



HYNDBURN

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ACCRINGTON
TOWN CENTRE
PARTNERSHIP
BOARD
MEETING
MINUTES

February 29
2024

Date, Time & Location
Thursday 29th February 2024
5:30pm – 7:00pm
Online, Microsoft Teams

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Attendees

Board Members Present

David Sanderson	(DS)	Independent Chair
Richard Hooper	(RH)	Adventure Hyndburn
Miranda Barker	(MB)	East Lancs Chamber of Commerce
Andrew Parkin	(AP)	Nelson Group (Accrington and Rosendale College)
Jackie Moran	(JM)	Hyndburn Wellbeing
Sara Britcliffe MP	(SB)	Hyndburn & Haslingden Member of Parliament
Marlene Haworth	(MH)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Munsif Dad	(MD)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Sharon Hendrie	(SH)	Ynot Aspire
Elaine Barker	(EB)	Hyndburn Community Voluntary Support Group

Apologies

Lyndsey Sims	(LS)	Hyndburn Leisure
Edward Matthews-Gentle	(EM-G)	Lancashire County Council
Purves Ali	(PA)	Accrington Stanley Trust

Advisors to the Board

David Welsby	(DW)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Steve Riley	(SR)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Jess Simkin (minute taker)	(JS)	Hyndburn Borough Council
Gretta Starks	(GS)	Rider Levett Bucknall
Tom Lees	(TL)	Bradshaw Advisory

Guests attended:

Gill Roberts	(GR)	Morgan Sindall
Jason Ward	(JW)	Morgan Sindall
Neil Carson	(NC)	Morgan Sindall

N.B. Actions in this document are detailed in blue and preceded by [ACTION]

Appendices references are indicated with green text

Item 1 Welcome and Introductions

DS welcomed attendees to the meeting and talked through the Agenda items.

Item 2 LUF Project Update – presented by Gretta Starks

GS shared the slides. Update regarding the Market Hall and the appointment of Morgan Sindall. Provides an update re the relocation of the market traders and the cabins, signage etc. GS explained about the lunch and learn sessions due to be held and that we have a high number of registered interest already.

GS also shared details of the upcoming Ground Breaking event re the construction procurement. GS shared that the town centre website has expanded with more information.

SB asked if there was a timescale for the cabin canopy installation. GS confirmed it is still in the March activity schedule and they are aware it is a priority and its one of the final things to complete in terms of the outdoor cabins. Overall, good progress has been made.

DS thanked GS for her update.

[See slides](#)

Item 3 Engaging the Supply Chain – Morgan Sindall

Jason Ward, Gill Roberts and Neil Carson from Morgan Sindall joined this meeting to provide an update and intros.

Firstly, JW shared their presentation and introduced the company. Neil continues with the background of Morgan Sindall adding that they work with over 40 sub-contractors in the North West and have several long-standing partnerships.

NC continued and provided details of the 8th March “Getting Connected” event they are hosting in Accrington for local people to find out more about this project as a whole and effectively get connected. They have also created a questionnaire for the attendees. All the staff recruited will get continuous support from MS and an opportunity for future work.

GR expanded further in relation to the Getting Connected event. They would like talks with the college and the Job Centre and will be suing Accrington Town Hall as much as they can. GS added they will also communicate well will local residents.

The slides provided information on other NW areas such as Liverpool, Gorton and Wirral for examples of other similar work.

There was heavy emphasis on social value.

DS asked how MS looks in practice. GS explained that they work with key stakeholders and hold sessions to engage with local school, organisations and community groups and highlight the opportunities to them.

GS added that the people that have signed up to the Getting connected event so far is brilliant and there are a wide range of different individuals, from sub-contractors, job seekers, young people etc.

DW thanks MS for their update and explained how pleased and encouraged he was with the slides information and the seriousness of the social value, adding he was pleased to hear the supply chain is being kept as local as possible.

MB added similar to DW's comments and that although there has been a strong push back from locals for using a large contractor, other smaller firms can now be involved. B invited Morgan Sindall to their next Hyndburn Economic Forum. MB also offered their offices to host nay future events.

[MB, please share details with MS](#) ^[ACTION]

RH passed on his thanks to MS. RH asked if they have evidence of how a local supply chain works and GR confirmed they "track the pound" and track where the local spend is, this has been up to 60% in previous projects.

AP offered a further opportunity for MS to use the college for any future meetings / events, added that they work closely with the DWP, and learners for any future connections and that he will share the 8th March event with students and potential apprentices.

GS confirmed that the gathering of the data will come with time and then there will be a cycle of regular reporting.

SH explained how they work with mainly young people to raise their aspirations as a lot have a negative view. SH agreed this sounds like a good opportunity for local residents.

MH and MD both added their thanks and how impressed they both were.

DS thanked GS and the Morgan Sindall team.

[See slides](#)

Item 4 Review of the board membership / governance – Presented by David Welsby

DW provided a brief update on the panel members and the need to supply the Government with the details. Confirmed we have 15 board members, which is the recommended number. The guidance asks for 3 "musts" which are:

1. The MP
2. An independent Chairperson
3. A rep from the police / crime commissioner

All of which we have.

There are also some "should" criteria which are: LCC represent vie and nominated deputies for the members.

Confirmed that the deputy for the Chair of this panel is Purves Ali. DW drew everyone to the Terms of Reference (TOR) is they hadn't already look at the document. DW went through the timetable for

submission. DW explained how he recently met with Adam Hawksbee from The New Towns Unit. Adam has had site of our propels and said that it is a model of what has been asked and that we should submit ASAP.

.DW explained he has on 23rd February received a letter from Minister Jacob Young that sets out the following:

- Further details re the £20m funding. This is provided in equal parts each year over 10 years
- Gov says it doesn't need to be spent equally and there is flexibility to roll the money forward.
- We cannot over spend early or draw down in advance
- The LA can consider to "lend" to the income stream is possible / appropriate etc

DS thanked DW for his update

Item 5 Long Term Town Plan - presented by Tom Lees

TL introduced himself to the members and shared his slides, going through them. TL recapped the deadlines and the 10 year vision with a 3 year investment plan

Discussions re the boundary of the Accrington town centre. Planning will need to be consulted to confirm the map.

TL confirmed that it was initially an ONS map which could be tweaked slightly. TL added that we have been guided by Adam Hawksbee and the GOV aren't keen to expand the town centre areas.

TL added that the funding could be used for one large project and some other smaller projects as an example of how to split the funding.

We ideally need to submit the plans between 1/4/24 – 1/8/24 however, the sooner we submit the sooner we receive the funding. The end of June would be an ideal timescale and the MP must review before submission.

AP suggested a link between community groups.

MD added that he feels the town centre needs one large project to make the town "good again".

JM added her thought that this isn't going to be an easy decision to make. Various other members agreed.

DW suggested that the first 3 years, we need to be modest and maybe make smaller changes such as CCTV upgrades, help community organisations and youth zone adding we could consider the Arndale.

DW also added that he feels we need to focus on the 3 year plan and do that right before we move on to the longer term plan.

SB explained how its really important to feedback to the residents to maintain the community engagement and positive feeling towards this project after a year of negativity.

DS thanks TL for the update.

[See slides](#)

Item 5 AOB

Minutes from the 25th January meeting approved.

Chair and member approved the TOR

DS thanked all attendees and reflected on the big difference the last year or two has made all that has been achieved.

Item Next Meeting

Date: Thursday 28th March at 10am – 11:30am Accrington College

Also: Thursday 9th May , time TBC