

Beverley Town Hanseatic League Working Group - Hosting the International Hanseatic Informal Zoom Meeting on 30th October 2020 Notes

Held remotely via Zoom on the 30th October 2020 at 10am

Present:

Stefanie Bischof - Hanseatic Manager

Beverley Hanse - Hamish Stewart (Chair Beverley Hanseatic Group), Cllr Linda Johnson, Mr G Johnson, Cllr David Horsley, Cllr Chloe Hopkins, Cllr Ann Willis, Cllr Claire Wildey, Will Hall (East Riding of Yorkshire Council VEY Manager) and Helen Watson (Town Clerk)

Boston Hansa –, Alison Fairman, Maggie Perberdy

Edinburgh Hansa – Nick Langan

Great Yarmouth – Michael Boon

Hull Hansa – Anthony Yates (Hull City Council VHEY)

Kings Lynn Hansa – Paul Richards, Nicholas Daubney

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Darren Hale (Hull City Council), Henry Cator (Great Yarmouth), Todd Stehloh (Ipswich) and the representative from Aberdeen University.

2. Beverley Hanse Chair's Opening Remarks (Mr Hamish Stewart).

Mr Stewart welcomed everyone from all the different groups and thanked Beverley Town Council for arranging the informal meeting via zoom. The Chair invited all the groups to appoint a representative to offer a short informal presentation of their Hanse group in their own town.

3. Beverley Hanse– Hamish Stewart

Hamish Stewart thanked Stefanie Bischof for all the support with Beverley recent Beverley submission and joining of the Hanseatic League in 2020. He continued by describing Beverley as an ancient town celebrating its 1300 St John of Beverley anniversary in 2021 of the founding of the town. It was the 10th largest town in medieval times, trading in wool among other trades such as dying, tanning, barrel making and ship building. Beverley is known today for its interesting street names (named after the trades Dyer Lane, Walkergate, Flemingate) along with its markets, churches and historic guildhall, festivals and pastures/common lands. He stated that there were lots of connections with the merchants over the years of nearby Hull and York, with a possibility of York being a member of the Hanseatic League through its connections in the future. Hamish Stewart thanked the support of Beverley Town Council and Visit East Yorkshire for their operational work to date. He also said that other interested parties would be joining the local group as time went on, as it was still very early days for Beverley in the Hanseatic League..

4. Boston Hanse – Alison Fairman

Alison Fairman presented on behalf of Boston Hanse who started to investigate joining the Hanseatic League in 2012 and was successful in 2015, through great support from the Kings Lynn Hanse group. It was set up to help unite the town and support and welcome immigration and diversity by way of joining many town groups and people together. Since 1200 Boston has had strong connections as a Hanse trading port as it was the 2nd largest port in England. From around 1150 to the 1400's a huge fair was staged in the town, which had visitors from all the other Hanse towns. All the activities are carried out

by fundraising. The importance of having all groups and residents involved in the Hanse group was discussed. Hanse Youth opportunities learnt from other Hansa towns was stated. Various activities had been carried such as an International Day, Flag project, Archaeological excavation of an historic warehouse. A fascinating book has been written Pamela Cawthorne called 'Rediscovering England's Hanseatic Heritage: Medieval Boston'. It makes a great read.

5. Edinburgh – Nick Langan

Nick Langan represented Edinburgh and stated that the Lord Provost of Scotland is also involved. A Hanse date is set for 2035 for Edinburgh to be the international hosts of the Hanseatic League Weekend. Edinburgh is also involved in Euro City Network. There is a group of stakeholders to progress the Hanse League strategy with an aim to reduce poverty, balance equality, and follow carbon neutral projects. Nick Langan is been in his post and involved for one year working within the Hanse League. At present all activities are being operated e virtually due to Covid 19.

6. Great Yarmouth – Michael Boon

Michael Boon represented the Great Yarmouth Hanse who joined in 2019, but first looked into joining in 1990. Great Yarmouth has been a port for 1000 years and is full of history, with a Norman church and the Hall of the Benedictine Priory. Great Yarmouth was a key trading port for herring fishing, wool and general trading. It had Hanse warehouses but none are in existence now. The town is now a large holiday resort. A working group of residents and organisations runs the Hanse group with support from the council. They are due to visit Lubeck when the situation with Covid 19 is over.

7. Hull Hanse – Anthony Yates

Anthony Yates congratulated Beverley on becoming a Hansa League member. He stated that Hull had been a member since 2012. Hull City Council led project for economic development within the city and the other Hanse towns who visit each other at various International Hanse days. The Hull Hanse day celebrations are linked to the Lord Mayors Parade which attracts around 25,000 visitors annually, some of which are European Hanseatic Towns bringing the Hanse communities together. Anthony Yates has worked closely with Kings Lynn and Boston in the past.

8. Kings Lynn – Nick Daubney and Paul Richards

Nick Daubney described Kings Lynn as a small town of around 45k population set in a large borough of around 130k residents. Initially Nick Daubney was a council leader when King's Lynn joined the modern Hanse in 2006. Nick is also the English Commissioner to the Hanse League. Kings Lynn are very active within the international Hanse League. Paul Richards explained that Kings Lynn played a leading part in the Hanseatic League 800 years ago when it was the 3rd or 4th largest port in England. It has the only Hanse warehouse in the UK. They have joined in various activities such as a Hanse trail, visit of the replica Kogge ships, Hansa festival, Hanseatic Club (since 2005), various civic and community links and visits They have forged good connections with Hamburg and the City of London Hanse group. Kings Lynn also enjoys Intercity links.

9. Stefanie Bischof - Hanseatic Manager

Stefanie Bischof reported that she had been in the position of Hanseatic Manager since October 2019. She continued to report that there are 6 member cities in England and 2 in Scotland. The Hanseatic League offers opportunities for regional and joint Hanse activities involving and promoting cultural, heritage, economic, tourism and marketing of the towns or cities involved. Edinburgh is planning the 2035 Hansa Day. Stefanie Bischof explained that it was also about promoting Linea routes, Pilgrimage routes along with the Hanse routes. The EU is interested in the Hanse concept and the holistic tour experience of Viking and maritime heritage.

Stefanie Bischof explained the services consisting of up to 6 newsletters per year, social media, news and events, www.hanse.org website, Hanse leaflets and postcards, youth Hanse, projects and working groups (Fairtrade, archives and tourism), support and development of external funding and work on EU funding programmes and regional development. Planned activities involve the Baltic Sea region project from October 2020 to September 2021 with an aim to catalogue Hanse heritage It will be capitalizing on



theme routes based on historic trade links, to create tangible micro routes to experience the Hanse heritage and cooperation of the present opportunities in the Baltic Sea region.

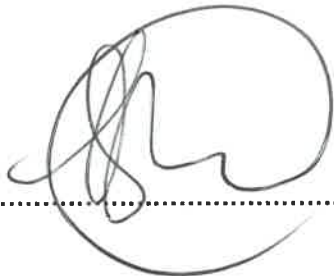
Stefanie Bischof explained that the Hanse website was being restructured at present with an aim to provide a clear structure to meet the needs of the many target groups for a map-based experience of Hanse heritage and storytelling, which links to the medieval trading routes of life on line.

10. Closing notes

A brief discussion took place on the importance of communication, cooperation and union between the Hanse towns and cities. Members discussed potential sponsorship/marketing opportunities with AB Ports, LEP's, local businesses, city/town clubs/organisations, festivals and museums. International tourism was debated with ideas of walking tours, heritage tours and culinary tours.

Members present had enjoyed the virtual meeting and would plan for another meeting in the future to form stronger relations and understanding. Hamish Stewart thanked all for attending.

Signed.....

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a dotted line.

Date.....

30/11/20

