

HEBDEN BRIDGE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of Summer General Meeting held on Monday 14th July 2014 in Hebden Bridge Town Hall

1. **Present:** Bob Deacon (chair), Andrew Bibby (sec), Anthony Rae (Friends of the Earth), Jane Kendrick, John Ainscough (Blazing Saddles), Nick Shields (visitor economy group), Tom Black (Tom Black architects), Ben Prince (Prince Architects), Cllr Kate Drury (Wadsworth PC), Polly Webber (ATC), Cllr Janet Battye (ward cllr), Lesley Mackay (Sustainable transport; UCVR); Cllr Dave Young (Calderdale council). Gordon Rimer, Myra James (Sustainable transport), Susan Quick, Stephen Curry, Hilary Chadwick (SOS HB), Cllr Jonathan Timbers (HRTC)
2. **Apologies:** Katie Kinsella; David Fletcher; Catherine Wackerbatch ; Diana Monaghan; Emma Green (HRTC); Giles Dring
3. **Minutes of last open meeting (7 April 2014) and matters arising:**
 - **Banners:** as requested, the secretary had sent a letter about this to the Town Council, who had replied advising that they were taking this up with Calderdale. Additional information was supplied by Janet Battye who reported that she had asked a question about this at Calderdale Council's Cabinet meeting and that the response was that the informal understanding will be reverted to and by Dave Young who said that the Neighbourhood wardens will be asked to oversee this.
 - **Sainsbury's planning application:** Hilary Chadwick reported that Sainsbury's have amended their proposals. No retail impact assessment is being carried out. Sainsburys are now proposing to use smaller lorries with increased number of deliveries. The SOS group are hoping to try this out.
4. **Declarations of interest:** There were none.
5. **Conservation area:** Kate Peach and Sheena Campbell, Conservation Officers with Calderdale Council were welcomed to the meeting and made a presentation on this topic.

A "Conservation Area" is defined as an "area of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance". This does give extra protection and greater control, increasing the ability to resist inappropriate development, controlling the demolition of unlisted buildings (through the requirement to apply for planning permission), and protecting trees from felling or pruning without consent. They suggest trying to repair rather than replace timber doors or windows.

Area Appraisals are part of the process of Conservation Areas: these try to define the character of the area and provide a basis for planning decisions, and inform the development of the Local Plan. And they're interesting !

Hebden Bridge is seen as a town of unique character and history; with many important buildings, and a vibrant community.

Some extra areas were added in the recent Review: the buttress with its stone setts, Stubbing Holme Rd, Keighley Rd (but not Highfield Crescent or Mayroyd).

A Management Plan is part of this, trying to ensure enhancement for the future.

Issues raised: **highway repairs:** the Conservation officers liaise with Highways Officers and Sheena has looked round the area to identify where stone setts have been repaired with tarmac which is a quick fix for safety with the intention of a proper repair later. Sheena will be liaising with the Highways Officer (Peter May) to organise a proper repair (the Council plans on relaying one major area of stone setts/year – this should last 75 yrs)

BT pole near the packhorse bridge: the telephone line was cut off and BT apparently didn't apply to the Council to sort this out. This is awaited.

Illuminated sign on the Should of Mutton pub: The Conservation Officers objected to this but the decision to give permission was taken by Development Control.

Solar PVs in Conservation Areas/on listed buildings: The advice from Conservation Officers is that this should have minimal visual impact on the character and setting. If the building is listed, then consent will be needed. Black on black is best, and solar slates are possible. English Heritage are about to issue more guidance on this.

Influencing development etc: Civic Trusts are good at responding to planning applications and proposals – perhaps the Partnership could think about doing something similar ?

6. Tour de France: Katie Kinsella is leading the evaluation of the impact of this and would welcome participation from local people and local businesses/shops/pubs/cafes.

People generally welcomed the closed road and wondered about having it closed more often eg for the Walking Festival.

There were significant problems with public transport – Northern Rail and First bus were not as helpful as they could have been. TLC local buses were good (especially to Blackshaw/Heptonstall).

The TV shots of Yorkshire appear to have been beneficial in increasing/promoting tourism. The Calderdale brand was not promoted as much as hoped.

The Chair commented that It hadn't been easy to get detailed information in advance, for example from Calderdale's Neighbourhood officer, Some shops, cafes etc had overstocked.

The information leaflet which the Partnership produced was well-received: thanks to the Chair, Bob Deacon for his hard work with this.

7. Review of activities:

Disability: It is planned to kickstart the work (especially on access to buildings etc), primarily for people with disabilities and their carers, supported by HRTC, with an initial meeting at Bob Deacon's house on Monday 21st July at 7pm

Affordable housing: Andrew Bibby reported that some progress is being made by the Community Land Trust, in conjunction with Tod Pride. CLT is a mechanism to ensure that the value of land is taken out of housing so it becomes affordable. Work is being done with Calderdale Council on this and it is intended to share ideas with local communities in September.

Transport and Traffic: AR reported on 2 main areas in the Vision document:

- **Transport hub at the station:** there are plans to extend the carpark in 2016, the smaller scheme of an additional 60 places which will relocate the coal yard to the back of the site. Rail partners have to work their processes through to make this possible eg cost/benefit.
- **Shared space:** the implementation plan for the 20mph scheme now needs to be worked up and this should, at least, slow traffic down. Behaviour change is the important element in this.

Visitor Economy: Nick Shields reported that the group is working towards a strategy. The next step is the workshop session on Tuesday 29 July.

Business Forum: Apologies from Giles. This is gaining strength: a launch day will be held shortly. It's important that this group is inclusive eg. of the cafes and pubs.

Market: Given the concern by the cafes, pubs and shops about the possibly negative impact on their trade of the events and market stalls, it's important that they are included and considered in plans to extend the market. Janet Battye reported that Calderdale council's Retail and Market Development Officer is being recruited and she is seeking his/her help with this and therefore expect to do more work on this into September when, hopefully, that person is in post.

Calder Holmes Park: No report on progress available but Lesley Mackay thanked Calderdale council for their work on cleaning up the park and centre of town.

Valley Road: Noted the slow progress with Sainsbury's planning application, the lack of retail impact assessment and views of Highways. Some concern about whether the decision will be taken by Planning Cttee but ward Councillors have asked for this. Noted, again, the real concern about delivery vehicles.

8. AGM: This is planned for **Monday 20th October: 7.30pm in the Town Hall.** As before, there will be an invitation to community groups to do a 3 mins max presentation of their work over the last year (and plans for the coming year).

9. Any Other Business:

- **Research into Swiss week:** Stephen Curry has a Swiss young person staying with him who is doing some research into this and has already spoken to David Fletcher. Photos of the decorations of HB in the 1960s exceed the recent events. If this were to be brought back, what would people like to see ?
- **Event at the Trades club on Friday night for St Augustine's centre:** Jonathan Timbers the Mayor, invited everybody to this !
- **Northern Gas:** LM reported that they will not now be doing the work on New Rd/Burnley Rd this year
- **Commemoration of WW1: Sunday August 3rd: 2pm at Hope Baptist:** Jonathan Timbers invited everyone to this important event
- **Clearing vegetation from the river Calder at Mytholmroyd,** part of river stewardship by Calder River Future group. Anthony Rae reported on the success of this with over 45 volunteers, largely from local corporate businesses. A further session is being planned.

10. Date of next meetings: Management Board (open to all to attend): Monday 8th Sept: 7pm in the Town Hall

AGM as noted.