

## Hebden Bridge Partnership AGM

Held at Hebden Bridge Town Hall, Mon Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 7pm

Present: Cllr Tony Hodgins (chair), Bob Deacon, Andrew Bibby, Janet Battye, Geoff Tansey, Kath Tansey, Nicola Jones (Happy Valley Pride), Geoff Wood (Royd Regen), Austen Warne (Royd Regen), Bill Black, Richard Needham (HBCA), Dave Nelson (Piano Festival), Dai Lamer (HBCA), Jane Jackson (HB Twinning Society), Hannah Nadim (Fox and Goose), Julia Brady (Snow Leopard), Fliss Johnson-Standley (HB W.I.), Mike O'Donoghue, Sue Mellis (Egg Factory), Paul Clarke (HB Arts Festival), Cllr Pat Fraser (HRTC), Anthony Rae (Calder Future), Laura Beesley (TWG), Marguerite Eccles, Sue Day, Cath Putz (Quakers), Mark Simmons (Pennine Community Power), Finn Jensen (BEAT, TWG), Andrew Entwistle (HR Flood Group), Paul Forrest, Susan Quick (Global Justice Calderdale), Maggie Woods (Friends of the Picture House), Cllr Dave Young, Eileen Cann. Francis Creed, Mark Holtom (Quakers), Richard Peters (HB Walkers Action), Gerrard Liston (Hope Baptists), Simon Chisholm, Nina Smith (Sustainable Transport Group), Barbara Atack (HB Local History Soc), Judi Chrysanthou (CCFS Group), Joey Williams (Slow the Flow Calderdale), Graham Cobham (Rotary Club of HB), Chris Ratcliffe (HebWeb), Gavin Bate, John Ludlam (Calder and Colne Rivers Trust), Dongria Kondh (Treesresponsibility), Stephen Curry (UCVR), Mike Steelens (Happy Valley Pride).

Apologies: Lesley Mackay. Alison Edge (HB Ladies Circle), Helen Meller (HB Arts Festival), Gwen Goddard, David Fletcher

1. Mayor's welcome. Cllr Tony Hodgins welcomed all those present.
2. The minutes of Hebden Bridge Partnership's AGM held in October 2015 were approved as a correct record
3. Hebden Bridge Partnership AGM
  - a. Annual report. Bob Deacon, as outgoing chair, reported on a very busy year for the Partnership. Bob spoke to the Annual Report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

The Partnership's management board had been concerned to progress the priorities in the 2013 Action Plan. However the aftermath of the Boxing Day flood had inevitably been a primary focus for attention. The Partnership had taken a lead in calling the first major public meeting in January and had also arranged other public meetings on the flooding aftermath later in the year. A report had been prepared on the economic effects of the flood on the town's businesses. The Partnership had been instrumental in ensuring that both the Environment Agency and CMBC were more accessible and open to account than in the period following the floods. In terms of the CMBC/EA Flood Resilience Board, which has overarching authority to work on flood resilience and flood prevention, this board was now meeting in public. In terms of the EA Calder Catchment Plan, after a meeting of the Partnership's Chair with its convenor, Helen Batt, working party meetings involving interested members of the community are now the established way of working. In terms of the detailed flood defence work for Hebden Bridge the Partnership was instrumental in Simon Byrne of the EA setting up a HB Stakeholder Group.

In September, the Partnership launched a funded campaign to make Hebden Bridge Accessible for All. An access audit is being undertaken to survey both public places in HB and those private businesses that wish to participate, to determine what improvements might be made to enable persons with various access needs to use them. Grants will then be available for businesses from the CFFC towards installing these improvements.

For the third year in succession, the Welcome to HB leaflet has been produced and distributed both in nearby towns to encourage visitors and within the town to help visitors make the most of the town. Its calendar of events is unique. Funding for this comes partially from HRTC and some local business sponsors.

The Partnership has convened a Valley Road task force which has worked on designs for an alternative to Sainsbury and a plan for the development of the Valley Road site as a whole. The HBP was instrumental in getting the site included as a key development site both in the CMBC "local" plan and the HRTC and other Parishes Neighbourhood Plan. A number of options were considered but the preference was for a scheme with a public square facing the town hall, the car park moved back towards the Fire Station Site and housing and small enterprises above it and along the sides of the square. The Current Neighbourhood Plan embodies a similar idea. Discussions are ongoing between the HBP, CMBC and the owners of the Fire Station site to progress this.

The Partnership has supported the work of the Calder Valley Community Land Trust in obtaining land for affordable housing and facilitated the further development of the open air market in HB by consulting the town on its move to Lees Yard and by increasing the number of market days.

b. Treasurer's report. Paul Forrest reported on the 2015-2016 accounts, now filed at Companies House. He also tabled an income and expenditure account from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2016 – 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2016. This showed a current surplus on core Partnership activity of £110.58. However, the Partnership had also made a contribution towards the cost of the market relocation from the original Portas grant of £2873.00, which would also show in the annual accounts for 2016-2017, when they were prepared next year.

c. Nominations for the Management Board. Nominations had been received from Lesley Mackay, David Fletcher, Anthony Rae, and Mark Simmonds and they were returned in an uncontested election. (Lesley, David and Anthony will be commencing their second term of office; Mark will be commencing his first term of office).

Andrew Bibby as secretary expressed some concern that the management board was currently in need of new members, and urged those present to consider whether they could offer to join the board.

d. AOB. Andrew Bibby expressed the Partnership's thanks to Stephen Curry, who had stood down from the management board earlier in 2016 after many years' service, and to Thomas Bull, who was also standing down after more than two years on the board in order to focus on his forthcoming A Levels.

Andrew then made a presentation to Susan Quick, who was leaving the board at the end of her second term of office. Andrew thanked her warmly for her contribution over so many years.

Andrew also made a presentation to the Partnership's retiring chair Bob Deacon, who was standing down on health grounds. Andrew described the very considerable work which Bob had undertaken for the Partnership and the town, including the leading role he had taken in the aftermath of the flood. Bob would be sorely missed. The meeting warmly endorsed Andrew's comments.

#### 4. Hebden Bridge – Our Town: Review of the Year

The following organisations participated, each representative confining their presentation to no more than 2½ minutes.

- a. Pennine Community Power
- b. BEAT + TWG
- c. HB Business Forum
- d. Sustainable Transport Group
- e. HB Walkers Action
- f. Fox and Goose co-op
- g. The Egg Factory
- h. Calder Future
- i. Calder & Colne Rivers Trust
- j. Upper Calder Valley Renaissance
- k. Slow the Flow Calderdale
- l. HB Twinning Society
- m. HB/Mytholmroyd Flood Group
- n. Calder Catchment Flood Studies Group
- o. HebWeb
- p. Global Justice Calderdale
- q. Calder Valley Community Land Trust
- r. Arts Festival
- s. Rotary Club of HB
- t. Hope Baptists
- u. HB WI
- v. HB Community Association TBC
- w. HB Quakers
- x. HB Piano Festival
- y. Friends of the Picture House
- z. The Snow Leopard Group
- aa. Royd Regeneration
- bb. HB Local History Society
- cc. Happy Valley Pride
- dd. Treesponsibility

5. Concluding remarks from the Mayor. Cllr Hodgins gave a short report on activities during the year by Hebden Royd Town Council. He then formally closed the meeting.