

# MINUTES

# Heritage **Action** Zone

<b>MEETING:</b> Bishop Auckland Heritage Action Zone Advisory Group  <b>VENUE:</b> Bishop Auckland Town Hall	<b>DATE:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2019  <b>TIME:</b> 10.00am
<b>PRESENT:</b>  Dr Bob McManners (Chair) BA Civic Society Cllr Jamie Blackburn (Vice-Chair) BA Town Council Nigel Bryson BA Town Team Kate Wilson Historic England Annalisa Ward Durham County Council Chris Myers Durham County Council Cllr Joy Allen Durham County Council Bryan Harris Durham County Council Kathryn Watson Durham County Council  <b>GUESTS:</b> Su Francis Durham County Council Emma Wyndham Durham County Council	<b>APOLOGIES:</b>  Jules Brown Historic England Liz Fisher The Auckland Project Andrew Walker BA & Shildon AAP

Item No		To Action
<b>1.0</b>	<b>WELCOME &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
1.1	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Kate Wilson, Partnership Team Leader at Historic England, to her first meeting.	
1.2	Apologies were received from NB, LF, JBr and AW.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>MINUTES &amp; ACTIONS</b>	
2.1	The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2019 were agreed as a true record.	
2.2	Actions from the minutes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMc confirmed that the next meeting had been rescheduled to 17th September.</li> <li>• BMc reported that the Economic Study report would now be tabled at the meeting in September as it was running behind schedule. AnnW to issue report in advance.</li> <li>• CM informed members that DCC had submitted a bid to the RTPI for the West Mural Tower Restoration Project, in June. Shortlisted schemes would be announced in August/September. The awards will take place in October.</li> </ul>	AnnW

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<p><b>2.0</b></p> <p>2.2</p>	<p><b>MINUTES &amp; ACTIONS</b> (cont'd)</p> <p>Actions from the minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMC reported that OL was progressing work on the creation of overlays to the Town Centre Vacancy Map to show building age, type/use and condition and AnnW showed members images of work undertaken so far.</li> <li>• BMC asked that those members who had not yet forwarded a sentence describing their role on the group and their vision for or what they hope the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) can achieve, to AnnW for publication on the website, could do so as soon as possible.</li> <li>• It was agreed that discussions on Visit County Durham branding would be scheduled for early 2020.</li> <li>• KW reported that designs for Bondgate Signage project had been commissioned and the project was progressing.</li> <li>• AnnW reported that she was working with the Stockton &amp; Darlington HAZ wherever possible; she was attending their open day at The Locomotion in Shildon on 29th July and they had agreed to participate in the BA HAZ History &amp; Heritage Festival.</li> <li>• AnnW showed the first West Mural Tower film, a copy of which would be accessible on both TAP and HAZ websites. A second film was almost complete.</li> <li>• AnnW had sent out a press release on the Memories Collection event. AnnW was planning press release to update on year 1 progress and had written a summary delivery plan document which she had forwarded to Chris Collett at Historic England. Chris has recently joined Historic England is now our contact for communications/community engagement matters.</li> <li>• AnnW had drawn up a HAZ project list summary document and this can be downloaded from the website pages.</li> </ul>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p> <p>3.1</p>	<p><b>UPDATE FROM BRIGHTER BISHOP AUCKLAND PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p>BMC reported that at the last meeting a presentation was given by Andrew Keeling of Hotel Solutions; a hotel development consultancy which worked with local authorities and public sector bodies to help them understand and realise the potential for hotel and visitor accommodation development in their area.</p> <p>In summary, their research showed that there was a strong leisure driven seasonal weekend focus market with weekend and summer accommodation shortages. There was currently no spare capacity to cater for the additional overnight stay demands which TAP attractions and Kynren were likely to generate.</p> <p>Key messages were; an urgent need to encourage more accommodation providers in and around Bishop Auckland to capitalise on opportunities coming forward and to raise awareness; the need for a mix of different solutions to cater for the various visitor price points; and there being a case for more concerted and coordinated public sector intervention to help bring forward accommodation more quickly.</p>	

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3.0	<b>UPDATE FROM BRIGHTER BISHOP AUCKLAND PARTNERSHIP</b> (cont'd)	
3.1	BMc confirmed that further discussions were planned at the next meeting.	
3.2	JA announced that Michelle Gorman, Managing Director of Visit County Durham, would be joining the Brighter Bishop Auckland Board.	
4.0	<b>PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT</b>	
4.1	AnnW outlined the key points of her report which had been circulated previously:	
4.2	<b>Management:</b> The Delivery Plan had been updated, with new projects added. AnnW was liaising with Newcastle University on the appointment of a new Volunteer Placement. AnnW reported that she was working with GB on an audit of Year 1 spend to date (July 2018 to June 2019) for submission to Historic England by end September.	
4.3	<b>Research:</b> BMc was meeting with the HAA team in August to look at industrial areas just outside the BA HAZ zone and how they contribute/link to the town. JA highlighted the need to consider native tree species for any future planting schemes. CM said he would discuss this with DCC's Landscape Delivery Officer and report back.	CM
4.4	<b>Town Building Re-Use</b> Economic Survey building condition reports were being issued to estate agents/owners.  AnnW reported that the Conservation Area Grant Scheme was ready to go live, subject to finalisation of the Delivery Plan. The brief for the procurement of a Conservation Architect was due to be issued in the next week or two.  AnnW was hoping to meet with the Revd. Matthew Keddilty, Vicar of St. Anne's to discuss potential partnership working with DigVentures (a social business that specializes in increasing public participation in archaeological research) on the development of an activity programme. GB to contact Matthew's office to arrange a meeting	GB
4.5	<b>Public Realm</b> AnnW talked through Gib Chare scheme design proposals which were displayed on information boards at the meeting. The next steps were to confirm final designs with adjacent land owners, draw down Section 106 funds, design interpretation boards and organize the works on site for late September. JA asked if the site could be linked into any heritage walks around the town.	AnnW
4.5	AnnW planned to work with Incredible Edible on the installation of 4/5 planter boxes at the top of Newgate Street and was currently awaiting sight of proposed container designs. The boxes would be maintained by the Incredible Edible team. JaBl suggested the incorporation of heritage varieties in the planting scheme.	AnnW

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4.0	<p><b>PROJECT MANAGER'S REPORT</b> (cont'd)</p>	
4.6	<p><b>Engagement</b> A History and Heritage Festival draft programme of events had been drawn up and was circulated.</p>	
	<p>Two Building Archaeology Walks were taking place on 24<sup>th</sup> July with 12 people booked to date. Two Making Memories events had taken place in July with many stories collected from members of the public. JA suggested that AnnW contact Christine Percival who did recordings of memories for Bishop FM. JA to forward Christine's contact details to AnnW.</p>	AnnW JA
4.7	<p><b>Other</b> AnnW reported that the HAZ had supported the BBAP's 'Invest in Bishop Auckland' event which took place on 21<sup>st</sup> May and which attracted 41 attendees; with 12-15 being estate agents, developers and new businesses. AnnW said that further work in attracting visitors would be beneficial and was maybe something the BBAP Board could progress. She suggested that another event in early 2020 would be useful.</p>	
5.0	<p><b>REVIEW OF ACTIONS</b></p>	
5.1	<p>AnnW to circulate Economic Study report</p>	AnnW
5.2	<p>Sentences for the website to be forwarded to AnnW.</p>	ALL
5.3	<p>CM to contact DCC's Landscape Delivery Officer for advice on native tree species for future planting schemes.</p>	CM
	<p><a href="http://www.durhamlandscape.info/article/10185/Trees">http://www.durhamlandscape.info/article/10185/Trees</a> - <b>Landscape have advised caution as some native species may not cope well with an urban environment e.g. Market Place/Newgate Street.</b></p>	
5.4	<p>GB to arrange meeting between AnnW/BH and Revd. Matthew Keddilty regarding repair programme for the Church and an NHLF bid potentially working with the suppliers who had supported St Mary's Church in Barnard Castle with the design of their activities programme.</p>	GB
5.5	<p>AnnW to contact Christine Percival for Bishop FM Memories recordings. JA to forward Christine's contact details to AnnW.</p>	AnnW JA
5.6	<p>CM to give update on the High Street Fund bid at the next meeting.</p>	CM
5.7	<p>AnnW to liaise with Sarah Johnson, Visit County Durham on their Visit England funding bid and invite her to a future meeting to discuss tourism.</p>	AnnW
6.0	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p>	
6.1	<p>KW reported that the TBI grant scheme uptake was very positive with several schemes completed or in progress.</p>	

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<p><b>6.0</b></p> <p>6.2</p> <p>6.3</p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>CM reported that DCC's Expression of Interest for Bishop Auckland to the High Street Fund had been successful (51 applications had been received). The Government had not yet released details as to the timeline for submission of a business case, however, CM envisaged that a business case would be compiled over the next six months.</p> <p>JA said that Visit County Durham (VCD) was submitting a funding bid to Visit England and AnnW said she would liaise with Sarah Johnson, Marketing Manager at VCD. AnnW proposed to invite Sarah to a future meeting.</p>	<p>AnnW</p>
<p><b>7.0</b></p> <p>7.1</p>	<p><b>DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 10.00am. Innovation House, 26 Longfield Road, South Church Enterprise Park, Bishop Auckland. DL14 6XB.</p>	
<p><b>8.0</b></p> <p>8.1</p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION – BISHOP AUCKLAND TOWN HALL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT</b></p> <p>DCC officers, Su Lewis (Strategic Manager; Culture, Sport and Tourism) and Emma Wyndham (Business Development Officer) were welcomed to the meeting and gave an informative presentation on plans for the refurbishment of the Town Hall with detailed design proposals circulated.</p> <p>Work was due to commence in September and completed by the end of February 2020. The aim of the refurbishment was to provide an enhanced offer to the community and visitors. The new design would increase accessibility. The building would have an open plan café and library space and would retain the gallery, with a retail outlet created in the former front office. The cinema offer would be updated to a digital service. During the refurbishments a temporary library facility would be available at No.42 by kind permission of The Auckland Project and the library at Woodhouse Close would be operating extended opening hours until the works were completed. Group users had been relocated to other venues during the close down period. Su was working with BH, DCC Senior Design &amp; Conservation Officer, to look at options for enhancement of the building exterior.</p> <p>BMc thanked Su and Emma for their presentation.</p>	