WHITBY TOWN DEAL BOARD

FRIDAY 24TH JULY 2026
WHITBY MUSEUM | 11:15 AM

DRAFT MINUTES

In Attendance

Chair: Matt Parsons **MP** Anglo-American	Kerry Levitt **KLV** Programme Manager
Richard Flinton **RF** North Yorkshire Council	Simon Hayden **SH** Major Projects & Infrastructure
Cllr. Mark Crane **MC** North Yorkshire Council	Helen Watson **HW** Highways
Barry Harland **BH** Community Representative	Laurie Wilsher **LW** Minutes Secretariat
Helen Jackson **HJ** Head of Regeneration	

1. APOLOGIES

- Alison Hume, MP.
- Nic Harne, NYC.
- Rosie Du Rose, Beyond Housing.
- Cllr. Linda Wild, Community Representative.
- Stephen Upright, Community Representative.
- Sandra Turner, Community Representative

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

2.1. The Chair addressed the quorum issue arising from last-minute apologies and non-attendance. As decision-making responsibility had already transferred to North Yorkshire Council following changes to Local Regeneration Fund governance, the Board agreed that the meeting would proceed for information only. Any Board decisions required following the discussion would be addressed through communication with the full Board.

2.2. Board members reviewed and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 20th March 2026 were a true record. Additional time will be allowed for Board members not present at the meeting to raise any inaccuracies before approval is ratified.

2.3. The Chair reiterated that the Board's agreement to disband was conditional on establishing the stakeholder group for the Harbourside Pedestrianisation scheme, which has not yet been formalised.

2.4. SH confirmed that the group is expected to be established within the next two weeks. Subject to the group being fully established and its terms of reference approved by members, the Board will continue the disbandment process as previously agreed.

2.5. HJ updated the Board that officers are reviewing Whitby's current Tourist Information Centre provision, with particular focus on the viability of the existing arrangements as works at the Maritime Hub site near completion.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

3.1. No declarations of interest were made.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

OLD TOWN HALL

4.1. The Board noted the positive community feedback on the restoration works at the Old Town Hall.

4.2. The operating model and future arrangements were also considered by the Board. Discussions with Whitby Town Council are progressing, and an expression of interest has been submitted to NYC. The proposed approach will support the asset transfer of the building and market, with temporary licensing arrangements being explored enabling a timely handover. Use of the space will be developed collaboratively with the future operator.

BROOMFIELD'S FARM

4.3. KLV updated the Board on the Broomfield's Farm project, noting that work is progressing towards a start on site in early September. Brierley Homes are finalising contractual arrangements with their preferred contractor.

4.4. Delivery is planned over a two-year programme, with sections of the site transferring to Broadacres on a phased basis as works are completed. The Board emphasised the need for clear communications ahead of the start on site.

WHITBY MARITIME TRAINING HUB

4.5. HJ updated the Board on the Whitby Maritime Training Hub project. The contractors are progressing the construction phases to complete the first fit-out, firm costs for the second floor are expected soon. The Board commended the quality of the build to date.

4.6. Officers are continuing discussions with prospective tenants and addressing concerns to remove barriers to occupancy. Wider opportunities are also being explored to maximise the facility's benefit. Officers remain confident that completion of the fit-out works will support secured tenancy arrangements.

HARBOURSIDE PUBLIC REALM AND PEDESTRIANISATION

4.7. SH updated the Board on the Harbourside Public Realm and Pedestrianisation project. Community engagement is planned for late August to gather feedback from residents and visitors. It was reiterated that community feedback will be gathered and considered before the scheme progresses on site.

4.8. The scope of works will remain largely focused on upgrading existing infrastructure and improving the quality of the public realm. The traffic regulation orders are now unlikely to be progressed within the scheme's delivery timeframe.

4.9. The Chair raised community concerns regarding pavement licences at Baxtergate which will limit space in an area of high pedestrian footfall and a key location within the proposed project works. Officers confirmed that a pavement licence application had been received but not yet granted, however it was anticipated that the ammonite seating currently situated in this area would be moved to Tin Ghaunt. It was noted that the licence arrangements fall outside the remit of the planned project interventions, and that public consultation for pavement licensing agreements is typically more limited.

4.10. HW provided an update on the Spital Bridge element of the scheme, following its implementation four months ago. The demand for the works was reiterated, reflecting feedback received through previous community consultation.

4.11. The signalling technology will be revalidated in the coming weeks to improve peak-season traffic flow. This is being used to analyse real-time pedestrian and vehicle data and help optimise movement through the junction.

4.12. Board members shared anecdotal evidence of challenges at the revised junction, including increased congestion at peak times, with particular concern about traffic backing up across the bridge and significant journey delays. These were primarily attributed to the pedestrian crossing. Potential road safety implications were also noted, particularly when vehicles are turning at the junction.

4.13. The Board agreed that the revised junction should remain in place for at least a year before being reviewed, to allow any issues to be fully assessed. It was noted that the level of feedback received is consistent with what is typically expected following the introduction of a new traffic management scheme. Officers will continue to monitor the junction and gather community feedback to inform the review, with potential modifications considered in the first instance to address community concerns.

ACTION: LW to request feedback from Board members not in attendance to inform the junction review.

5. PROGRAMME REVIEW

5.1. KLV led the programme review which reflected on successes, challenges and opportunities throughout the duration of delivery to inform future regeneration programmes.

5.2. The Board agreed the programme's key strengths included strong stakeholder partnerships which strengthened project design and delivery and a clear vision that shaped delivery of community benefits.

5.3. Engagement was noted as one of the programme's primary challenges. However, it was highlighted that community feedback has successfully shaped a number of project revisions which have provided stronger overall outcomes.

5.4. The Board acknowledged the significant external challenges faced during the programme, including the Covid-19 pandemic, Local Government Reorganisation and rising costs driven by inflation. These created early difficulties, particularly in relation to community consultation. The Chair recognised the positive management of the programme despite these challenges, noting that they have not compromised the beneficial outcomes delivered for the town.

5.5. MC noted that future timelines should be communicated more accurately, with prompt updates where programme slippage occurs, to keep the community well informed. The Board supported this point, alongside the need for greater consistency in communications generally.

ACTION: KLV to draft the programme closure report and circulate it to members for feedback before finalising the report.

6. A.O.B

6.1. Officers will continue to engage with Board Members on projects yet to reach full handover, particularly in relation to opening ceremonies.

Meeting closed at 12:35pm