Minutes of Board Meeting 26th January 2026

Held at Ripon BID, 8 Westgate, Ripon

Board Present and constituting a quorum: Richard Compton, DL (Chairman), Stuart Baldwin, Stephen Craggs, Megan Green. Rick Jones (Joint-Vice Chairman), Mark Lancaster (Joint-Vice Chairman), Richard Taylor

Others Present: Lilla Bathurst, (Manager),

Apologies: Rebecca Layton, Andrew Williams, Julian Rudd (guest) Richard Butcher (guest), Layla Martin (Comms), Juliet Hawkins (Liaison)

Proceedings

The meeting was called to order by RC (Chairman) at 6:00pm	
RC welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting. RC reminded the Board that the meeting was being recorded (with the recording being destroyed after minutes are approved), to declare any conflicts of interest on the agenda and asked if there was any change to the register of interests. RC asked if the Board approved the minutes from the November Board and approval was given.	

Actions from previous meeting

Yorkshire Vintners – date now in LB's diary to visit. Letter to RCC regarding Public Conveniences – LB updated that this had been discussed at RCC last council meeting and it had been resolved by them to investigate exactly what would be needed and what costs would be before putting bringing it back before the council. SC mentioned that he had heard that NYC were going to introduce a 50p charge across North Yorkshire to use public conveniences.	

Items for Discussion

Huq LB updated the board on November and December footfall and the results of the "Golden Quarter". November Footfall Footfall Data shows week to 24 November as peak with 181k weekly footfall vs 126k for same period in 2024. Footfall up 45k in that period or 43.6%. Overall footfall for period was 829k vs 594k in 2024 a rise of 235k or 28% increase. Dwell time 87 mins in Nov (66mins YTD)	

December Footfall Footfall Data shows week to 15 December as peak with 206k weekly footfall vs 109k for same period in 2024. Overall footfall for period was 910k vs 593k in 2024 a rise of 317k or 34.8% increase. This in comparison to data from BRC which shows Total UK footfall decreased by 2.9% in December (YoY). Dwell time 30 mins in Dec (59mins YTD). **Golden Quarter (Oct-Dec)** Up 30% vs 2024, 22% vs 2023, and 30% vs 2022. Total overall for 2025 footfall was up 21% vs 2024. **Data from NYC** NYC use Place Informatics and LB understands from conversations with KD that they are not wholly confident with it at the moment, but once they are they will share all centres with ourselves. SC asked if the BID could get per capital spend capacity for comparison from other areas and LB said she would enquire of the other NY bids. RC asked SC if he felt the footfall figures reflected his experience and SC said his Christmas sales peaked in 2nd or 3rd week and December is pretty flat. SC said the Christmas market weekend saw sales up around 15%. *Christmas Evaluation* LB directed the Board to the evaluation document which can be found here and stated that she felt that the Christmas markets had done their job judging by the feedback received (in the document). LB went on to say that a follow up meeting was held on 19th January – Late Night Shopping had worked well on North Street again as the traders there are very good about advertising it. SC asked if LNS and Christmas Light Switch On could be morphed into one event. LB said she didn't think the Nationals in the square would open as they have issues with staff and that North Street would probably continue to do their event on a different Thursday as it is directed at an adult rather than family dynamic– however LB would pose the question once the ballot result is out of the way. RJ said that spend with him is limited after LNS but it would be a good idea to suggest "early-bird" deals. *Servicing Larger Levy-Payers – Networking* The Uredale Community Partnership has put in a funding proposal to the V&SHSF which has various strands including a paid membership networking idea. LB had advised them to work on a flat fee for the BID to join and therefore it would be open to all paid-up BID members as they wouldn't pay twice. There is also a "powering up Uredale" section on extending the RTF's cultural program throughout the year	KD LB LB

and covering all of Uredale. Bids have to be in by 30th January with successful bids notified in March/April. LB said through the partnership there had been 2 business breakfasts including one that morning. RJ felt that without an agenda these meetings risk becoming talking shops without any action from NYC. The businesses have fed back so far that they want skills training and apprenticeship training IN Ripon. The CA / Growth Hub have been notified by Uredale that this is a gap. MG said that if it was just the Maths and English education that is missing she could ask the Kleek educators that come in for her apprenticeships to see if they could organise something in Ripon. ML fed in that Harrogate College are already offering adult courses in Ripon and are serious about expanding their presence. ML will link in LB to discuss further and LB can then link in Econ who said they might be able to provide space.	MG ML LB
Easter 2026 LB explained that she would like to just put on a trail for Easter and move the rest of the budget into Premises Improvement Grants which gave a good pot and a more tangible benefit to more businesses. RC asked if the Board were happy and they agreed to the plan. LB will advertise this.	LB
Digital Update LB updated on behalf of LM as follows: <u>Website</u> 58k page views & 7.9k users 3.1k new visitors Average session time - just under 2 mins. Most viewed: Events, Attractions, Home, Walking, New Year's Eve, Christmas No.1 Visit Ripon & Ripon BID Instagram Views: 22.7k Reach: 2.5k Traffic Drivers • Your Harrogate Love your Highstreet • Jingle & Mingle/Late Night Shopping • Weekend Events	

Facebook Views: 143k Interactions: 1.1k 1 min views up 700% Traffic Drivers • Tinsel Tractor run • Jingle & Mingle/Late Night Shopping • Walking routes • Weekend events LB asked ML why Ripon Together was still ahead of Visit Ripon for "Events in Ripon" and ML said he had sent through details to LM in November on changes to be made in our URL– LB will ask LM to action. ML went on to say that the anomaly of a lot of traffic from Bath is due to a large AI server being sited there. ML also said that LM should add more to the FAQ section on the website – effectively turning it into a search engine. LB will ask LM to action. *New Term Ballot* LB updated the board on progress. The Business Plan was sent out 5th January, the ballot notification final wording went to Civica by 12th January. LB confirmed that voters are based on 2025/2026 ratings list NOT post 1 April 2026. LB confirmed that where a hereditament was staffed the ballot papers would go to the hereditament directly – in the cases of empty units the business rates liable address would be used. Timeline: 12.01.26 NYC feedback amend on Notification of Ballot to Civica 12.01.26 NYC to arrange for Notice to be issued to Secretary of State 12.01.26 NYC to publish notice on their website 13.01.26 Voter list to Civica 26.01.26 Final day for changes to voter list 27.01.26 Civic give notice of ballot 10.02.26 Postal votes go out 12.03.26 5pm close of ballot 13.03.26 Result declared *Financial update* SB updated the Board on the financial position and project spend. SB and LB will meet on 23rd March for their 6 monthly review of the budget. LB explained that	LB/LM LB/LM

NYC's new system meant that reminders had gone to levy payers who had already paid and she was pushing NYC hard (including KD) to get the system sorted out. LB would be writing to Richard Flinton if it wasn't sorted by 1st February.	

AOB

RC asked if there was any other business. *Coach Friendly* LB explained that Ripon had been granted Coach Friendly Status by the CPT after many months of work. The CPT will do a press release once they have another couple of towns approved and then the BID will be able to share this. *Market Traders* LB said that SC, AW and her had all flagged with NYC the problem of the Thursday market and vans parked on the square making it resemble a car boot sale. The response from NYC has been less than satisfactory and AW will be taking it further. *Fun Fairs* LB explained that a fun fair operator (who used to bring rides to Ripon) had approached NYC to run 2 weekends one being weekend before Easter - Friday 27th to Sunday 29th March which LB has flagged with NYC as Palm Sunday and therefore not suitable. The other is Friday 12th to Sun 14th June. LB has said that from the businesses point of view they would not like parking in the square removed. AW has given his support from a residents point of view to the event going ahead. LB will keep the Board and businesses informed once she knows what is happening. *V&SHSF* LB has put in a funding proposal for Phase 3 of V&SHSF for a Hornblower Statue (in partnership with Antony Prince), a mural trail (on removal wooden boards) and a heritage trail. Successful applicants will be announced in March/April. If unsuccessful the BID has already approved the budget for a heritage trail so that portion would still go ahead. LB will keep the Board informed. *Paths & Pints* MG flagged the new "Paths & Pints" walking group on Facebook as a good link in with the BIDs walking routes and LB said she would notify LM about promoting. *National Trust Poster* MG explained about the NT posters being given to gyms in Ripon calling for volunteers to skip a morning workout. LB explained that she had spoken with	AW LB LB LB/LM

Fountains and the posters were not supposed to have been shown anywhere but Fountains.	

RC thanked everyone for their attendance and concluded the meeting at 7:30pm.	

Future Board meeting dates: 30 March, 18 May, 20 July, 21 September 2026