

MINUTES: Business Advisory Group

Thursday 17th September

34/38 Beverley Road, Hull



PRESENT

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|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Barry Schofield | Tutty's Office Interiors (Chair) |
| Govind Manocha | Spring Estate Agents |
| Uche Akali | Hallmark Solicitors |
| Andy Lawrence | Staintonward |
| John Roberts | Destinova Consulting |
| Peter Duffield | Smailes Goldie |
| Paul Fielder | Lime Property |
| Paula Litten | Pro-Fusion Partnerships Ltd |
| Darren Glew | Eltherington Aluminium |
| Jeff Clarkson | Clarkson Business Strategy |
| Ken Baldwin | Hull BID |
| Sue Dobbs | Premier Class Education |
| Andrew Hirst | Hull Forward |
| Ben Delaney | ONE HULL Business Forum |

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Apologies for Absence

331. Barry Schofield welcomed Andrew Hirst to the meeting and noted apologies from Peter Latham-Warde, Tim Evison, Nick Miller, Christine Ware and Mark Willet.

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

332. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th July were agreed as a true and correct record.

Agenda Item 3: Matters Arising

333. There were no matters arising.

Agenda Item 4: Presentation on Hull Forward

334. Andrew Hirst gave a presentation on the work of Hull Forward. He explained the role of the Regeneration Chair's Board which coordinates the regeneration work in the city from agencies such as Gateway, BSF and Citycare. He talked through many of the ongoing regeneration projects, including the potential for a cruise terminal next to Humber Quays, and summarised the findings from the Whitefriargate study. Hull Forward had invested in several local companies to ensure either expansion or continuation of operations in Hull and key growth sectors such as renewable and healthcare had also been targeted with support.

335. Andrew Hirst said that the dredging of the River Hull had taken place in preparation for the installation of the swing bridge. He gave an update on the Fruit Market and said around 70% of the property had been purchased ready for re-development. The Homes and Communities Agency, Yorkshire Forward, Hull Forward and the Council were working together to ensure the Fruit Market project developed in the most appropriate way. The potential for Hull to develop a cruise ship terminal was discussed and Andrew Hirst said studies indicated that it would be possible for large modern cruise ships to use the Humber although discussions were ongoing with ABP.
336. Barry Schofield stressed the importance of looking at Whitefriargate as it had suffered in recent years through a decline in the number of shops. Andrew Hirst agreed that work needed to be done and this was ongoing. He added that the Business Forum had a role to play in developing the area but reducing the rates wasn't the only option as low rates attracted shops at the cheaper end of the market.
337. Andy Lawrence said more needed to be done to ensure visitors to attractions such as the Deep were encouraged to stay in the city centre. Ken Baldwin replied that work had been done to improve the signage around the Deep and Fruit Market to make the area more attractive and now provided more information to visitors.
338. Paul Fielder said more events in Whitefriargate and the old town would give attract visitors and give assurance to businesses in the area and suggested a big wheel be brought to Hull. He added that Humber Quays needed to be filled which could increase confidence in investors looking to develop office space. Andrew Hirst said Priority Sites let the building and the pricing of the units was set by them at a premium rate in order to attract larger businesses.
339. Sue Dobbs said there should be a more concerted effort to improve the image of Hull in the national media as too many television programmes show the bad side of the city. Ken Baldwin said it used to be Cityimage but the Council's own public relations department was weak in countering the negative news stories.

Agenda Item 5: Business Support Handbook

340. Ben Delaney explained that the Council were going to print another edition of the Business Support Handbook and were looking for comments on what to include. It was suggested that the Federation of Small Business and the Citizens Advice Bureau could be included.

Agenda Item 6: Any other business

341. Barry Schofield said the parking sub-committee had met and a number of issues including the branding of car parks as being for specific types of users as well as people redeeming the cost of their ticket with Savile Street traders were suggested. The issue would continue to be looked at.

Agenda Item 7: Dates of future meetings

342. The next meeting would be on Thursday 19th November at 3.00pm.