**Old River Lane Delivery Board Meeting**

**Teams/ Room 1.15**

**Thursday, 19 June 2025 15:30 – 16:30**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**Present:** B Cllr Mione Goldspink (MG) – Chair, Ben Wood (BW), Cllr Miriam Swainston (MS), James Ellis (JE), Helen Standen (HS), Cllr Carl Brittain (CB), Cllr Sarah Hopewell (SH), Rob Allwood (RA), Cllr Sarah Copley (SC), David Falco (DF)

**Apologies:** Cllr Ben Crystall, Brian Moldon

MG opened the meeting as Cllr Crystall had given apologies, so she will be acting as Chair.

**Declarations of interest:** MS, SC and MG noted their roles on the Town Council.

**Item 1: Minutes from the last meeting**

Agreed.

**Item 2: Project update**

DF updated the Board in regards to the main scheme. DF continues to meet with CH on a weekly basis. Currently they are focusing on the potential tenant for the commercial space and have shared heads of terms with them following negotiations. CH awaiting feedback on this. In addition they are also engaging with HCC on the new E/W road in terms of its design, which partially depends on the commercial tenant as they have specific needs around space and layout. They are also in discussion with HCC about relocating the bus stop from Bridge Street. They are still intending to submit a planning application in September/ October of this year. The Board were happy with progress.

RA provided the Board with an update on the public square. Work has now been commissioned through CH to continue with design work. The original intention was to go through details with Cllrs MG, SC and MS however feedback had been that CH needed more time to look at the implications of bio-diversity net gain and other possible requirements that may come around as a result of Martin’s Law. RA shared an updated layout diagram and said that a meeting would be set up with the Cllrs shortly to go over more details. MS and SC indicated they were supportive of the bio-diversity net gain principles and if this meant more green or nature friendly elements to the square this should be considered. DF added that he was in discussion with CH about costs for the space linking the public square to the commercial units facing on to it. DF felt it would be in CH’s interest to have paving which can easily blend hospitality units into the square which may mean more premium materials.

BW fed back that the masterplanning process has now launched and two public events in Water Lane Hall are planned for next week. Board Members had seen the content and materials from LCA last week. SH asked whether we felt enough publicity had taken place. SC, MS and MG said they thought it had been well publicised but asked that LCA undertake another round of publicity ahead of the first event on Wednesday. MG confirmed she is aiming to be present at both events (Wednesday and Saturday). MS and BW will be present on Wednesday.

BW also raised feedback from Cllr Diane Hollebon who had expressed concern about using Water Lane Hall as a venue given its issues with damp, raised on behalf of herself and as a representative of the Breathe Easy campaign. Board members discussed whether another venue should be used. However on balance it was decided to go ahead with Water Lane Hall. It was acknowledged that the building does have damp issues however these are less acute in the main hall, which is regularly used for Sunday worship and other occasional events. The Board also felt the location was also the important as it is the closest available venue to the actual venue. The Board asked that BW feed this back to Cllr Hollebon.

**Item 3: Water Lane Hall**

MG asked for any feedback received on the Hall since the survey was published. MS and SC noted they had not received much in the way of interest. BW also noted that little feedback had been received.

MG reminded Board colleagues that we have promised to provide an information session/ meeting for any colleagues or residents that have ideas about the future of the hall and this needs to take place soon, ideally early/ mid July. BW offered to find out some potential dates with more details to follow.

CB also noted he has asked officers to provide him with an options paper by the end of September on Water Lane Hall. This will need to explore all the available options we have and make recommendations on the next steps. MS did say this is a short timescale to work out options with interested partners however BW suggested the options paper at this stage might be about refining options.

**AOB**

RA informed the Board he has secured a new role so will be leaving in August. The Board thanked RA for his support and wished him well for the future.

BW mentioned he has had two approaches for use of the Charringtons Car Park. One is for the dementia friendly group information bus via Cllr Richard Townsend. The Board was supportive of this use. The other approach was from a company that set up temporary padel tennis courts. The company would provide a small rent to use the space and would set everything up themselves including planning permission and installation. The Board were also supportive of this proposal and asked BW to provide more details should it be feasible to implement.