

# Minutes of The Ridge Board Meeting: Monday 23 November 2015

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*Present: Kate Darrah, Isobel Knox, David Spilsbury, Kenn Amabilino, Mary Darrah, Clive Chatwin*

## **Backlands update:**

- Security:
  - o There were problems at Halloween. Those responsible have been identified and will be approached informally to discuss.
  - o Public meeting brought out various views. The Board saw the potential to take the issue of antisocial behaviour wider in collaboration with DCC and the Community Police
- CCF looks likely (via extension funding) to fund a 6-month training programme for 8 youngsters, offering a bespoke experience for those interested in Rural Skills careers. Opportunities will be provided to work alongside a variety of skilled artisans and tradespeople in the sector, to sample different potential career paths.
- KA proposed putting a summary of Board meetings on the website. It was agreed that this would allow us to increase transparency & to also post funding applications and award letter.
- Application in to DCC for polytunnel funding has been made
- AG working with Romie Blair to take on running of the indoor market at the Masonic Lodge, in addition to the tea dances already being delivered by the Ridge Cafe.
- Max & Craig are posting on Backlands FB page & receiving positive responses.
- Adi's report:
  - o Backlands progressing well but slowly given development approach
  - o Need to boost the budget to cover higher than anticipated labour and material costs
  - o Going to seek a Viridor grant to cover additional costs and also for the revenue costs of appointing a site/garden manager/coordinator in the longer term
  - o Total additional costs likely to be £20k or more
  - o AG attending the next community council meeting to discuss additional security and safety measures we are planning for the site and also to discuss the issues arising from the behaviour at the weekends that is distressing neighbours and others
  - o Aiming for an end of March 2016 completion date for the core of the site to make it trainee and market ready
  - o Been great so far hosting work placement students, challenging, but this is making it a more inclusive development and we have been able to support a good few young self-employed workers to work and learn and share their knowledge on site with younger participants
  - o Great that we are putting The Ridge out there in a positive and responsive way and this alongside our other work is sending a clearer message on what we are about and what benefits we can bring to the town

## **4 New Site:**

- Feasibility Study
  - o Application to Investing In Ideas unsuccessful
  - o ELC (R. Baty) positively minded to grant £5k towards feasibility study. TR Café is in surplus & the Board agreed to use £3k from the Café account to supplement the council grant. This was considered a good example of a social enterprise reinvesting profits to further social aims.

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- KD has identified someone with appropriate background to carry out the study.
- KD to meet Ken Ross and has prepared a provisional timeline. DS will meet him separately
- Possible co-locations
  - Richard Demarco Archive: KD has a meeting with Demarco scheduled.
  - Edinburgh College: perceived need to mitigate decision not to create a satellite & the cutting of public transport links. KD to meet Jane Handley for exploratory talks. Likely focus on building skills.
  - The Space 2
  - Artists' studios

## 5 Minutes of 11 August, 19 October Board meetings:

- 11 August
  - Knox Academy is seeking to place 4 youngsters at the Museum of Flight for a project. DS to pursue JC+ & EF placement opportunities there.
- 19 October - accepted

## 6 Changes to Board

- KA has been registered at Companies House
- KD to talk to AN Other about joining the Board
- KD to leave the Board and continue as Managing Director & Company Secretary
- KA proposed to put something in The Courier to invite interest from the public
- Decision to promote the management team on the website & relegate the directors

## 7 Membership

- As a company limited by guarantee, TR must have a list of members. The current Articles equate members with directors. As a community organisation this is not appropriate.
- **Action:** DS & KD to draft a membership policy and redraft the Articles.

## 8 Register of Directors' Interests:

- DS explained what is needed. All directors to complete the form & return to KD

## 9 Any other business:

- TR Café (Sue's report *and additional items in italics*)
  - Sales are steady.
  - Sue has organised a Christmas Wreath making class for next Friday 2-4pm, it was quite popular last year
  - Now doing the catering for the tea dances at the Masonic Lodge on the first Wednesday of the month - going well. We liaised with the after school club to bring all the kids over for the last one which worked really well for both the kids and the adults!
  - Sue dropped off the £100 donation for the Christmas lights which was gratefully received.
  - Sue will liaise with Gill Last & Kate regarding our employability placement
  - Will do a small Christmas stand with some festive treats to take away as per last year as we have been asked a few times if we are doing it again.
- Training
  - JC+: none this month as 16-18 unemployment is down – but it may rise in the New Year.

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- EF: first three boys took longer than planned to complete but one, maybe two, have a job. Second three are placed in the Café, Karele Equine Therapy & the Backlands. Seven are with the Fashion School. Five places left on the current contract. TR to bid for more Stage 3 referrals. Certificate of Work readiness course to be run in Jan 2016.
- LANTRA: two basic ticket courses this week. Demand for spraying course & for felling.
- If CCF extension funding granted, TR will propose a 6mth bespoke outdoor skills course, places for which will be on application only.
- Vision/Mission statements and Objectives
  - Various comments and suggestions made; KA will redraft.

Next Board meeting 11 January 2016 at 3, Roseberry Place