

Minutes of the Hebden Bridge Partnership
Tuesday 8th May 2012, 7pm
The Greenwood Room, Hebden Bridge Town Hall

Present

Robin Dixon (Chair), Bear (Secretary), Dongria Kandh (Treasurer), Amy Leader (Hebden Bridge Business Association, Hebden Bridge Town Hall), Emma Housman (Hebden Royd Town Council), Stephen Curry (Angeldale B&B, Hebden Bridge Community Association), Susan Quick (Enabling Radio), Rebecca Yorke (Pennine Prospects).

1) Apologies

Andrew Bibby (Hebden Bridge Community Association), Judith Patrick (National Trust), Katie Kinsella (Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council), Janet Battye (Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council).

2) Announcement from Bear (Secretary)

Bear had declared his intention to stand down from the role of Secretary at the last meeting. Amy Leader agreed to take over the role. The official handover took place.

3) Announcement from Dongria (Treasurer)

Dongria had declared her intention to stand down from the role of Treasurer at the last meeting. No-one agreed to take over the role, but Robin Dixon has agreed to act in the interim. It would be very helpful if one of the members would volunteer to be Treasurer at the next meeting.

MATTERS ARISING: APPOINT NEW TREASURER

4) Neighbourhood Plan

Robin Dixon distributed two documents to help develop a Neighbourhood Plan bringing together ideas from the previous Hebden Bridge Action Plan, Hebden Bridge Partnership meetings and thoughts from the recent away day at Wainsgate Chapel. These documents are attached.

Resume of Neighbourhood Plan document. Robin asked the meeting to look through the list and see if anything of not had been missed. It was agreed to add renewable energy Sustainable Community heading. Suggested Things To Do List. Robin asked for feedback on this document. The following comments were noted:

Disabled access: The recent disability survey needs to be included in the work to develop the Neighbourhood Plan.

ACTION: SUSAN QUICK TO OBTAIN AND FORWARD THE DISABILITY SURVEY

Housing: There needs to be a piece of work to look at the social, affordable and rate banding of housing in the town.

ACTION: ROBIN TO ENGAGE THE SELF BUILD GROUP TO UNDERTAKE THIS PIECE OF WORK.

Shops: There needs to be a piece of work to identify different types of shops and vacancy rates.

ACTION: ROBIN AND AMY TO UNDERTAKE A SHOP SURVEY OF THE TOWN.

Allotments: There needs to be a report on the state of play of the allotments in town.

ACTION: EMMA TO WRITE A REPORT ON THE ALLOTMENTS IN HEBDEN BRIDGE.

Buildings: There needs to be a survey of the current buildings, empty houses and brown sites. This prompted a discussion on the brown site opposite the turning circle which is currently under consideration by developers as a site to build a supermarket, hotel and housing. Some members of the meeting attended a meeting at Holme Street Arts Centre regarding the brown site. The

feedback was that the meeting did not have enough information on the plans and therefore failed to move forward.

Green credentials: Dongria informed the meeting that The Source has recently secured funding for their project including £76,000 over 2 years from The Environmental Agency, £23,000 from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council's Cleaner Greener campaign and £20,000 from Suma. Bear fed back to the group that he felt the Transition Town was slowing down and their AGM has been delayed. Despite this Heb Veg, CLOGG, Alternative Technology Centre and Black Bark are all still going strong and there are lots of people that could be mobilised.

ACTION: DONGRIA TO WRITE A DOCUMENT BRINGING TOGETHER THE TOWN'S GREEN PROJECTS TO GET A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF OUR GREEN CREDENTIALS.

Bear has had an idea for Hebden Bridge to be 'the greenest town in the land', giving the residents and businesses of Hebden Bridge lots of easy and practical ideas for how they can be greener. E.g. everyone changing their energy to green companies, parents stop driving children to school. By rolling out different projects at different stages the changes will incrementally add to the badge of us being the greenest town in the land. Stephen Curry added the suggestion that different groups could work together to make the idea work and creating a full package of ideas including business and tourism as well as the green agenda. Each group would be working to help each other rather than competing.

Fibre optic link: There is a fibre optic link running alongside the canal that the town could and should and could tap in to in order to get the best broadband connection available.

ACTION: ROBIN TO ENGAGE CALDERDALE COUNCIL ABOUT HOW THE TOWN CAN BENEFIT FROM THE FIBRE OPTIC RESOURCE.

ACTION: AMY TO GET MORE INFORMATION FROM THE BT SITE SURVEY GETTING FIBRE OPTIC TO THE TOWN HALL.

Green education: Dongria explained that Treesresponsibility currently undertake tree planting with schools and give woodland awareness talks. No-one present at the meeting could give a full review of the green education in the town.

ACTION: ROBIN TO ASK POLLY WEBBER AT THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTRE FOR A REPORT ON THE GREEN EDUCATION IN HEBDEN BRIDGE.

Art at the core: Robin fed back to the meeting that this area was the only that failed from the Hebden Bridge Action Plan.

ACTION: REBECCA TO WORK WITH DAVE NELSON TO WRITE AN AUDIT ON THE CURRENT ARTS FACILITIES, WORKERS AND ENGAGEMENT TAKING PLACE IN HEBDEN BRIDGE.

Under the heading of strategy/ideas required the following discussion points were noted:

- There is a consensus that the Hebden Bridge Partnership needs a web presence.
- There was the suggestion to encourage all groups in the town to contribute to an events diary. There were differing views on how successful this would be.
- Rebecca Yorke is currently undertaking a piece of work helping towns create a sense of place. She is currently looking at beer, will move on to creativity before looking at heritage. There was a piece of work done in Hebden Bridge 3 years ago on a sense of place and this information is available to use.

ACTION: REBECCA TO FORWARD THE SENSE OF PLACE WORK ON HEBDEN BRIDGE.

- There was a discussion about the difficulty in getting energy education to make an impact. Dongria gave the example of Treesresponsibility receiving funding to give free business energy consultations. Whilst business took up the consultation, the impact was negligible.

ACTION: IT WAS AGREED TO ENCOMPASS ENERGY EDUCATION INTO GREEN EDUCATION.

Under the heading possible consultations, there was a long discussion about the proposed development on the brown site opposite the turning circle. It was felt this should be a priority for Hebden Bridge Partnership and it was felt that if we got enough people to enough consultations with enough feedback that Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council would have to pay attention to this work.

Emma wanted the group to be aware of raising expectations, especially as she knew that the local residents had written letters to Hebden Royd Town Council wanting the space to be developed into a park and a local swimming pool.

It was identified that different members of the Hebden Bridge Partnership may have differing views on the use and development of the brown site and before we engaged the public in consultation we should have a discussion about the views of the members.

MATTERS ARISING: MEMBERS OF THE HEBDEN BRISGE PARTNERSHIP TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON A BROAD APPROACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE BROWN SITE OPPOSITE THE TURNING CIRCLE AND THEN DECIDE ON THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION. THIS WOULD BE WORKED INTO OUR PRINCIPLES WHICH COULD BE PRESENTED TO CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL AND PUBLICALLY.

5) Any Other Business

Bear announced this was the last meeting booked into The Greenwood Room as we had planned to meet in the new Town Hall development after this meeting.

ACTION: AMY TO BOOK NEXT MEETINGS WHERE APPROPRIATE.

Amy announced she could not make the original AGM date of Monday 15th October. She would like to be present at the AGM in her new role as Secretary and therefore requests the date be changed to Tuesday 16th October. This was agreed.

Robin gave official thanks to Dongria and Bear in their roles as Treasurer and Secretary for their hard work.

6) Future dates of meetings

Monday 11th June

Tuesday 10th July

No meeting in August

Tuesday 4th September

Monday 8th October

Tuesday 16th October for AGM and presentations from groups

Tuesday 20th November