

Re-imagining Newhaven Board

Minutes of Board Meeting

Friday 29th November 2024

11am to 12.30pm via MS Teams

Attendees:

Chair

- Chris Ketley (CK)

Lewes District Council

- Christine Robinson (CR)
- Ian Fitzpatrick (IF)
- Lisa Rawlinson (LR)

Members of Houses of Parliament and Lords

- Baroness Janet Whitaker (JW)

East Sussex County Council

- James Harris (JH)

Community, Education and Business Representatives

- Alison Turner (AT)
- Andrew Tucknott (ATu)
- Annie Lorys (AL)
- Ben Anderson (BA)
- Dave Collins-Williams (DCW)
- Dick Shone (DS)
- Duncan Kerr (DK)
- Mike Shorer (MS)
- Nick Backstrom (NB)
- Penny Shimmin (PS)

Newhaven Enterprise Zone

- Corinne Day (CD)

Greater Brighton Economic Board Representative

- Andy Hill (AH)

Guest Speakers

- Anthony Peters (AP)
- Charlotte Parsons (CP)
- Guy McQueen (GM)

Secretariat (provided by Lewes District Council)

- Anna Salmon (AS)
- Dan Fairbrother (DF)

Apologies:

- Emma Smith (ES)
- Graham Amy (GA)
- James MacCleary (JM)
- Ken Dry (KD)
- Nigel Stewardson (NS)
- Rob Cottrill (RC)
- Zoe Nicholson (ZN)

1	<p>Welcome, Introduction and Apologies</p> <p>CK welcomed the Board members and guest speakers to the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting held on 30.09.24</p> <p>The minutes were agreed.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>JW declared an interest as an honorary fellowship of The Royal Institute of British Architects in relation to the AOB.</p>	
4	<p>Social Enterprise Incubator Update</p> <p>AS provided an update to the Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LDC has continued to support SCDA with finding an alternative property that will enable the project to deliver the outputs and meet the funding timeline. • SCDA are in the process of finalising the new project Business Plan. • The Business Plan will be reviewed by independent consultants prior to being presented at the next Board meeting. <p>Key dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03.01.25 – Business Plan independent review commences. • 24.01.25 – PS to present Business Plan to the Board for approval to proceed. 	
5	<p>Look Again Supergraphics Festival outcomes and evaluation</p> <p>AP provided a detailed presentation that covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before and after images • Quotes from feedback forms • Summary of the outreach projects • Value to the local economy during the installation period • Event stats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2480 event tickets ordered ○ 3655 visitors counted at events ○ 15+ local hospitality businesses that directly benefitted from being involved with Look Again ○ 20+ entertainment or arts organisations that directly benefitted from being involved with Look Again ○ 133,260 more people visited the town from May-July than they did in 2023 ○ 89% of people spent money in the town whilst visiting Look Again ○ 44% of people visited on multiple occasions (June to Sept) ○ 94% of people said Look Again changed their perception of Newhaven ○ 3000+ people took part in at least one of the workshops ○ 876,583 people would have seen positive news about Newhaven due to Look Again (this includes national coverage). <p>ATu asked how businesses get involved in future murals? AP said he welcomed the involvement of businesses to assist with funding and would make contact outside of the meeting.</p> <p>CP highlighted this is the only arts project in Newhaven which has received national press coverage e.g. BBC, Telegraph. JW praised the project for its successful media publicity and emphasis on creativity.</p> <p>JW asked whether postcards of the murals were available to buy? AP said he has added the idea onto the list.</p> <p>JW asked if there is a maintenance fund in place for the murals? AP explained that there is a maintenance plan in place and the sale of prints contributes towards this fund. The artists have provided swatches and leftover paint for the maintenance of the artwork.</p>	

	<p>JW suggested that future murals could exploit the link between the port and local industries. AP announced that next year is the 200th anniversary of the ferry coming over for the first ferry journey. This could be the focus for new events and creativity to celebrate the links with the sea.</p> <p>AT offered assistance with reaching the local business community via her business networks.</p> <p>MS praised the artistic project and said it has raised the perception of Newhaven. He said that local people would like to see more figurative murals, especially with a marine focus.</p> <p>AP informed the Board they have been seeking funding for a plant based mural and have identified the property where the plants would grow up the side of a house. Brewers have kindly donated the paint but the mural cannot go ahead without funding. If businesses support future murals, the plaques underneath the art work could contain a QR linking to the company website and contain its logo. For example, the plant mural has been estimated at £6,500. MS invited AP to present to the Newhaven Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>MS mentioned the Chamber's strong links with the Vietnamese Embassy and discussions about doing a cultural exchange of artwork. AP said it would be great to have a mural by a Vietnamese artist.</p> <p>IF thanked AP, CP and GM for the fantastic impactful project. IF mentioned LDC have had discussions about the 200 year ferry anniversary and that the Enterprise Zone could also play a role.</p>	
6	<p>Wayfinding and Public Realm Improvements programme overview</p> <p>GM provided an overview of the achievements delivered so far within the Wayfinding and Public Realm Improvements programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wayfinding & Signage Spatial Masterplan • Street Cleaning Machine • Information Boards • Improvements to the corner of South Way and Riverside North. <p>There are two major public realm projects being delivered within this programme and landscape architects have been appointed for both.</p> <p>1) Combined Town Centre Streetscape Improvements:</p> <p>ERA Architects brief: 'enhancing the streetscape of the town centre to create a more pedestrian friendly public realm'. Aiming to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate resilient greening • Quality High Street • Safe, welcoming and accessible • Celebrating Newhaven's arts and heritage. <p>Engagement activities have informed the concept designs in the RIBA Stage 2 report including a community workshop at Hillcrest Centre which helped identify priority areas and interventions. A public exhibition will be held as part of the detailed design stage. Construction will commence in Autumn 2025.</p> <p>Project prioritisation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renew lighting across the town centre – decluttering and improving safety after dark. • Transform entrances and points of arrival – bold wayfinding. • Improvements within Newhaven Square – green, activate and animate the Square and connections. • Library square and western High Street – creating a civic square and place for town events. <p>2) Transport Interchange Hub and Additional Wayfinding Improvements:</p>	

	<p>Studio ONB, the appointed architects, held a 3 day public exhibition to inform the Stage 2 report. Proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unified pattern paving • Footway widened outside station • Islands and crossings improved • Raingarden planting • Unified façade boundary • Pattern painted on flyover • Landmark sculpture opposite station entrance • Illuminated sign at The Sidings • Illuminated sign on roof of Marine Workshops • Newhaven sign at point of orientation • Waymarker signs on route to town centre • Stairs improved • Car parking rationalised (being delivered by a separate LDC project). <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Stage 2 report • Gaining consents from East Sussex Highways etc • Aligning the project with other LDC work programmes – The Sidings, Marine Workshops and car parking areas • Temporary disruption for existing tenants. <p>Additional wayfinding improvements: Studio ONB will also be delivering improvements across a wider area with a focus on the spine of the town which runs along the river.</p> <p>CP asked if Look Again and the plans for the flyover pattern could be integrated.</p> <p>JW asked if any consideration had been given to planting trees at the lower end of the High Street. GM confirmed they are in the process of identifying locations and discussing maintenance plans with Highways and the Town Council.</p> <p>JW asked about the consultation process and GM confirmed the next consultation will be a public event in the town centre.</p> <p>JW asked whether the two plinths near the Marine Workshops which could hold landmark statues, a competition could involve art students. GM said the remnants of the bridge fall within the project area and are being considered.</p> <p>MS suggested the installation of a kinetic light sculpture for the top of the Marine Workshops e.g. Hayward Gallery. MS also suggested the concept of 4th Plinth in Trafalgar Square could be used for the old plinths.</p> <p>MS asked if the removal of a pedestrian crossing to improve traffic flow could be included within the scope for the Town Centre Streetscape Improvements. GM confirmed that this project was solely focused on everything inside the ring road.</p> <p>PS asked if the sustainability of tree planting is being aligned with the local climate action and voluntary groups. GM confirmed he is in communication with BN9 Trees and has regular contact with the Ouse Valley Climate Action Group.</p>	
7	<p>Re-imagining Newhaven Programme updates and reporting to MHCLG</p> <p>AS informed the Board of the recent submission of the Q2 monitoring and evaluation report to MHCLG and provided headline updates based on the Q2 Programme Dashboard which had been circulated to Board members.</p> <p>Business Grants Programme: Round 2 launched w/c 25.11.24 and over 20 enquiries have been received already. Board members have been encouraged to help market the funding opportunity.</p>	<p>Board members to share the Business Grants marketing materials across their communication channels and amongst their networks.</p>

Round 1 supported 17 businesses and delivered £459,400 of capital investment in Newhaven businesses - including grant funding and private sector match.

The Grants Programme had some brilliant employment outcomes:

- 29.5 Full Time Equivalent new jobs realised (which was an uplift from original forecast)
- 25 jobs safeguarded.

The businesses also reported the following additional outcomes:

- 7 projects supported low carbon and net zero objectives
- 9 projects helped businesses to launch a new product or service
- 17 projects led to an increase in productivity for the business
- 17 projects led to higher spend with Newhaven businesses
- 6 projects led to increased dwell time
- 8 projects supported social value outcomes in Newhaven.

Detailed case studies outlining the support received, how it has helped each business and the wider benefits are available online:

www.eastsussex.gov.uk/business/support/grants/newhaven

Eastside Recreation Ground:

Newhaven Town Council have received lots of very positive and grateful feedback since this project was completed.

Newhaven Fort:

Board members recently enjoyed a hard hat tour of the construction works taking place at the Fort. The Fort is still scheduled to reopen to the public in February 2025.

Newhaven Square:

- Contractor started on site on 28.10.24.
- Lease agreements are now in place with both GPs
- Works to Dacre Road car park are complete: 4th deck of the car park has re-opened, providing 51 available spaces
- Engagement with local businesses and residents has commenced to ensure everyone's aware of the pedestrian access changes
- Site hoarding installation has commenced: graphics/wayfinding designs are being applied to the hoarding and expected to be installed before the end of the year.

Landing Stage:

- Main Grant Funding Agreement has been completed and issued
- Detailed design is being finalised
- January 2025 – invitation to tender
- March 2025 – appoint contractors
- April 2025 – works commence
- November 2025 – works complete.

Fish Processing Plant:

- The Lease, Grant Funding Agreement and S.33 Deed of Covenant were completed on 01.10.24
- The building is now ready to be fully operational
- Press release is planned for January once it's fully operational
- The BBC Politics South East show have expressed an interest in visiting the site and they would like to bring their camera crew to film at the unit and to talk to people about the difference the facility will have on the fishers.

Restaurant and Community Destination:

- The project is progressing well through RIBA Stage 4
- The design team has been appointed and is developing the technical design and working to discharge planning conditions (permission granted 24.07.24)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is looking to appoint a main contractor in early 2025. 	
8	<p>Government Strategic Update</p> <p>A briefing note containing a comprehensive update from HMG MHCLG will be circulated to Board members.</p>	AS to circulate the HMG MHCLG Briefing Note to Board members
9	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>JW asked for an update on the new ecological flat development located behind the Sorting Office which include indoor gardens.</p>	AS to follow up and provide JW with an update.
	Date of next meeting: Friday 24th January 10.30am - 12pm.	