**Report of the Clerk to Full Council 22nd July 2024**

**Proposal for Baildon to join the Dot-to-Dot Festival 30th May to the 1st June 2025.**

**This proposal** has been discussed by Economy Committee (the full report to Economy Committee is attached) and the concerns raised by that Committee can be summarised as follows:

* overall festival details remain slightly vague about the full duration of the week and who is organising the full event /end of week festival – “Finale Event”.
* concern as to who ‘we and us’ were when the idea was being pitched.
* Will Traders’ income go into marketing the Finale Event?.
* More clarification needed as to what is happening.

*ECO2425/10 - Resolved that the Economy Committee delegates to the Clerk the liaison with the organisers and related co-ordination, in consultation with the Chair of Economy, and to bring progress reports to Full Council on 22nd July 2024.*

**Summary of situation as known at time of writing (information provided by Ian Andrews-Swailes, Chair of Saltaire Festival).**

* The Dot-to-Dot Finale Event in each ‘township’ is being organised by the volunteer Chair of Saltaire Festival along with his colleagues on the Saltaire Festival Management Team.
* The whole proposal consists of a few days/week of cultural activities – which would need entirely pulling together by Baildon Town Council working with existing local community groups.
* The week would culminate in a free finale event pulled together by the Chair of Saltaire Festival and his colleagues. This is an outdoor food and music/performance festival (Baildon musicians and performers) on a large showground/park/greenspace.
* The finale weekend will be funded by the traders, the Chair of Saltaire Festival will pursue grants to pay for the stage, sound and lights. The traders’ fees will pay for the security, toilets and first aid.
* The Marketing Strategy is to market all the events together (ie Bingley, Haworth, Baildon, Shipley and Saltaire) as a coherent whole celebration for the Aire Valley towns.
* The finales’ risk and event management would all be led by the Chair of the Saltaire Festival and the Festival Management Team.
* The Dot-to-Dot Festival will be advertised by Bradford25.

Concerns remain:

* There seems to be no overarching Committee or Steering Group *as yet*. But the Chair of Saltaire Festival has suggested that each Town Council can appoint a representative to attend the Festival Management Team meetings to discuss the Dot to-Dot.
* Recent cancelling of large events by SAG (Bradford’s Safety Advisory Panel) has caused concern.

**However**, if Baildon does ***not*** become involved then there will be an obvious gap in the Dot-to-Dot Proposal Programming and Publicity and there is a risk that this could cause bad publicity for Baildon.

**Possible ways forward**.

A decision is needed at Full Council because the Chair of Saltaire Festival driving the Dot-to-Dot proposal has indicated that he needs clarity to start working up logistics, advocacy with Bradford25 and event planning. A decision cannot be deferred any longer.

**Options**

1. Accept the risks and approve involvement with the Dot-to-Dot Festival whilst seeking clarity and reassurance on our concerns as soon as possible. Commit a small reserve delegated to the Clerk to mitigate the risk of any costs arising in producing a programme of cultural activities in Baildon.
2. Refuse to take part based on the risks and consider how to mitigate any adverse publicity in doing so.
3. Develop a partnership with Shipley Town Council which focuses on Robert’s Park, Saltaire (part of Baildon Town Council Area) as the location for a joint Saltaire/Baildon finale festival event 13th – 15th June 2025. Baildon Town Council may or may not decide to run local cultural activities in the lead up – this could be decided later (and a small reserve delegated). Baildon and Shipley TCs would propose to the Chair of Saltaire Festival a slight tweaking of dates to allow this to happen so that any ‘gap’ in the programme could be avoided – see Appendix 1.

**Proposed Resolution:**

* Approve Option 3
* Set up a small working group led by Economy Committee
* Delegate £500 to a Dot-to-Dot reserve to the Clerk for expenditure related to setting up the cultural activities in the lead up to the Festival Finale.

**Appendix 1 New programme – to support Option 3**

The idea is for Baildon to *not* do a week of cultural/creative activities leading up to a finale weekend at the end of May (as per Ian’s timetable below), but instead some cultural/creative activities might be arranged by BTC in w/c 9th June and the finale weekend (organised by Ian) will be shared with Saltaire (Shipley) and held in Roberts Park (Baildon).

Bingley May 23rd, 24th and 25th of May 2025 (Myrtle Park). Stet

~~Baildon May 30th, 31st and 1st June, (Venue to be agreed).~~ Replace with Shipley’s week and finale

Haworth June 6th, 7th and 8th, (Central Park Haworth). Stet

Saltaire June 13th, 14th and 15th, (Roberts Park Saltaire). Stet but now joint with Baildon

Obviously, this may or may not be confirmed with the Chair of Saltaire Festival.