church occupying a significant portion of land.
- Background information was given regarding steps taken previously on the church. It was explained that before the church can be considered for demolition, it must be demonstrated that repurposing the building is not viable. Ongoing efforts are focused on determining whether a feasibility study can be conducted to assess this possibility.
- Discussions took place about how the land could be used taking into account the proximity to the river, access and flooding.
- It was felt that there was a synergy with the Rossendale Heritage Futures Project delivered by Valley Heritage.
- The board supported the redevelopment of the church area following feasibility studies and a business case.
- The discussion unfolded into the popular walking and cycling routes in Crawshawbooth and there was enthusiasm for coherent route information, wayfinding and route improvements.

**Action: Valley Heritage to present the Rossendale Heritage Futures Project at the next meeting**

## Rawtenstall

- The town square was recognized as a key asset and attraction for Rawtenstall. The idea of hosting pop-up events on the square, coordinated with train services to bring more visitors into town, was discussed.
- Parking was presented as a constraint to growth and there was a suggestion to explore undercroft car parking in the town centre.
- The economic and health and well-being benefits of the access to the countryside was discussed in detail with suggestions around wayfinding, connectivity in the towns, cycle routes and bike hubs.
- There was a conversation regarding the challenges with temporary roadworks.
- The board identified attracting talent and opportunities for residents through cyber and digital hubs. It was reiterated the economic impact of such hubs would be significant on footfall and spend.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Leisure opportunities was also a topic of conversation and the board felt a new cinema in the heritage arcade, alongside the redevelopment of neighbouring properties would be impactful.</li> <li>- It was noted that comments were made about Bacup Road requiring enhancement</li> </ul> <p>In General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The board felt there should be opportunities for animation and events in all of the towns.</li> <li>- There should be a deeper dive into Anti-social behaviour in the boundary and ways to resolve this.</li> <li>- The next meeting would include more information on the 3 identified derelict buildings</li> </ul> <p><b>Action: Police to present ASB ideas at the next meeting</b></p>
4	<p><b>Engagement update</b></p> <p>JF provided an update on the ongoing engagement efforts and the development of a community engagement strategy. This strategy will be shared with the group.</p> <p><b>Action: JF to circulate the engagement update.</b></p> <p>JF presented an email from the Youth Council with their comments.</p> <p>JF advised that Long Term Plan for town ideas were gathered at both the Waterfoot consultation and Rawtenstall Bank St consultation.</p> <p><b>Action: JF to coordinate with the Youth Zone to determine if hosting and attendance of the meeting at that location is feasible.</b></p>
5	<p><b>AOB</b> TBC</p>

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Action	Responsible Officer	Completion Date
Valley Heritage to Present Project	ME	
Police to present ASB interventions	JO to request	
Engagement update to be circulated	JF	
Discussions with Youth Zone for possible location for next meeting	JF	