

## Minutes of the Hebden Bridge Partnership

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2012, 7pm

The Terrace Room, The Town Hall, Hebden Bridge

### **Present**

Robin Dixon (Chair), Amy Leader (Secretary), Nabil Abbas (National Trust), Stephen Curry (Hebden Bridge Community Association), Julian Hartley PS2650 (West Yorkshire Police), Mandeep Kaler PCSO872 (West Yorkshire Police), Diana Monahan (Hebden Bridge Local History), Dongria Kandh (Treesponsibility), Susan Quick (representing the disabled community), Gerard Liston (Hope Baptist Chapel), Councillor Janet Battye (Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council), Lesley Mackay (Sustainable Transport Group), Roger Lee (planning consultant), and Sam Deakin (MDA Architects)

### **1) Apologies**

Judith Patrick, Chris Standish, David Fletcher, Richard Marshall, Jae Campbell, Rebecca Yorke, Tom Black, Bear, Emma Housman.

### **2) Minutes of last meeting**

Accepted as a true and accurate record

### **3) Matters arising**

There was nothing report in regards to matters arising.

### **4) Police report**

Sgt Julian Hartley distributed the Calder Ward crime figures covering 11/6/12 – 10/7/12. It was noted that the crime figures in Hebden Bridge are low.

Hebden Bridge police station is currently closed due to the floods.

Stephen Curry mentioned that the local police are very good on Twitter. In particular they were very useful and informative during the floods.

### **5) Officer's reports**

- a) Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council. Councillor Janet Battye.
  - Calderdale have been running flood recovery meetings, with Jae Campbell co-ordinating Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council's recovery. Rob Young has started a Facebook page organising volunteers.
  - Calderdale has been running an emergency room, which finishes on Monday. There will then be a review of causes which will be undertaken with Yorkshire Water, the emergency services, Rivers Trust, and the Environment Agency.
  - Treesponsibility have been out looking at the sources and flows of the rivers. They will feed the information to Calderdale.

In response it was raised:

- There is no warning for rain level, just river level.
- There should be a phone number for people to call when there's a flood issue.
- The Community Foundation has been fundraising for individuals affected by the floods and not all of the money has been dispensed yet.
- Calderdale has allocated £200K for businesses which they have named the Rise fund.
- There is a meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July for businesses where information about grants, tourism and insurance will be given.

## 6) Planning on the brown site

Robin Dixon gave an introduction welcoming Roger Lee and Sam Deakin to the meeting. He explained the Hebden Bridge Partnership would like to be involved in the development of any brown site in Hebden Bridge in order to help with the planning consultation process and help develop a formal method for collaboration.

Sam Deakin explained they had tried to be as transparent as possible in working on the brown site in Mytholm. They have held two consultation processes and he is happy to talk through the plans with anyone at his office on Valley Road.

Sam explained the following points:

- Setbury and Belmont jointly own the brown site and would like to see a supermarket there.
- Social housing on the site has been ruled out due to flooding.
- A flood risk assessment will have to show that the site can be developed safely.
- The plans have a number of elements to help with flooding, including an egg box storage system under the car park for water and a water turbine.
- The site is allocated for employment, not residential, which means employment generating opportunities are accepted by the council.
- When presenting the initial plans to Hebden Royd Town Council, the idea of a hotel was raised and has been added to the development.
- At the time of the meeting there wasn't a company to sign up to either the supermarket or the hotel.
- Sam has managed to keep the supermarket on the small side, with 11,000ft squared of sales space, which makes it under half the size of the Co-Op again.
- The supermarket chains Sam has his eye on are Booths, Morrisons and Marks & Spencer. The current supermarket size is too small for Tesco or Sainsburys.
- The car park will also be used for the nearby church and school.
- Roger Lee explained that whilst the site was under the threshold required for a retail impact assessment, there will be some work done on this area.
- Roger also mentioned that Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council undertook a retail needs study and identified a need in Hebden Bridge for 500 – 700 metres squared of supermarket.

The following negative points were raised about the development at the meeting:

- The argument about the improvement of local employment should be based on net employment (i.e. take into account the number of jobs lost in the town due to the development.)
- Money spent in a supermarket goes out of the local economy.
- The development is on a flood plain for the town and there was a concern about this.
- King Street cannot stand the amount of traffic it currently has, how would it cope with more? There was a great deal of concern regarding the amount of traffic and its flow.
- There was a worry about how sustainable the plans were; more parking encouraging more traffic – a counter-argument was raised that it would reduce the traffic, with people having to travel less far to shop.
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The following positive points were raised about the development at the meeting:

- The additional car parking could help Hebden Bridge.
- The hotel could bring extra visitors to the town.
- It was raised whether sheltered housing and an old people's home could be seen as employment opportunities.

- It was asked whether a sports centre would be considered to generate employment. Sam said it would.

After the discussion it was decided to hold an additional meeting to discuss the brown site. This was arranged for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in The Greenwood Room, The Town Hall, Hebden Bridge.

#### **7) Neighbourhood Plan**

Robin is still bringing all the information together.

#### **8) Any Other Business**

Robin is going to the next Hebden Royd Town Council meeting and was wondering whether he should he ask for some money and officer time. There was a positive response to this suggestion.

ACTION: ROBIN DIXON TO ASK FOR MOENY AND OFFICER TIME FROM HEBDEN ROYD TOWN COUNCIL.