

**Chester Renaissance Board - Minutes**  
**25 September 2014 8.00am – 10.00am**  
**Boardroom, 9 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU**

**Attendees**

Eric Langton (EL)	Chair Chester Renaissance
Phil Harris (PH)	University of Chester
Roger Croston (RC)	Croston Engineering
Andy Foster (AF)	Andy Foster Architects
Katrina Michel (KM)	Marketing Cheshire
Peter Carstensen (PCa)	
Councillor Stuart Parker (SP)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Councillor Adrian Walmsley (AW)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Gemma Davies (GD)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Eryl Edwards	CH1 Chester BID
Nigel Bruce (NB)	Chartered Surveyor
Peter Cocker (PC)	Chester Civic Trust
Sally Williamson (SW)	Chester Renaissance
Chris Capes (CC)	Chester Renaissance
Ruth Wojtan (RW)	Chester Renaissance
Emma Birkett (EB)	Turner & Townsend

**Apologies**

Councillor Samantha Dixon (SD)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Paul Daniels (PD)	CH1 Chester BID
Nigel Davies (ND)	West Cheshire College
Charlie Seward (CS)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)
Alison Knight (AK)	Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC)

1.	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b>  Chairman welcomed the meeting. Previous minutes agreed.</p> <p>SP provided update on Theatre – achieved planning consent, fantastic news and is now all systems ahead. Hoping for announcement on private sector funding on 8 October. Congratulations to the Theatre team from CR Board.</p>	<b>EL</b>
2.	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b>  Rita Waters has moved to new role at CH1 Chester BID. Board wishes Rita well and thanks her for all her work with Renaissance.</p> <p>Peter Bazalgette (Chair Arts Council England) Chester Business Club dinner 21 October, tickets still available.</p> <p>International Festival of Business – CWaC and partners participated in this 6 week event in Liverpool this summer. Had 25 follow ups so far and good profile raising event. <b>Action:</b> GD to share feedback from</p>	<b>EL</b>

	<p>Active Profile.</p> <p>EL is attending City Place launch on 2 October.</p> <p>Global Entrepreneurship Week – business breakfast 17 November at Riverside Innovation Centre.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Housing Strategy Consultation</b></p> <p>Circulated draft response to Housing Strategy and CC ran through the document.</p> <p>PH suggested need someone to speak at HTF event in November.</p> <p>Green Belt is still in Part 1 Local Plan.</p> <p>PC noted greater diversity of housing in city centre encouraged, but this brings conflicts i.e. noise, bars etc.</p> <p>SP agreed there is a balancing act between encouraging the nighttime economy for the growth agenda and the communities in the city centre.</p> <p>KM noted a lack of quality three-bed accommodation in the city centre.</p> <p>AF thought student housing procured privately on an ad hoc basis isn't helpful.</p>	CC
4.	<p><b>Cultural Strategy</b></p> <p>Mike Dix, Senior Manager Culture and Environment, CWaC updated the Board on the Cultural Strategy.</p> <p>Consultants Black Radley are preparing a report to go to Council Executive in November.</p> <p>NB asked if there is a role for a gallery in Chester, MD responded that is a gap and need to explore what form this might take. SP noted lack of visual and performing arts in the past, now performing arts is doing well consideration of visual arts is Cheshire West's next ambition. Arts Council are now on the partnership board for Theatre. NB suggested the new retail scheme might house a first floor gallery and managed performance space. PH to share art study done some time ago on art gallery. RC would like to combine gallery with conference centre and use assets in a better way i.e. Dee House.</p> <p>RC asked how priorities will be identified. MD explained how they will naturally come forward if ambitious and not afraid to try things. Chester is lucky to have University and colleges and it will be important to use young people more.</p> <p>MD welcomes a civic leadership role from CR Board to work together, to sell the opportunity and recognise the importance of the cultural</p>	MD

	economy in regeneration. EL to keep in touch with MD.	
5.	<p><b>Rows Transformation Programme</b> EB presented latest on the project as she prepares for discussion with HLF on 22 October.</p> <p>Since last Board meeting have met potential partners, looking at options for delivery, CWaC contribution and attractors for external funding. As well as core improvements considering visitor destination on rows as a paid attraction, medieval experience. KM asked if other buildings have been considered which EB confirmed not at this stage because of timescales.</p> <p>SP asked if there was a boutique hotel included in bid, EB confirmed it is not fundable by HLF so not focussed on that at the moment but it is in the wider mixed use model.</p> <p>AF asked who will do the bolt on things. EL confirmed once have a credible plan will work with CWaC and other partners to look at extras. GD mentioned opportunities for other funding, third party investment etc.</p>	<b>EB</b>
6.	<p><b>Bus Interchange</b> Kevin Riley Mott MacDonald presented latest bus interchange designs.</p> <p>RC asked if there are plans for bus station / market links. KR confirmed a survey suggested 90% users will still use both, also looking at a hopper bus.</p> <p>KR confirmed buses will still go down Frodsham Street and Foregate Street.</p> <p>CWaC is likely to be new bus station operator.</p> <p>PH asked if it is a carbon neutral site and KR confirmed architect is looking at this i.e. green roof.</p>	<b>KR</b>
7.	<p><b>AOB</b> RC thought programme update very good, suggested could send it to the press to say things are happening and be positive. CC confirmed working on press stories at the moment.</p> <p>Northgate on next agenda, and Market in January.</p> <p>Thanks noted to KR and MD for their presentations today.</p>	<b>All</b>
8.	<p><b>Dates of meetings 2014</b> 27 November Boardroom 9 Abbey Square, Chester 8am – 10am</p>	<b>ALL</b>
	<b>Action Points</b>	

	<b>Item 2.</b> GD to share feedback from Active Profile on International Festival of Business.	<b>GD</b>
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