**Discover Ashfield logo and text. 
  
  
DISCOVER ASHFIELD BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday 15th November 2023**

**9am – 11am**

**Hybrid – Meeting Room 1, Council Offices, Urban Road & Microsoft Teams**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AGENDA** | **Page** |

<AI1>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies - Martin Rigley** |  |

</AI1>

<AI2>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Reflections of Previous Meeting - Martin Rigley** |  |

</AI2>

<AI3>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Meeting Minutes** |  |

</AI3>

<AI4>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **b** | **Action Log**  **Hollie to add Kirkby Towns Board discussion to the Delivery Group agenda – actioned.** |  |

</AI4>

<AI5>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **New Declarations of Interest - ALL** |  |
| **4.** | **Major Projects & Funding Update – Paul Crawford** |  |
| **5.** | **Visitor Economy Update - John Bennett** |  |

</AI6>

<AI7>

</AI7>

<AI8>

</AI8>

<AI9>

</AI9>

<AI10>

</AI10>

<AI11>

</AI11>

<AI12>

</AI12>

<AI13>

</AI13>

<AI14>

</AI14>

<AI15>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **6.** | **Theme Lead Reports – Theme Leads** |  |
|  | **a Succeed in Ashfield – Martin Rigley** |  |
|  | **b Love Where You Live – Liz Barrett** |  |
|  | **c More to Discover – Darron Ellis** |  |
|  | **d Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards** |  |

</AI15>

<AI16>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **7.** | **Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update – Trevor Middleton** |  |

</AI16>

<AI17>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **8.** | **Board Member Updates – All** |  |
| **9.** | **Any Other Business – All** |  |
| **10.** | **Date of Next Meeting – Friday 12th January** |  |

</AI17>

<TRAILER\_SECTION>

</TRAILER\_SECTION>

**Formatting for Agenda ITEMS:**

<LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **FIELD\_ITEM\_NUMBER** | **FIELD\_TITLE**  FIELD\_SUMMARY | F\_PRO |

</LAYOUT\_SECTION>

<TITLE\_ONLY\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **FIELD\_ITEM\_NUMBER** | **FIELD\_TITLE** | F\_PRO |

</TITLE\_ONLY\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

**Formatting for COMMENTS:**

<HEADING\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **FIELD\_TITLE** | F\_PRO |

</HEADING\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

<TITLED\_COMMENT\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FIELD\_TITLE** | | F\_PRO |
|  | FIELD\_SUMMARY |  |

</TITLED\_COMMENT\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

<COMMENT\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | FIELD\_SUMMARY | F\_PRO |

</COMMENT\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

**Formatting for Sub numbered items:**

<SUBNUMBER\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. **FIELD\_ITEM\_NUMBER** | **FIELD\_TITLE**  FIELD\_SUMMARY | F\_PRO |

</SUBNUMBER\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

<TITLE\_ONLY\_SUBNUMBER\_LAYOUT\_SECTION>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| * 1. **FIELD\_ITEM\_NUMBER** | **FIELD\_TITLE** | F\_PRO |

</TITLE\_ONLY\_SUBNUMBER\_LAYOUT\_SECTION></AI2><AI3></AI3>

<AI4>

</AI4>

<AI5>

</AI5>

<AI6>

</AI7>

<AI8>

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ATTENDEES | | | |
| Name | Position on Board | Position/Organisation | Present |
| Martin Rigley MBE | Chair / Theme Lead – Succeed in Ashfield | Innovation Engineer, ECS Engineering | √ |
| Louise Knott | Vice Chair | Vice Principal, West Nottinghamshire College  MA2020 Representation | √ |
| Darron Ellis | Theme Lead – More to Discover | Historian, Sutton Living Memory Group |  |
| Liz Barrett OBE | Theme Lead – Love Where You Live | Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) | √ |
| Pete Edwards | Theme Lead – Be Happy, Be Healthy | Chair, Ashfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership |  |
| Claire Ward | Board Member | Chair of Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust |  |
| Clare Hitchings | Substitute for Tim Hepke | Communications Lead, ITP Aero |  |
| Christopher Baron | Substitute for Lee Anderson, MP | Office Manager, Ashfield & Eastwood MP’s Office |  |
| Cllr Helen-Ann Smith | Board Member | Deputy Council Leader, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Cllr Julie Gregory | Board Member | Scrutiny Representative, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Cllr Matthew Relf | Board Member | Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning, Ashfield District Council  MA2020 Representation | √ |
| Cllr Keith Girling | Notts County Council Representative | Economical Development and Asset Management, Notts County Council | √ |
| David Ainsworth | Board Member | Director of Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust |  |
| David Williams | Substitute for Jean Sharpe | Partnerships Manager North Nottinghamshire DWP |  |
| Edward Johnstone | Board Member | Assistant Principal (Development), Portland College | √ |
| Fiona Anderson | Board Member | Associative Director, Civic Engagement, Nottingham Trent University (NTU) | √ |
| Gary Jordan MBE | Board Member | Executive Coach / GMJ Solutions | √ |
| Ian Bond | Substitute for Peter Graw | Director of Learning, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries | √ |
| Jean Sharpe | Board Member | Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire & Rutland Progression Champion for In-Work Progression |  |
| Julia Terry | Board Member | Development Worker, Transforming Notts Together |  |
| Kathryn Stacey | Board Member | Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Ashfield |  |
| Lorraine Palmer | Board Member | Programme Director, Mid Notts Place Based Partnership |  |
| Lee Anderson, MP | Board Member | MP for Ashfield and Eastwood |  |
| Mark Spencer, MP | Board Member | MP for Sherwood |  |
| Mark Yates | Substitute | PCN Development Managers, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB |  |
| Melanie Phythian | Observer | Towns Fund Policy Advisor, Cities & Local Growth Unit |  |
| Peter Gaw | Board Member | Chief Executive Officer, Inspire: Culture, Learning and Libraries |  |
| Simon Martin | Board Member | Vice Principal, Academy Transformation Trust Further Education (ATTFE) | √ |
| Teresa Jackson | Board Member | Chief Officer, Ashfield Voluntary Action |  |
| Tim Hepke | Board Member | UK Head of Maintenance and Group Property, ITP Aero | √ |
| Theresa Hodgkinson | Board Member | Chief Executive, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Will Morlidge | Board Member | Chief Executive, D2N2 LEP |  |
| Andrea Stone | Supporting Officer | Health and Wellbeing Manager, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Alastair Blunkett | Supporting Officer | Service Manager for Neighbourhoods and Environment |  |
| Bev Bull | Supporting Officer | Chief Accountant, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Chris Stephenson | Supporting Officer | Communications Manager, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Christine Sarris | Supporting Officer | Assistant Director – Planning and Regulatory Services | √ |
| Hollie Maxwell-Smith | Supporting Officer | Project Officer Discover Ashfield, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Jas Hundal | Supporting Officer | Programme Director – Place, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Joelle Davies | Supporting Officer | Group Manager for Growth, Infrastructure and Development |  |
| John Bennett | Supporting Officer | Executive Director, Place, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Melanie Wheelwright | Supporting Officer | Forward Planning & Economic Growth Team Manager | √ |
| Nathan McNicholas | Supporting Officer | Senior Economic Development Officer, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Paul Crawford | Supporting Officer | Investment Manager – Regeneration, Ashfield District Council | √ |
| Sarah Daniel | Supporting Officer | Assistant Director - Regeneration, Ashfield District Council |  |
| Trevor Middleton | Supporting Officer | Town Centres and Markets Manager, Ashfield District Council | √ |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Agenda Item** |  |
| **1** | **Welcome / Introductions / Apologies** |
|  | Apologies noted from Peter Gaw, Theresa Hodgkinson, Julia Terry, Lee Anderson, Chris Baron, Hollie Maxwell-Smith, Sarah Daniel, Pete Edwards, Kathryn Stacey and Melanie Phythian. |
| **2** | **Review of Previous Meeting – Martin Rigley** |
| **a** | **Board Meeting Minutes** |
|  | * All minutes agreed. |
| **b** | Action Log (these include actions from the below minutes) |
|  | * Paul Crawford to bring a revised Theatre programme to the next board meeting. |
|  | * The Board is asked to consider and approve the request for allocation of funding for gateway signage under the Visitor Economy update from the 15th November meeting. |
| **3** | **New Declarations of Interest – ALL** |
|  | * No new declarations of interest were made. |
| **4** | **Major Projects & Funding Update – Paul Crawford** |
|  | * Paul explained there were no changes in the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) since the last board report and the approved budgets can be found in Annex 1 of the programmes update in the agenda pack. |
|  | * He continued that a project extension request is being prepared for this scheme in accordance with DLUHC guidelines which will seek to extend the FHSF elements to September 2024. The risk remains elevated because the project programme has slipped and is without the ability to bring forward the completion. * Because part of the Theatre Project is funded by the Towns Fund, the project and funding can run through to September 2024. |
|  | * Martin commented that from September 2024 to March 2025 it seems a short period to spend the funding. |
|  | * Paul explained there is a revised programme provided by the contract team and he is happy to share this at the next board meeting so there can be oversight of this. Paul offered to add this to the next board agenda. * There are steps being taken to have tighter controls, for example instead of going out to full scale procurement. The project team are engaging with framework contractors to reduce the 3 month period for this. |
|  | * He noted that the High Pavement contract has been signed over. * The Maker Space committee is finalising its constitution and preparing for the fit out of facilities over the next few months. * Recruitment of the Maker Space coordinator role is due to begin in November. * Inspire are the critical partner and are getting ready to move into the building. |
|  | * Fox Street risk remains elevated. * Following the approval of Towns Fund funding being reallocated to this project, the project team are now finalising the contract delivery plan. This will be delivered under a framework contract due to there being challenges on the open market. * Fox Street will start first, though as it is linked with Portland Square it does not need to be delivered straight away. * A short extension of time request is being prepared for DLUHC. |
|  | * Martin asked if there could be a progress update at the next board meeting. |
|  | * Paul moved to Towns Fund on the funding update within the agenda pack. * He referred to table 2.1 the approved profiled income from DLUHC and associated co-funding for each project. * Approved changes under the Discover Ashfield board delegated powers from the previous board report period are highlighted in yellow. * Items highlighted in red are also subject to DLUHC approval due to the value. |
|  | * Martin asked Paul when the submission would be going into DLUHC and when the outcome of this would be known. |
|  | * Paul confirmed the project adjustment request would go in at a similar time to the monitoring and evaluation report, which is the first week of December. * Previously there is a 6-week turnaround from DLUHC however Paul is aware of a high number of requests going into DLUHC nationally so it’s anticipated it could be January or February before we receive a response. * The projects can still be moved forward during this time, it is only when there is a commitment of major funding for contract work that it could become challenging. |
|  | * Paul then moved onto the Projects highlight report from the agenda pack. |
|  | * Visit Digital offer is significantly behind plan in terms of being accessible to the public. There are challenges around testing protocol and we are not putting this out to the public until there is assurance the website and app work well. * The team are engaging with the consultants who designed and built the website and the App as there are some changes needed. * The next few months will consist of testing and refinement with a view to launch the new website at the Discover Ashfield Awards in February. |
|  | * Martin asked who would decide when the website and app were ready to be launched. |
|  | * Paul explained Hollie had put the testing request out to Ashfield District Council staff with people volunteering review the site. * They will be given a draft of what the website is about how the site and app works, with the aim of seeking their views on its content and operation. * Being new to the project it will give a fresh perspective on the detail as we need to ensure the website is engaging and fit for purpose. * He commented that the website will continue to evolve and develop with Hollie supporting this in her role. |
|  | * Paul continued, the Civil Engineering Centre which is being worked on with Vision West Notts College (VWNC), the risk remains elevated due to the site choice. * The principal site is for VWNC to take on some of the space at the Council’s Depot on Station Road whilst also encroaching into some of the green space at the site to help promote the delivery functions of the project. * Detailed ecology surveys of the proposed site have highlighted a risk to protected species. Further surveys would be required to determine how to proceed on part of the land however these cannot be undertaken until March – April 2024. * Options are being explored for reducing the schedule of accommodation for the project to be encompassed solely on the Council depot site. * Options are being explored for a plan B site if required. * Due to the issues detailed the project completion will be delayed until September 2024 at the earliest. |
|  | * Martin asked if there were any additional risks involved with VWNC and the academic years. |
|  | * Paul confirmed this has not been flagged as a concern so far. |
|  | * Lousie also confirmed this would not be a factor. |
|  | * Paul continued with the report that Enterprising Ashfield is not meeting the expected outcomes in terms of people they are able to work with, for many reasons. * The programme is counting each person once (no matter how many courses etc. they have undertaken), though a substantial number of participants have benefitted from multiple strands of the programme, and this will be reported to DLUHC through additional outputs. |
|  | * Fiona Johnson added that she had spoken to the project manager - Kelvin, and this was raised with him as it is great learners are continuing with their learning however the outputs count is a challenge. * Fiona suggested that Kelvin picks this up with Ashfield District Council, which Paul confirmed is in progress. |
|  | * Martin expressed that businesses may not know that there is flexibility on the courses available and they can request learning on specific areas. |
|  | * Fiona agreed that the project is very flexible and, where there are other major projects such as the Automated Distribution and Manufacturing Centre (ADMC), there can be support and preparation support from Enterprising Ashfield. |
|  | * Paul confirmed there will be a review of opportunities with Enterprising Ashfield. |
|  | * Paul continued with the update. * Green Ashfield has an elevated risk as a review of project progress is underway. Workshops are due to be held to agree the procurement plan for the delivery phase and review the energy management strategy. * The scheme is running through to full programme until March 2026. The reason the scheme has not achieved many outputs at the moment is that these appear to have gone off plan. A workshop is planned to baseline what is required from this project before cost escalation. |
|  | * Martin asked Paul to meet outside of the board meeting as he may be working on something which could link in with Green Ashfield. |
|  | * Paul explained all the other projects are progressing as planned and there are no concerns. * There has been some positive movement for ADMC lately for the site assembly. |
|  | * He continued that the board is currently in a monitoring and evaluation period, with submission due for 4th December. The board will be contacted before the sign off. * There has been various communication this month, there are some critical milestones approaching and there is work going on with the Communication’s team to provide a plan. He expressed there could be more engagement with partners to boost this. * He asked if any of the board members had any ideas to contact him. |
|  | * Paul then moved onto the UK Shared Prosperity Fund highlight report. * The Hucknall Town Centre - High Street Property Improvement fund has had a low take up to date, so funding and the eligibility have been reviewed and further promotion is planned. Risk has increased due to lack of take up. Grants will be kept under review. |
|  | * Melanie Wheelwright added that there are plans to extend the area for this to Annesley and Portland Road, and there has been additional marketing which Trevor Middleton has delivered. |
|  | * Martin showed concern, as himself and Trevor had previously tried to engage with Hucknall businesses however this, again, did not have much up take. He asked if Paul was confident that engagement would be successful this time. |
|  | * Trevor explained there are positive conversations when it is a 1-2-1 scenario however it is harder to get a group into a room. * He explained there needs to be an offer which benefits them. |
|  | * Fiona offered assistance to Paul in regard to communications and explained the University are always looking for marketing opportunities. |
|  | * Paul thanked Fiona and explained that an example of working with partners would be working with Enterprising Ashfield in using Maker Space as a base, and deliver the project from there. |
|  | * Fiona stated she will go back to Kelvin from Enterprising Ashfield to discuss. |
|  | * Christine Sarris expressed that there had been good engagement in the development of the Levelling Up Fund 2 Bid in Hucknall during the consultation and wondered if the groups who attended these could be contacted. |
|  | * Martin followed this by saying that if there is to be a Kirkby Subgroup then it may be wise to try again to form a Hucknall Subgroup. |
|  | * Christine offered to see who was involved in the Levelling Up consultations and see if any would like to be involved with the High Street Property Improvement. |
|  | * Trevor added that he believes there is a business group in Hucknall, and a ladies group in Kirkby, and himself and Paul Stoppard have been invited to speak to them so hopefully this may assist. |
|  | * Cllr Girling also offered his assistance as he has some personal contacts within Hucknall. |
|  | * Paul continued with the report. * The Vertical Farming project has preplanning for delivery underway with Nottingham Trent University (NTU). * External funding from Mansfield District Council (MDC) is agreed but needs to be confirmed. * Risk increased due to limited progress, site changed to Sutton Lawn due to utility requirements / affordability and this will have a more positive output for longevity with community groups working on this, once it is completed. |
|  | * Martin asked if MDC were in agreement for the new site at Sutton Lawn. |
|  | * Paul confirmed they are. |
|  | * Paul noted that they are waiting for DLUHC to provide further guidance and to discuss next steps and to confirm whether any funding can be brought forward to this financial year to support early consultation and engagement. |
| **5** | **Visitor Economy Update - John Bennett** |
|  | * John updated the board that there has been a consultant appointed to assist ADC with the visitor economy and attracting visitors. * This piece of work is just beginning and there is a document within the agenda pack which outlines this. * He explained there will be workshops to attend to meet with the consultants, TEAM Tourism, to highlight the great things in Ashfield and how to link this with work already ongoing. |
|  | * He explained that the Gateway signage around the district was upgraded around four years ago, but not all signs were included within the replacement programme due to costs. It is proposed to replace the remaining old signs within the District. * £150,000 is currently allocated to the visitor economy theme in the UKSPF programme, of which up to £18,000 is allocated for the consultancy work. * It is recommended that £25,000 of the funding is allocated to a phase 2 replacement of gateway signs. |
|  | * Martin agreed that many of the signs are damaged or in poor condition. |
|  | * Cllr Girling asked John if ADC has a visitor economy strategy, as when Nottingham County Council did theirs, they asked other districts and boroughs how they could assist, and asked if NCC were linked in with the visitor work happening. |
|  | * John confirmed there is no visitor strategy at the moment, and this is the planned outcome of this consultancy work, to provide a Destination Management Plan / Visitor Economy Strategy. * He explained this work will help ADC to understand how to maximise the attractions on Ashfield’s door, such as Newstead Abbey and Hardwick Hall, and for people who do not worry about the boundary of Ashfield, the Council need to capitalise on this bringing people into the area. * This will also link in with the work happening with Visit Nottinghamshire under the Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP). |
|  | * Cllr Girling recommended waiting until a visitor economy strategy was in place before moving and using funding as there may be a more suitable place for this. He believes that getting the strategy into place should be the priority. |
|  | * Martin asked what the timescales is for the consultation workshops. |
|  | * John confirmed this is planned to happen before the end of the new year and this piece of work will be worked on over the next few months. * He reiterated that there is funding of £150,000 allocated to the visitor economy theme. Of this, £18,000 is being used on the consultants to develop a Destination Management Plan and potentially £25,000 for new signage, which still leaves a healthy amount of funding for visitor economy work. |
|  | * Martin commented that there are already many existing visitor economy assets to be promoted. |
|  | * John confirmed this work is not to make new assets but to highlight the ones already here as well. The work will be on how to promote these and how to describe Ashfield. |
|  | * Martin expressed his interest in being part of the consultation workshops. |
|  | * John confirmed the board will be invited to these workshops. |
| **6** | **Theme Lead Reports – Theme Leads** |
| **a** | **Succeed in Ashfield – Martin Rigley** |
|  | * Martin attended the Champions event at Teversal Visitors Centre, ‘it was fantastic and you could feel the pulse of the community with the broad scope of people. The work happening at Teversal is brilliant’. |
|  | * He continues to support the work at Sherwood Observatory. A member from one of the funders, the Garfield Western Foundation, visited the Observatory recently. |
| **b** | **Love Where You Live – Liz Barrett** |
|  | * Liz explained that at the beginning of Discover Ashfield, during and after COVID, she worked very hard to visit schools in Hucknall, trying to link these into the group work of Love Where You Live in the community, and she was never really successful. * There is some linkage with the primary schools now in the town but she felt the volume of work she did to initially visit the schools did not yield the same amount of reward. |
|  | * Liz attended the Primary School meeting recently, chaired by Hollie. * Trevor attended to discuss with the schools what work can be done to celebrate the 200 years of Lord Byron’s passing. * Liz would like to visit the schools and start to work on getting activities together for the students around Lord Byron and get this embedded into their curriculum. * There was also a presenter from West Notts College to discuss the Multiply funding and how the schools can utilise this. |
|  | * Liz commended all the groups and community groups who celebrated Remembrance Day. She commented that the day, for her, is about being intergenerational and bringing together different ages so they can all remember. * Liz mentioned a working group in Sutton who worked for 9 months on the ‘Tommy’ figurines which were dotted around Sutton. This group comprised of veterans and college learners and the feedback was very positive from the community. * Liz thanked ADC for assisting in the installations of the ‘Tommy’s and ensuring all the cemeteries and cenotaphs were in good order before the Sunday. |
|  | * Liz asked the board to continue to promote the Christmas Light turn on events in the district to ensure the maximum amount of people see this. |
|  | * Christine commented that there is a focus on Lord Byron a lot of the time, but with the mention of Maths there is a link with Ada Lovelace and the promotion of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in females. * She explained that some of the work being done with education establishments and other local authorities, is on careers into local government which could include local government and education more widely. * Christine wondered if there could be a remit for ADC to assist with visiting schools as career champions in Ashfield as a way of getting together the history of Ashfield with Byron and Ada, STEM work, and careers in Ashfield under the Love Where You Live theme. * This also links with a project that Christine was looking at with a church in Hucknall to promote Byron and Ada Lovelace more. |
|  | * Liz is keen to link with Christine to discuss this and to promote careers in Ashfield. |
|  | * Cllr Girling asked if Inspire were able to help in Hucknall running an activity for children for the Byron celebration. |
|  | * Ian Bond confirmed Inspire would be happy to assist with this and, if there was an aspect of Maths for Ada, then they could use the Multiply funding for this. * He expressed that there could also be work done at Kirkby and Sutton libraries following the Hucknall one. |
|  | * Cllr Girling asked where Byron and Ada Lovelace were from and what their ties to Ashfield are. |
|  | * Trevor Middleton added that on 19th April 2024 it will be 200 years since Byron died and he and Ada Lovelace are buried at St Mary Magdalene Church in Hucknall. * They lived at Annesley Hall and Newstead Abbey. |
| **c** | **More to Discover – Darron Ellis** |
|  | * There were no updates from Darron. |
| **d** | **Be Healthy, Be Happy – Pete Edwards** |
|  | * There were no updates from Pete. |
| **7** | **Discover Ashfield Project Officer Update – Trevor Middleton** |
|  | * We had over 130 nominations for the DA Awards, so thank you to everyone who promoted, nominated and pushed this. These are in the process of being shortlisted and will be judged at the next Delivery Group. |
|  | * Work is continuing for the DA Award Ceremony evening. |
|  | * Plans are in progress for the 2023 Christmas Shop Window Competition for towns and rurals. |
| **8** | **Board Member Updates – All** |
|  | * Cllr Relf had previously mentioned he had visited Ronchin and connected with the twinning committee, and the Mayor or Ronchin, who is very keen to see how they can further develop the Twinning. * Cllr Relf expressed he feels it would be beneficial to have the Twinning with Ashfield as a whole rather than previously Kirkby in Ashfield. * He continued that Ronchin is very similar to Ashfield as former coal mining, heritage industrial area. * He met with an art group in Ronchin to see if there could be activities such as sharing artwork via post or having school children on Zoom calls. * Cllr Relf asked anyone who is interested to contact him. |
|  | * Martin asked if the people in Ronchin have the same social challenges as Ashfield. |
|  | * Cllr Relf confirmed they do. |
|  | * Martin agreed that broadening the reach across the whole of Ashfield is a positive idea. |
|  | * Fiona expressed her support for working with Ronchin. * She also spoke about the 2024 Mansfield and Ashfield Stakeholder Conference that NTU were planning to deliver. The date previously mentioned was in June which clashes with Purdah, there is now a new date in June which will be shared shortly. * She explained work is ongoing to understand the mapping and scoping of this meeting to secure some themes for the conference. * Fiona also raised that colleagues had attended Mansfield Strategy Launch, which was a success, and she feels Discover Ashfield are doing great work too and at some point it could be an idea to create this into a strategic document. |
|  | * Christine explained that Business Support had delivered a business networking event at Van Elle the previous week which was well attended and there was a lot of useful information. * She informed the board that many small businesses had diverged away from green energy and feels this could be a message for board attendees to take away. |
|  | * Martin confirmed he has a meeting with Paul Dobson from Van Elle to hopefully invite him to be a board member. |
|  | * Cllr Girling attended the NTU Remembrance Service and parade. * He recently signed off Nottinghamshire County Council’s Inward Investment Strategy document which is now out in the public. |
|  | * Simon Martin represented ATTFE at the Ollerton Remembrance Service and he was impressed by the community events that Ollerton organise for such a small community. * On Monday ATTFE’s Just Eat Pantry hosted Baroness Louise Casey in Sutton. She had a recording team from the BBC which will be aired on Radio 4 as part of a series of programme on social issues in the UK. * He expressed that this would mention Ashfield, and although on a negative issue, it is still a good opportunity and good to have the community voices on there from pantry volunteers. |
|  | * Gary Jordan updated the board that he been running a digital poverty campaign since 2020 and wanted Ashfield businesses and public who donated that this campaign is still running. The number of families in the Mansfield and Ashfield area, which have been helped by this cause with equipment, recently hit 500 and wanted to acknowledge the people who donated to this. |
|  | * Martin also praised the businesses who had donated and also thanked WNC who repurposed the equipment. |
|  |  |
| **9** | **Any Other Business - All** |
|  | * Trevor Middleton explained that on April 19th, 2024, it will be 200 years since Lord Byron’s passing and he has reached out to Hucknall Tourism and some of the high street retailers as there is an opportunity to get some grant funding to get a marker down in Hucknall of Ada Lovelace and Byron. * He has reached out to Zabou, the street artist who did the mural in Sutton, to discuss something for Hucknall. * He has also been looking at locations on the high street where a mural could be put in Hucknall. * Trevor explained he has also had discussions with Lincoln Green Brewery as they have a Byron beer, and also St Mary Magdalene in Hucknall to potentially put some flags outside the church. * Trevor is keen to use the anniversary as an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy in Hucknall. |
|  | * Martin commented that a mural of Lord Byron and his dog, Boatswain, would be an idea. |
|  | * Cllr Girling noted that next year will be 80th anniversary of D-Day and he will be looking to do something special for people still alive if they are able to find anybody in Ashfield so their stories can be shared. |
|  | * Christine Sarris raised that Ashfield Council have links with the tram service NET and they can be approached to see if they could do a ticketing event to promote Hucknall and Byron. |
|  | * Cllr Relf added that there was a local artist who did the Bikewise art in Hucknall who could also be approached for any street art. |
| **10** | **Date of Next Meeting – Friday 12th January** |