

WHITBY TOWN DEAL BOARD

FRIDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2025
WHITBY COLISEUM | 10:30 AM

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance

Chair: Barry Harland BH Whitby Seafoods	Helen Jackson HJ NYC
Sandra Turner ST Community Sector	Kerry Levitt KLV NYC
Stephen Upright SU Community Sector	Corinne Macdonald CM NYC
Linda Wild LW Via Teams Community Sector	Ellis Cooper EC NYC
Richard Flinton RF NYC	Laurie Wilsher LWS Minutes NYC
Nic Harne NH NYC	

1. APOLOGIES

- Cllr Mark Crane, NYC
- Alison Hume MP
- Rosemary Du Rose, Beyond Housing
- Matt Parsons, Anglo-American
- Joe Redfern, Whitby Lobster Hatchery

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1. BH reviewed the minutes from the meeting held on 7th March 2025. The Board approved them as a true and accurate record.

2.2. No matters arising.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1. ST declared an interest in agenda item 7.

4. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE – CORINNE MACDONALD

4.1. CM outlined the ongoing programme of work to ensure proactive communication around the Whitby Town Deal projects. Engagement continues with contract partners to strengthen communications related to the community social value work being delivered.

4.2. LW reiterated the importance of publishing stories that highlight the success of local contributions to projects, such as the work of the stone mason on the Old Town Hall. CM agreed and reaffirmed the intention to showcase this through upcoming communications activity.

4.3. BH raised the question whether officers actively monitor direct feedback on communications. CM explained that while it is not North Yorkshire Council policy to respond at an individual level, responses received through communications channels are reviewed and help inform the broader approach to community engagement.

4.4. The Board expressed concerns that a passive communications approach may lead to speculation and negatively impact public perception. Officers agreed to explore new strategies and develop more proactive communication channels through active stakeholder engagement.

5. BROOMFIELDS FARM -KERRY LEVITT

5.1. KLV updated the board on developments with the Broomfields Farm project. Brierley Homes are currently liaising with North Yorkshire Council's legal team to finalise the grant agreement. In parallel, efforts are underway to secure the land acquisition. Completion of both these processes will facilitate a site start in Q3 of 2025.

5.2. Officers reassured Board Members that current progress will ensure the spend is committed within the Towns Fund requirements.

5.3. BH queried whether roadworks on the A171 would be required during project delivery. KLV confirmed that roadworks will be required for the new access road, and these will be coordinated and communicated once the project programme is fully determined.

6. HARBOURSIDE PUBLIC REALM AND PEDESTRIANISATION – KERRY LEVITT

6.1. KLV provided an update on behalf of the project team. Works are underway on the Spital Bridge Junction improvements, which remain on schedule for completion before Christmas. Once this phase is complete, attention will move to the public realm element of the scheme where further development and engagement will take place over the final design.

6.2. ST raised concerns about public perception of the project, stressing the importance of delivering tangible local benefits during the second phase of the project. In addition, the turning circle is an ongoing issue with congestion and improper use from HGVs highlighted as a concern. LW added that the closure of Church Street car park is exacerbating parking shortages.

- 6.3. The Board also expressed concern over insufficient communication regarding the project.
- 6.4. NH assured the Board that the identified issues will be escalated to the appropriate teams and addressed accordingly.
- 6.5. HJ also responded that following the initial development of Phase 2 Public Realm designs, the Board will be consulted to ensure continued dialogue and alignment on project outcomes with local priorities.

7. WHITBY MARITIME TRAINING HUB -ELLIS COOPER

- 7.1. EC provided an update on the Whitby Maritime Training Hub project. Construction is progressing well, with the next key milestone being the installation of the roof which will enable internal works to continue throughout the winter period.
- 7.2. Work is also ongoing to secure tenants for the building. ST raised concerns about the need to ensure that tenants align with the strategic objectives of the project. EC stated that the main focus for the building is to secure training provision. There is a range of conversations ongoing with perspective tenants to take space in the building, this is in line with the business case and the proposal of a mixed-use facility for the maritime industry. The Board supported this approach, recognising its role in enhancing local pathways to opportunity.
- 7.3. The Board discussed the importance of ensuring the long-term operation of the project. NYC expressed confidence that a suitable approach will be developed to support future sustainability.
- 7.4. Willmott Dixons Social Value team have carried out various strands of work since the construction period began giving back and supporting the local community through volunteering, support and offering opportunities to local people.
- 7.5. BH queried the legal challenges surrounding Harbour Land. No further developments have been made.

8. WHITBY OLD TOWN HALL – KERRY LEVITT

- 8.1. KLV updated the Board on progress at Whitby Old Town Hall. Repairs to the clock tower and roof have been successfully completed. Work is progressing well in the first-floor chamber and undercroft. Removal of the scaffold enables work on the south elevation repairs to begin and a road closure is in place to allow for completion of these and utilities work, which will remain over the next few weeks. The project remains on track for completion in November 2025.

- 8.2. An options paper was shared with Whitby Town Council outlining potential future operating models for the Old Town Hall which was discussed at the Town Council meeting of the 5th September. WTC have expressed an interest in the building through a Community Asset Transfer approach, and all parties remain optimistic about reaching a positive outcome through these discussions.
- 8.3. BH queried project spend. KLV confirmed that match funding has been secured from NYC to address the construction cost increases due to unforeseen issues, and the project remains within this increased budget.

9. A.O.B

- 9.1. KLV updated the Board on MHCLG's revised Town Fund guidance, which simplifies processes and extends the funding deadline to 2028. Despite this, project teams will maintain momentum to meet the original schedule. The Board supported this approach.
- 9.2. NH announced the Council's plans to improve leisure facilities with Whitby selected as one of the areas for investment. The Board welcomed the initiative.
- 9.3. BH confirmed that Register of Interest forms have been reissued to Board members and need to be completed in line with MHCLG requirements.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 28th November 2025