

Q2Report

Redevelopment will enhance 'world-class' credentials



Andy Steele of 360 Chartered Accountants and an artist's impression of the new Albion Square project.

The start of work on a transformational city centre redevelopment scheme has been welcomed as a major step towards establishing Hull's world-class credentials for business and tourism.

Andy Steele, Founder of 360 Chartered Accountants, said the beginning of demolition to clear the way for the £96m Albion Square development is something he has been looking forward to since moving his business into offices overlooking the site.

He said: "We relocated the business to our Grade II listed Georgian building in Albion Square back in 2016 and it provided a real springboard for growth. We soon outgrew 19 Albion Street and acquired the adjoining property when it came up for sale in 2018.

"There is a fantastic mix of retail, commercial, hospitality and leisure – we're a stone's throw from Hull New Theatre and the square is one of the most vibrant business districts in the city. We are so excited about the new development and the urban

park, in particular, will give the team somewhere to relax and recharge the batteries on their breaks.

"The redevelopment of the city centre since winning UK City of Culture status has been remarkable. Albion Square was the glaringly obvious omission but this is about to change and, along with the Hull Maritime Project, could well be the final pieces in the jigsaw in terms of making Hull a world-class place to visit and do business in."

In addition to the mix of residential, office and retail space, as well as the park, Hull City Council says Albion Square will bring eco-friendly features including solar panels, EV charging points and a cycle hub. The iconic Three Ships Mural will remain and be incorporated into the new development.

Demolition is expected to take 80 weeks, with construction of the new scheme starting in 2023 and completion in 2026.

The City Council is also discussing options with property owners in Whitefriargate with the intention of regenerating vacant units and bringing them

back to life with an approach that diversifies from the traditional retail offer and embraces more cultural and learning spaces.

Both Albion Square and Whitefriargate will be supported with investment from the Levelling Up Fund, which will include a new grant scheme with the aim of bringing back into use floorspace of vacant or partially-occupied properties, including heritage and dilapidated buildings, to create sustainable use and new permanent jobs.

Applications are already being received for the scheme, which will issue grants of up to £750,000 that can be awarded with a minimum of 50 per cent match funding from the applicant. Interested parties are asked to submit an expression of interest form and successful applicants will be invited to complete a full application form.

To find out more about the scheme visit <https://www.hull.gov.uk/business/business-grants-and-funding/levelling-fund-grant-scheme>

HullBID Introducing

Big names lined up for Tower Ballroom

An iconic city centre music venue which dates back more than 100 years is lining up some big-name bands after opening its doors for the first time in more than a year.

The Tower Ballroom, which opened as a cinema in 1914 and helped to launch the careers of top Hull bands The Housemartins and Kingmaker during the 1980s and 1990s, last opened its doors for DJ nights in 2020 but is now back in business.

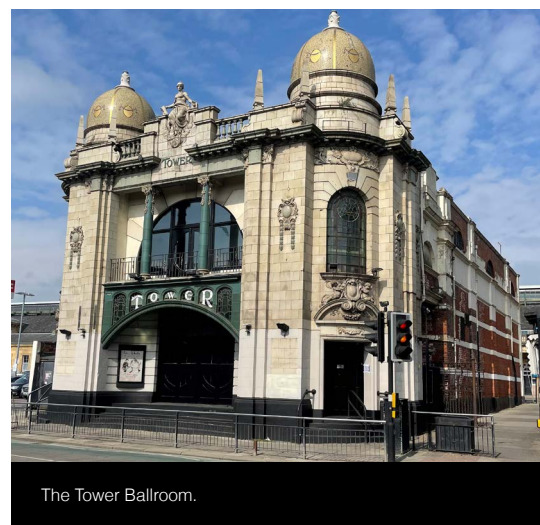
The new tenants, who also have a venue in London, have completed a major refurbishment of the Tower to create a main auditorium with a capacity of around 800, a smaller Tower 2 performance space for about 200 people and a bar at the front of the building.

Dave Courtney, the general manager who is steeped in the Hull music scene having worked at venues including the Adelphi, Polar Bear, Welly and Silhouette during the last 20 years, said the Tower will bring something new to the city.

He said: "With a 25-year lease we've been able to commit to the big refurbishment that the building needed and we're looking forward to putting on some top local bands as well as national bands on the way up and on the way down."

"They are the sort of bands that people will travel to see, which is why this is such a good location right next to the interchange. The local amenities are important as well, with places like Hammonds of Hull and the other bars and restaurants helping to attract people from further afield."

For details of forthcoming gigs visit <https://towerballroomhull.com/>



The Tower Ballroom.



Mike Roper (left) and Brad Casson of Monroe's.

Monroe's planning offers and events

The owners of a new bar are promising to bring something new to the city centre as they create their own events programme to tie in with the big festivals.

The team at Monroe's in Savile Street already present DJs, live acts and quizzes and are planning more attractions as they celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Pride and other special occasions.

Brad Casson, who has been in the licensed trade since he was 18, stepped up last year with business partner Mike Roper to take on the property which, in the past, housed Bolo boutique and Aspects opticians.

He said: "We took the place apart as soon as we got the keys and it's taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears to convert the building, but we managed it and have a nice space with a capacity of 150."

The work involved turning one of the eye examination rooms on the ground floor into a cellar and removing the other two to create a modern environment for tables, chairs and booths. The loos are on the first floor and an accessible loo has been installed on the ground floor.

Brad said: "We've got a lot of new ideas, including showtime every Friday with a series of rolling offers, and we'll respond to our customers. There's a whole new crowd of people who only became old enough to drink during the pandemic and they're enjoying going out and telling us that they want."

Geek Retreat is the new game in town

A new business offering a mix of 'geek culture' retail, gaming café and events rolled into one has opened its doors in Whitefriargate.

Ike Kirby, who left a career in the pub trade to launch the Geek Retreat franchise in Hull, has created four jobs with the move and is already looking towards expanding to use the first floor of the building.

Ike and the Geek Retreat team began converting the former Bettfred premises in January to create a space which has retail at the front and a café with board games at the back. A sign will be going up as soon as the scaffolding has been removed following work on the front of the building.

Doors open at 10am every day, with gamers able to play until 9pm six days a week and 6pm on Sundays. Monday is the regular board game day and there are sessions throughout the week on games including Dungeons and Dragons, Yu-Gi-Hoh! and Pokemon!

Food and drink ranges from burgers, fries, nachos and jacket spuds to soft drinks, hot drinks and themed shakes such as Martian Manhunter and Dr Bad-Boon.

Ike said: "Before this, I was managing pubs in Lancashire and London but I have family in Hull, I am very interested in maritime history and I just think it's a nice place with a friendly energy to it. We're aiming to build an open and friendly community."

To find out more visit <https://www.facebook.com/GeekRetreatHull/>



Ike Kirby and colleague Heather Walton at Geek Retreat.

HullBID Introducing

Tasty additions to HoH Food Hall

HoH Food Hall has welcomed a string of local traders offering a variety of mouth-watering menus as an addition to its array of outlets.

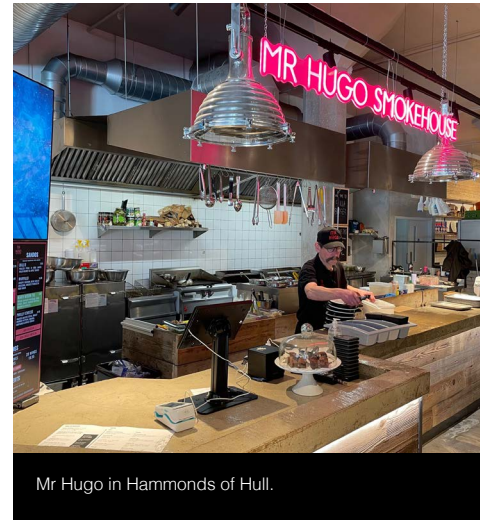
Mr Hugo is building on the success of its first outlet, which opened in Paragon Street in November, by adding Mr Hugo's Smokehouse. Using equipment from The American BBQ Company – the UK's leading supplier of barbecue smoker ovens that are used by pitmasters across the USA – the smokehouse team bring genuine American flavour to every bite of their ribs, wings and other meaty treats.

Chris McWatt opened Grilla Burger in HoH Food Hall after garnering rave reviews for his delicacies at another site in the city centre.

He's making the most of the gas-powered grills to roll out a repertoire which includes Angus beef, grilled chicken breast, and a buttermilk Quorn fillet as the vegan option. Diners can opt for as many toppings as they like, such as cheeses, hash browns, chilli jam, bacon, sauces and much more. Double and even triple stacks are increasingly in demand and Grilla Burger has added a breakfast offer.

Hang Out, which became known for its outlets across the city, has opened in HoH Food Hall as an addition to its Artisan Bakehouse in High Street.

Ana-Maria Dumitru, who has been cooking since she was just eight and was inspired by her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, is selling her acclaimed brownies, blondies, cakes and many more sweet and savoury treats.



Mr Hugo in Hammonds of Hull.



Graham Richardson, Waterside Manager at Hull Marina.

Loyalty schemes to support shops

City centre businesses are being offered the chance to broaden their customer base by signing up to new discount schemes designed to generate more trade for local outlets.

Aquavista, the operator of Hull Marina, is currently launching an initiative which will link businesses to its growing numbers of residents and visitors. Similarly, bus company Stagecoach is stepping up recruitment for its reward scheme which is designed to encourage their passengers to support local shops.

Stagecoach Rewards was launched in 2020 and the company is now expanding the scheme and contacting businesses to offer the chance to sign up at no cost.

The Aquavista Moor Benefits initiative will raise

the profile of city centre businesses among the boat owners who live on board their vessels at Hull Marina, and the many more who are leisure customers and visitors.

Graham Richardson, Waterside Manager for Aquavista at Hull Marina, said: "We can reach hundreds of people and between them they cover a wide demographic and a varied customer base.

"We want to offer our customers some loyalty and added value and, at the same time, support businesses in the city centre. Customers will get a Moor card, and the businesses which support the scheme will feature on the website and in a regular newsletter.

"The scheme is part of their welcome to Hull and their introduction to the city, so it's a great opportunity for businesses and is very flexible – the businesses can decide on the details of the offer and can change it whenever they want."

Online vintage store moves into Arcade

A former painter and decorator has completed the facelift of a unit in Paragon Arcade to open a new shop which builds on the success of his online sales of vintage clothing.

Zach Roberts has been running SupplyHaus for about a year through his own website and on eBay and Etsy, alongside his day job with a major local firm. As a regular visitor to the Arcade, he jumped at the chance when he spotted a vacancy.

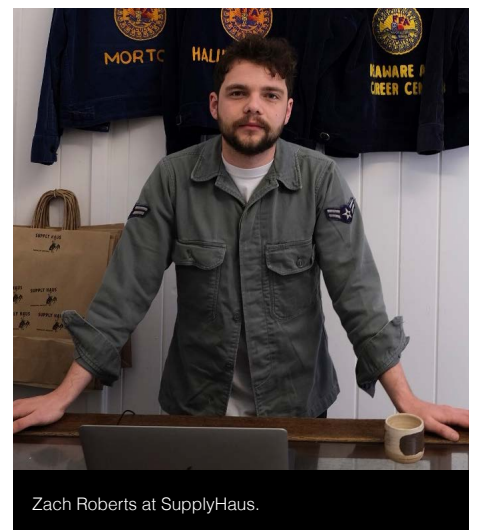
Zach said: "I became aware of the unit when I was at Two Gingers. I've been going there most Saturdays and every person I've seen there has

been a great fit with what I want to do."

Now running SupplyHaus full-time, and open seven days a week, Zach is aiming to build a product range of authentic, quality vintage clothing from the 1940s to 1980s with the themes of workwear and military as well as random accessories.

He said: "I have always wanted to do something by myself because I like the idea of not having anybody telling me what to do. During lockdown I wasn't spending much so I bought some vintage clothing.

"The business has been doing well online and, with the shop, I want to create the feel of a 1940s general store. The hardest part is finding the right stock but when we get it we can be sure it's exclusive."



Zach Roberts at SupplyHaus.

Q2News

Work Hull Work Happy harnesses potential of technology



The launch of Work Hull Work Happy, where speakers including Hull West and Hessle MP Emma Hardy addressed an audience from business and other organisations.
Pictures by Thomas Arran.

HullBID has joined city centre businesses and other organisations in driving a new campaign which promotes Hull as the co-working capital of the UK and a place where people can pursue their dream career without compromising on connectivity, culture or the cost of living.

Work Hull Work Happy, a unique initiative founded by business leaders, Hull City Council and Emma Hardy, MP for Hull West and Hessle, highlights the city's attributes as a centre for innovation, flexible working and start-up culture.

It was launched with an event which brought together the founders and key backers as well as business VIPs and Rachel Reeves, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and MP for Leeds West, at the former HSBC bank in Whitefriargate which has undergone a refurbishment by The 55 Group.

The venue is one of many buildings in the city which will host co-working spaces for individuals and businesses as part of a move to promote a

better quality of life for workers by allowing people to do their jobs without their location impacting their opportunities.

Ms Hardy said: "Nobody should feel forced to leave the place they love to get the job they want, and the launch of this project will help to put Hull on the map as the co-working capital of the UK.

"Now that businesses can sign up to offer co-working space, we will have the most accessible and diverse spaces throughout the city. This, paired with the best high-speed broadband in the country, together with all of the benefits of living in Hull, is an opportunity to kickstart a new era for the city and breathe new life into our local economy."

Gerard Toplass, group executive chairman of The 55 Group, added: "Some say that Hull is the end of the line, but we know it's just the start of the journey. The pandemic changed everything when it comes to how, why and where we work – and people can enjoy an excellent quality of life by co-working in Hull.

"Remote working opportunities can bring high-quality jobs to regions of the UK where they weren't previously available, boosting local economies, retaining the best talent and providing excellent quality of life."

City centre businesses and organisations that have committed their support to Work Hull Work Happy include HullBID, Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce, Princes Quay, Moodbeam, C4Di, Hammonds of Hull and Hull What's On.

Kathryn Shillito, HullBID Executive Director, said: "The launch of Work Hull Work Happy shows that Hull is gaining recognition as the best-connected city outside London. The turnout of VIPs from the local area demonstrates the commitment of partners to work together in providing an ideal base for start-ups, graduates and experienced professionals alike, with a reduced cost of living and excellent quality of life."

To find out more visit <https://www.workhull.com/>

Do you have a story you'd like to share?

For more information about how to share your news or ideas, email catherine@hullbid.co.uk or call on 07739 759783. www.hullbid.co.uk

News

Jubilee Trail and Street Food Nights will pull the crowds

HullBID has confirmed the return of its major events programme, bringing back some favourite attractions and unveiling a new family activity linked to The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon Trail will build on the crowd-pulling success of the family story trails which HullBID has brought to the city centre during the last two years. It will run from Saturday 30 April until Sunday 12 June and will feature seven whimsical characters in locations around the city centre, with Sir Barnaby Beacon guiding visitors through the Queen's 70-year reign.

The trail is free of charge and participants just scan the QR codes displayed at the locations to collect digital stamps, see the characters come to life and get the chance to choose what happens in the story.

The hugely-popular Hull Street Food Nights will also return and will take in three areas of the city centre. Zebedee's Yard will host the first two events on Thursday 9 June and Thursday 7 July.

On Thursday 4 August Hull Street Food Nights will move to Hull Marina as a curtain-raiser for the Yum! Festival of Food and Drink. On Thursday 8 September the stallholders will assemble in Trinity Square.

HullBID Executive Director Kathryn Shillito said: "We're delighted to be able to bring back our events which have been so successful over the years at attracting families into the city centre to support our businesses."



Alessandro's in Trinity Market will once again be joining Hull's food events.

HullBID presents top speakers at Inspiring Women

Business, politics and community support will come together when HullBID revives its Inspiring Women dinner as one of the highlights of Humber Business Week.

HSBC and Language is Everything are sponsoring the event at The Deep on Wednesday 8 June. The dinner has been hugely popular every year and demand is again expected to be high for a speaker line-up of Emma Hardy MP, Language is Everything CEO Carolyn Johnson MBE and Sam Barlow BEM, the founder of Fitmums and Friends.

Julie Bowler, Deputy Head of Corporate Banking South Yorkshire & Humber for HSBC, said: "HSBC are delighted to support Inspiring Women as part of Biz Week 2022, showing our ongoing commitment and support to the city centre community after the HullBID Awards 2022, which was a great evening.



Julie Bowler of HSBC (left) and her colleague Sarah Heavey (right) with Kathryn Shillito.

"As well as celebrating and supporting our local female business owners, directors and managers, we are also delighted to welcome to HSBC in Hull Amy Wright, Helen Phillips and Emilia Shillito as our own inspiring women. We look forward to meeting with everyone in person at the event in June."

Kath Lavery, Chair of Humber Business Week, said: "We are thrilled that Biz Week is back in person, face-to-face, alive and glittering and that HullBID is again supporting it with the Inspiring Women dinner.

"It is a great line-up of serious achievers – women who are doing some amazing things in our community and who all have fascinating stories to share."

The dinner will start at 7pm and finish at about 10.30pm. Tickets are free for HullBID members up to a maximum of 80 places. Additional tickets may be available to members and non-members at a price of £32 plus VAT. To register your interest please email Francesca@hullbid.co.uk

For more information visit www.humberbusinessweek.co.uk

Bowling club aims to build support among businesses

An indoor bowling club which has been operating for nearly 30 years is hoping to build membership and attract corporate support after launching its first website.

Manager Christine Mayes and Assistant Manager Debbie Griffin say the Marina Indoor Bowling Centre in Commercial Road still has about 300 members despite the impact of the pandemic and is one of the city centre's hidden gems.

With late night opening and four rinks capable of accommodating more than 20 players between them the club brings in people from as far as Market Weighton and is working to raise awareness closer to home.

Christine said: "We provide an important service with social activity and interaction. A lot of people tell us they haven't spoken to anybody else since their previous visit and, if someone hasn't turned up when they were expected, we get in touch to make sure they're ok. For some, coming here is the only time they see other people. It's an extended family.

Numbers dropped because of Covid but we managed to stay afloat with the help of grants from Hull City Council. We're now trying to bring in more members and more sponsorship and hopefully the website will help with that.

"We don't get many people in from the business community but we offer some great catering packages including afternoon tea and we could certainly provide a fun option for corporate events and staff social occasions."

To find out more about the club visit <https://www.marinabowlingcentre.com/>



Christine Mayes (right) and Debbie Griffin at the Marina Indoor Bowling Centre.

Businesses lead celebrations at HullBID 2022 Awards

The Executive Director of HullBID vowed to help city centre businesses embrace new opportunities and look to a more positive future, as they celebrated success and survival during two years of battling the pandemic.

Speaking at the HullBID Awards 2022, held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel and attended by around 300 business representatives and their guests, Kathryn Shillito highlighted the encouraging trends and the ambitious plans which will deliver better times for businesses. She said: "Footfall is increasing, the number of empty units is decreasing, hospitality is gradually picking up and strong independents are replacing empty chain store properties."

Kathryn praised HullBID's partners at Hull City Council, Safer Hull, Civic 1, Emmaus and Humberside Police for the support which helped businesses get through the pandemic. She said: "It really is a huge success story and here we are, two years on, bringing businesses together at the HullBID Awards 2022. This year has been no exception to the numbers and quality of entries received across every sector. The standard has been very high and I'd like to thank our sponsors, our independent judging panel and everybody who entered."

Following are the winners and finalists in all the categories.

Safe City Award sponsored by Hull and East Yorkshire Credit Union

Winner: David Huggins of Tesco Express.

Shortlisted: Civic 1 CCTV and Emmaus Hull and East Riding.

Dressed to Impress Award sponsored by AA Global Language Services

Winner: LW Plants.

Shortlisted: 19Point4 and Bronx Clothing.

Outstanding Employee or Team Award sponsored by East Yorkshire

Winner: Lisa Rushworth and Lisa Wadsworth of McDonald's.

Shortlisted: Humberside Police Community Team and Ousman Newlands of ABM UK at St Stephen's.

Innovative Marketing Award sponsored by 360 Chartered Accountants

Winner: Hop and Vine and The New Clarence.

Shortlisted: Bad Wolf Gaming and Mr Hugo.

Customer Service Excellence Award sponsored by Kingston Recruitment

Winner: Hull and East Yorkshire Credit Union.

Shortlisted: Courtney Naylor of Long An Restaurant and Holiday Inn Hull Marina.

Judges Special Recognition Awards sponsored by Allenby Commercial

Winners: Hammonds of Hull and the Hull Maritime Project, Hull City Council.



Winners at the HullBID Awards 2022.

Contribution to the Community Award sponsored by Hammonds of Hull

Winner: Prestige Recruitment.

Shortlisted: AA Global Language Services and KCOM.

Best Business Progression Award sponsored by St Stephen's

Winner: Hotham's Distillery.

Shortlisted: Nazar Design and The Comedy Lounge.

Commitment to Training & Development Award sponsored by Pepperells Solicitors

Winner: AA Global Language Services.

Shortlisted: Admiral of the Humber and Marie Clare Hair Salon and Beauty Rooms.

Best in Food and Drink Award sponsored by Hull Trains

Winner: Furley and Co.

Shortlisted: The Brazilian Churrascaria and Bar and The Lexington Rooftop Bar.

Outstanding Contribution Award sponsored by HSBC UK

Winner: Hull Truck Theatre.

Shortlisted: The Hideout Hotel and Rollits LLP.



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

As our city centre starts on the road back from the rigours of the pandemic there has been no brighter star to date than the recent HullBID Awards night! Congratulations to all who were nominated – and we had some wonderful winners – but also to the team at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel for putting on such a great event. Also, while saying thank you, it is important to mention our kind sponsors who are wonderful enough to support lots of BID events, many of which could not happen without such generous donations.

Got a question?

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