

WHITBY TOWN DEAL BOARD

DATE: THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2021

TIME: 10AM UNTIL 12NOON

VENUE: VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159509892?pwd=RFdzSXR2UVc0TjhuMkpZQU5HMkMyUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 5950 9892

Passcode: 878213

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

- Richard Flinton, NYCC
- Karl Battersby, NYCC

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (ATTACHED) AND MATTERS ARISING

- Trial pedestrianisation of Whitby swing bridge (report attached)

3. TOWNS FUND PROJECT PRIORITISATION

- Summary of projects (see report to follow) – HJ
- Vision and context – GE
- Defining ‘must haves’ – ALL
- Wider project discussion – ALL
- Recommendations – Voting members only

4. AOB

5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Wednesday 19th May 2021 @ 2pm

WHITBY TOWN DEAL BOARD

FRIDAY 19th MARCH 2020

2:30PM VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE

DRAFT MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE

CHAIR Gareth Edmunds GE Anglo American	Marc Cole MC SBC
Mike Greene MG SBC	Michael King MK WTC
Robert Goodwill MP RG	Louise Neale LN NYCC
John Field JFi Whitby Civic Society	Cllr Linda Wild, LW WTC
Clare Harrigan CH Beyond Housing	Matt Joseph MJ SBC
Alex Richards AR SBC	Ed Asquith EA Four Tigers Media
Cllr Steve Siddons SS SBC	Helen Jackson HJ SBC
Mel Bonney-Kane MBK CaVCA	Kerry Levitt KLV MINUTES SBC
Rachel Bice RB Agenda item 4 Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	Alice Sharp AS Agenda Item 4 Invisible Dust
Adam Cooper AC Agenda Item 4 Invisible Dust	

ACTIONS FROM THE MEETING

- NYCC to provide a report on the trial pedestrianisation scheme before the next meeting

1. **APOLOGIES**

- Rosemary DuRose | Beyond Housing
- Karl Battersby | NYCC
- Richard Flinton | NYCC

- Tricia Kane | MHCLG
- Liz Small | NYCC
- Paul Fellows | NYMNPA
- Barry Harland | Whitby Seafoods
- James Farrar | YNYER LEP

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11th December 2020 agreed as a true record.

2.2 No matters arising.

3. TOWNS FUND ANNOUNCEMENT

3.1 GE thanked all members of the board (and their workstream teams) for the ongoing hard work to get to this point and the success achieved following news from government.

Whitby has been awarded £17.1m from the Towns Fund. AR ran through the process and next steps required;

- WTDB and SBCs CE to sign the funding Heads of Terms by the 24th March 2021
- Summary document listing the projects to be taken forward under the fund submitted to MHCLG by 23rd May 2021
- Confirmed projects to develop and submit full Business cases by 23rd March 2022

3.2 The summary document must confirm the following details;

- Projects to be delivered with a delivery plan
- How the business cases will be developed
- Funding arrangements
- Financial profiles
- Evaluation & monitoring plan

3.3 Individual project teams must submit a suite of documents to SBC by the 26th March in order for an assessment of the projects to be carried out. Each project will be assessed by SBC, YNYER LEP and the Towns Fund support partner.

3.4 The summary document will be presented to the WTDB at its meeting on the 29th April 2021 for approval. This allows time for any changes before final submission at the end of May.

3.5 A number of other funding streams have also been announced recently including a fund to gear up the fishing industry, the community renewal fund and the levelling up

fund. SBC will be working over the next couple of weeks to look at the various different streams announced and the requirements for these.

3.6 The WTDB agreed to sign off the Heads of Terms document.

4. FAST TRACK PROJECT UPDATE

4.1 Whitby Wild Eye

AC attended to give an update on Phase 1 of the Wild Eye project and the lessons that have been learnt in developing the project. The planning application for the Whitby site has been withdrawn while steps are taken to address the issues that have arisen.

The project will work to engage better with the community and business and relay the narrative that the project is about more than pieces of art and identify what are and aren't suitable sites. MBK advised that CAVCA have a large reach with the community of Whitby but they have not been consulted and could help with engagement on the project.

GE expressed frustration that previous concerns raised by himself and Whitby Town Council had come to fruition and stressed that the communication and engagement on the project must be right if it were to proceed.

Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and English Heritage are still supportive of the project.

4.2 Walk with Heritage Sculpture Trail Phase 2

Planning permission has been granted for the additional sculptures as part of Phase 2 and these have been sent for galvanisation ready for installation next week. The designs for the information boards to go alongside have been received and these will be going to print soon ready for installation next month.

Additionally, two murals have been commissioned; one for the east side and one for the west. These murals will showcase the sculptures and a map of the trail. MJ shared a visual of the mural. Permission has been granted by the building owners and they should be ready for installation at the end of the month.

SBCs tourism section are going to run a marketing campaign and have also produced an app for the trail. Information for each sculpture has been provided by the Whitby Civic Society. Video and audio content for the app will be added later.

RG suggested the project liaises with existing tours and trails in Whitby to see if the trail can be included in what they offer. MJ will feed back to the steering group.

4.3 Trial pedestrianisation of Whitby Swing Bridge

NYCC gave authority on the 12th March 2021 to commence the trial scheme on weekends and bank holidays. Temporary signs will be in place whilst awaiting final signage. The scheme has been scaled back based on the feedback received as part of the engagement process. The trial can last for up to 18 months but the first review will be carried out in December 2021 taking into consideration comments received which the area team will collate.

MK requested information on what is actually been provided as part of the scheme under the funding allocated.

LW raised concern that the scheme is no different essentially to what has happened in the past when the swing bridge is busy and is not a true pedestrianisation scheme with the enforcement expected by the police.

GE requested NYCC circulate a report on the scheme to board members to address these queries before the next meeting.

5. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

- 5.1 EA issued a release following the announcement with a summary of each project. Social media accounts have also been updated.
- 5.2 EA will now work with SBC to create a Communications and Engagement Strategy aligned to the Towns Fund guidance.

6. AOB

No other business. GE thanked everyone for their hard work.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Thursday 29th April 2021 @ 10am

Report on the Fast-track scheme to remove traffic from Whitby swing bridge.

Following the Whitby Town Deal Board meeting on the 19th March 2021, concern was expressed by some Board members that the current operation of the closures was not as instructed. That is, rather than close the bridge to pedestrians 7 days a week, we are currently only closing it for weekends and Bank Holidays.

I attach a copy of the report given to the meeting of the NYCC Business and Environmental Services corporate Director and the BES Executive Members on the 12th March 2021. You will see from this report that several issues concerning the impacts of the closure were raised during the consultation period and in the run up to the start date of Easter 2021. Some of these impacts we have managed to resolve, but some are taking longer than the time we had available. Members will know that the scheme had to start on the 1st April 2021.

There are two issues that have affected the timings of the current Experimental Order:

1. The possibility of Arriva removing their service 95, not only between 10:30am and 4:00pm when the swing bridge closure was in operation, but complete removal, if they could not be exempt from the daily closures. In particular, the effect this may have on people with characteristics protected by Equalities legislation if the bus service was no longer available.
Initial discussions with Arriva soon showed that Arriva were concerned about the impact of the closure. In particular the associated longer diversion and how that would affect the running of this service. Arriva were unable to offer a definite view on this in the time available, but said that one outcome could be that they may have to consider withdrawing the service.

In order to protect the service whilst discussions are continuing, NYCC officers decided that it would be prudent to allow the busses to be allowed over the bridge on weekdays.

2. The impact of increased taxi fares for people with protected characteristics living on the east side of the river.
It was always obvious to see that the closure of the bridge to vehicles would increase taxi fares for some of the journeys in and around the town. However, the Equalities Impact Assessment showed that there was a good probability that some of these fare increases would fall on those with protected characteristics. Therefore, in order to give officers time to investigate this further, it was decided to allow taxis over the swing bridge on weekdays.

If we had tried to sign the prohibition to allow only buses and taxis over the bridge during the proposed closure period, the signing scheme for this, and all the other prohibitions in the immediate vicinity would have started to impact on the visual amenity of the area. Plus, taxis and buses going across the bridge on week days would have led to enforcement issues and would have diluted any benefits of closing the bridge during the week. Therefore, it was decided to start the experimental closure with a closure for all vehicles on weekends and Bank Holidays between the hours of 10:00 and 16:30, but continue investigations and discussions into trying to get to a position where we can close the bridge to all traffic between those hours, seven days a week.

I also understand the Board were interested in knowing how the £400k grant has been spent. The infrastructure needed for the current arrangement will be almost identical as what is needed for a seven day a week closure. We are still waiting for all our invoices to come in and I should be able to update members at a later meeting.

Richard Marr

18 April 2021